

FRENCH REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE

Frightful Losses Inflicted On Advancing Massed Troops

Reports From the Tremendous Battle Are More Encouraging to the Allies, For the British Have Held Their Defences and Retired Intact Only After Heavy Attacks.

Out of the chaos of the tremendous battle along the Lys River, south and southwest of Ypres, the thunder of which may be heard forty or fifty miles away, there have come during the past day reports which are more encouraging to the allied powers. The British have not only held all the ground which they were defending on Tuesday, but have struck back so powerfully that Metzeren and part of his troops were retaken and held for a time. Only after heavy attacks did the British retire again from the villages.

The most disturbing news has been reported from Berlin that Poelcapelle and Langemarck, north of Ypres, have been taken by the Germans, and the division from Louvain that the British have retired from certain of their lines in the Ypres salient. The retirement here was expected, for the advance of the Germans at Neuve Eglise and Bailleul left the positions in front of Ypres open to a flank attack. It is officially stated that the retirement is not known. It may be, however, that the German claim of taking Poelcapelle and Langemarck is the result of the British retirement.

The battle, now in its ninth day, has deepened in intensity at many points along the curved front from Messines Ridge to Metzeren. There have been reports that the Germans have occupied the village of St. Eloi, which lies less than three miles south of Ypres, but these have not been confirmed. It was also said that the Germans have taken positions on the south slopes of Mt. Kemmel, which is about two and a half miles north of Wulverghem. This, also, has not been confirmed.

On all the rest of the front from Messines Ridge southward to the granite wall of the British defence, Official and semi-official despatches have told of the frightful losses inflicted on the attacking masses of troops by the British rifle and machine gun fire.

On the southern side of the salient there have been engagements of some magnitude, especially east of Robecoq, five miles northwest of Bethune, where the Germans were caught by the British artillery fire and scattered.

Enemy Falls Near Arras.

The line in front of Arras has again been the scene of fighting, but here the British took the offensive and drove the Germans out of British trenches which had been carried by the enemy.

In the Picardy sector there have been lively artillery engagements between the Somme and Oise Rivers, and only patrol encounters are reported officially.

Further south only raiding operations have been going on.

The Turks announce that they have taken the City of Batum, on the eastern shore of the Black Sea. They report strenuous fighting before the Russian defenders of the city were driven out.

The Macedonian front has again become active. Greek and British troops have advanced and driven the Teutonic allies from seven towns along the Struma River, on the eastern end of the line. French forces have also been active in this theatre of the war.

ANOTHER WATERLOO IN PRESENT BATTLE

British Army Has to Hold Enemy Till a Modern Blucher Comes Up.

NO REASON FOR DESPAIR

Gen. Maurice Says Only Anxiety Exists Regarding Endurance of Hammering.

Paris, April 17.—In summarizing the general situation on the British front, Major-General F. B. Maurice said today:

"What of the whole battle situation? Our army has been going thru a very severe strain and that strain has been reflected at home. The situation has had its critical moments and still is decidedly anxious. But remembering the general principle of a united front and must accept the consequences of that principle. We must look at the whole battle not from our army's sacrifices and sufferings, but from the standpoint of the whole enterprise.

Playing Old Role.

"The British army is playing the role which it often has played before. It is fighting a Waterloo while Blucher is marching to the battlefield. Multiply the battle of Waterloo a hundredfold and the situation at present in this theatre corresponds to the situation now in the great world battle.

"The British army is under a terrible hammering, but providing we stand that hammering without breaking and providing Blucher is marching to the battlefield there is no reason for despair.

"The enormous task which the British army has performed and still is performing may be shown by a few figures. It has engaged 20 German divisions and since March 21 they have engaged 128 divisions.

"Of these the British army alone has engaged 79, the French alone have engaged 24 and the remainder 25 have been engaged by the British and French troops."

ENEMY SUFFERS LOSS IN EAST AFRICAN FRONT

British Heavily Engage Main German Column Near Mahua.

London, April 17.—The official statement on military activities in East Africa says: "On April 5, one of General Northey's columns occupied Mahua and pushed eastward. On April 11 this column heavily engaged a German main force and inflicted severe losses on them. On the same day General Edwards' troops executed a night march and seized Middleboma on April 12 after an all-day engagement in which the German losses were severe. The enemy was driven in the direction of Mwalwa."

HOUSE TOLD IN SECRET SESSION OF VITAL NEEDS OF THE EMPIRE

BRITISH GUNNERS BY SMART RUSE CAUGHT GERMANS WITHOUT MASKS

Fired Shells Filled Only With Stinking Composition, and Suddenly Changed the Dose.

Paris, April 17.—The evolution of the use of gas shells has taken surprising form in the present battle. One new method is to fire heavy slowly-dispersing gases along charted lanes against the enemy, filling in the alternative spaces with quickly dissipating poison fumes. Storming attacks are then made by troops who charge when a sufficient interval of time has been given for the light gases to rise.

The British gunners at one part of the line threw shells charged simply with a stinking composition. The Germans after a few hours discovered that this was non-poisonous and began laying aside their masks. After these shells had been fired for another 12 hours there was a sudden change to poison gases. About 2000 Germans were caught without their masks and suffocated.

FRENCH TROOPS HAVE JOINED THE BRITISH BATTLEFRONT

Haig Says They Are Co-operating With His Men on Lys

London, April 17.—After gaining a footing today in the villages of Meteren and Wytschaete, the British were forced to make a second retirement, according to Field Marshal Haig's report from France tonight.

"French troops, it is added, have now reinforced the British lines. The text of the statement reads:

"This morning intense bombardments were opened by the enemy on practically the whole of the Lys battlefield, and from the Forest of Nieppe to Wytschaete were followed by infantry attacks. All these attacks have been repulsed and considerable losses inflicted on the enemy.

"In counter-attacks, reported in the morning communique, our troops succeeded in entering the villages of Meteren and Wytschaete, but, in the face of continued hostile attacks, were unable to maintain their positions there.

"French troops are co-operating with the British in the Lys front there is nothing to report."

Toronto

DR. HASTINGS WILL REPLY TODAY TO THE CHARGES OF CONTROLLER MURPHY.

Toronto University will confer honorary degree on Lord Reading and Hon. J. H. Macdonald.

Rev. H. C. Stillwell, treasurer of the Baptist foreign missions, makes his report to the board.

The Royal Grenadiers and the Queen's Own Rifles begin the season of spring drills next week.

The body of Charles H. Stiver, clerk and treasurer of Markham Township, is found in Wilcox Lake.

A great military church parade in commemoration of the second battle of Ypres will be held in Queen's Park Sunday, April 28.

The United Farmers' Co-operative Company will take a lease of a King street property, from which to supply foodstuffs direct from the farms.

Thirty-four Toronto members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force are officers or sergeants, with 224 others and soldiers invalided home.

The John Gray Construction Company is blamed by the jury investigating the death of William Zagg, for not having proper supervision at their work at the Swift plant.

The eleventh annual report of the game and fisheries department of the Dominion Government recommends that a wharf and trout hatchery be established in the Thunder Bay District.

Comrade Haight, in his report to the West Toronto branch of the G.W.V.A., concerning a conference in Ottawa, states that Premier Borden declared that labor delegations had advised the shelving of the alien question.

PREPARE FOR A RAINY DAY.

The wet weather that promised to be here yesterday morning was delayed somewhere, but is now bound to come. This is a reminder to be prepared.

The Dineen Co., 140 Yonge street, are offering special values in men's raincoats, direct from England: Fine Paramatta raincoats, \$9.50; plain and tweed mixtures, \$16.50; gabardines, \$23.50 to \$27.50; civil and military trench coats, \$25.00, \$30.00 and \$35.00. These are all good coats, and can be recommended for their durability, and guaranteed waterproof.

MILITIA REGIMENTS TO CONTINUE DRILL TO CONTINUE DRILL

Royal Grenadiers and Queen's Own Start Next Week.

At least three of the Toronto city militia regiments have decided definitely to hold spring drills. Two of them will commence the regular drill season during next week.

Leut.-Col. J. Cooper Mason, D.S.O., O.C. the 10th Royal Grenadiers, stated last night that the regiment had decided to "carry on" during the spring season, and that the first regular parade would take place on Thursday, April 25.

A spring drill season for the Queen's Own Rifles was unanimously decided upon at a meeting of the officers of that regiment called by Brigadier-General Sir H. M. Pellatt and held at the armories yesterday afternoon. The first parade of the spring season will be held next Wednesday night. During the summer season the Q.O.R. members will hold musketry practice at the Long Branch ranges.

When the decision of the Grenadiers and the Queen's Own to drill this spring was brought to the notice of Leut.-Col. W. S. Dinneik, commanding officer of the 10th Regiment, he said: "We have been carrying on our instructional work—musketry classes and officers' training classes—all the winter, and we intend to parade this spring. But we have been waiting for the meeting of commanding officers to have been called by Brig.-General Sir Henry Pellatt. It was our intention to have paraded last Monday, but we deferred the parade until after the meeting."

No plans have been made as yet for the 48th Highlanders to have a spring drill season. This was the statement made by the regiment's commander, Leut.-Col. C. W. Darling, last night.

BIG OFFENSIVE HAS FAILED

Another Effort Imminent

British Headquarters in France, April 17.—An attack is impending between Bailleul and Wytschaete. We are maintaining our positions at Boyelles.

MAN POWER BILL IN HOUSE OF LORDS

Lord Lansdowne Says He is Prepared to Throw Aside Many Old Notions.

London, April 17.—The second reading of the government's man-power bill, the Marquis of Lansdowne, discussing the bill, heartily welcomed the measure.

"Our duty," he said, "is to help encourage the gallant army to the utmost of our ability. I feel so strongly on this point, that I am quite ready to throw aside old notions and old notions and antagonisms, and I believe that this can be done without harm to consistency or the dignity of the government. It would be very different under less serious circumstances.

"I could, however, have wished that the government had fixed the age limit lower, and I cannot help thinking that the extension of conscription to Ireland is very doubtful wisdom, while it is still more objectionable that this part of the question should be linked up with home affairs."

Lord Derby, secretary of state for war, replying for the government, emphasized the gravity of the present situation. Any minimizing of the gravity would, in his opinion, be disastrous. At the same time, he desired to emphasize that although one must have the greatest anxiety, he was still quite confident regarding the result. He supported conscription in Ireland because he believed the government would get from there a number of young men that would more than fill up the casualties sustained since March 21.

War News

Enemy opens intense bombardments on practically whole of Lys battlefield.

Evacuation of positions east of Ypres enables the British to consolidate their line.

French troops are now co-operating with the British on the Flanders battlefield.

Enemy infantry attacks from Nieppe forest to Wytschaete fail to make progress.

The Turks have captured Batum from the Russians after fighting in Transcaucasia.

British, without fighting, voluntarily curtailed the manufacture of ten principal clay products, from 15 to as high as 50 per cent. Simultaneously the manufacturing program of this industry was ordered rearranged and divided, placing it on the basis of war industry.

Face brick, common and paving brick, terra cotta, roofing tile, floor and wall tile and sanitary ware were ordered curtailed 50 per cent.; hollow tile, sewer pipe and drain pipe 25 per cent.; and stone ware, with the exception of chemical stone ware, is curtailed 15 per cent. Another new order curtails the output of enamel ware 50 per cent.

BOHEMIANS STARVE.

Thousands of Families, Especially at Prague, Have no Food.

Washington, April 17.—Thousands of families in Bohemia, especially at Prague and vicinity, are starving, according to an official despatch from France today which quoted The Leipzig Volks Zeitung. Last week it was estimated that there was a deficit of 100,000 loaves of bread in Prague.

Paris, April 17.—Belgian communists attacked in force our system of advanced posts between Le Blancbeek and the Ypres railroad and succeeded in securing a foothold in a number of our positions, but energetic counter-attacks by our troops drove them out. About 600 prisoners remain in our hands.

FIVE RUSSIAN AIRMEN TO FIGHT FOR BRITAIN

Party of Distinguished Aviators Comes to Canada Thru Japan.

A Canadian Pacific Port, April 17.—Five Russian aviators, members of the Russian flying corps, arrived here today on a transpacific liner to offer their services to the British Royal Flying Corps. They have served on the Austrian and Rumanian fronts, and all have been decorated for bravery.

Col. Duklan, who heads the party, has been wounded three times.

When Russia lapsed into anarchy, the aviators said, they resolved to come to Canada. They practically fought their way out of the country, they asserted, and after weeks of hardship reached Japan, where British consular officers arranged their passage overseas.

In addition to Col. Duklan the party is composed of Capt. Romahoroff and Lieuts. Katsaroffski, Petrenki and Astakoff.

COMMENCE DRIVE ON FOOD HOARDERS

Food Board Appeals to All Who Have Surplus to Return to Merchants.

Ottawa, April 17.—The Canada Food Board is inaugurating an anti-hoarding drive in order to prevent waste of flour and other food products and also to make available the largest possible amount of food for shipment to the allies.

In a statement today the board appeals to all classes who have in their possession larger quantities of flour or other foodstuffs than are required for current needs, to return these thru the ordinary channels of trade.

Merchants are asked as a patriotic duty to accept such returns at the purchase price in all cases where there has been no deterioration.

Warning is given that all persons who fail to dispose of excess holdings of flour, vegetables or any other food commodities in time to prevent loss by spoilage, are liable to heavy fine or imprisonment under the anti-waste and hoarding order.

FOR SALE Stone, Limited, Warehouse, 461 King St. West; 100 x 216 feet first-class construction; excellent light; total floor area approximately fifty thousand square feet; two freight elevators; sprinkler system. Apply H. H. WILLIAMS & CO., 38 King Street East. Main 5460.

FOR SALE Northernly winds; unsettled and cooler, with occasional showers.

FOR SALE Readin Room 17malls

FOR SALE American makies has gone into lovely mercerized inches wide. It is crepe weave and we particularly side curtains in bedrooms; choose in rose, blue, mulberry. This only guaranteed regards the sun card, \$1.75.

FOR SALE Pair offered for toad, and there is in any room in w, pair, \$1.75. A window shades lined with an size long. Each, 79c. There is a color room scheme call to measure

VALUES to whether you ular suit ought n, 180 days, f ing experts are e brown tweed it's exact. It's \$28.00 s of dark green e of the sea- e. Double- style, with all- ular tweed. Low- with belt loops. Sizes 35 to \$14.00 g Trouser Suits e brown tweed eated, three- nk style, with and slash pock- ular tweed. Low- with belt loops. Sizes 35 to \$16.50 g Trouser Suits e brown tweed eated, three- ound belt and eable belt can erench or form- im height, west- loops, cuff or es 33 to 35. \$15.00 ts in military e and belt and e-st roll lapels. The Marquis of Lansdowne, discussing the bill, heartily welcomed the measure.

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Six Hundred Prisoners Are Taken by Belgians

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