The Russians and Roumanians Obliged to Fall Back Before Field Marshal Von Mackensen

The St. John Standard

VOL. IX., NO. 125 | TEN PAGES | FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 17, 1917. | WEATHER—RAIN | PRICE: TWO CENTS.

ARMY OF BRITAIN CAPTURES VILLAGE OF LANGEMARCK

BRITISH AND FRENCH GAIN OBJECTIVES

French Capture Bridgehead of Dreigrachten and British Take Langemarck.

GERMANS FOUGHT IN DESPERATION

British Forced Back from Terrain North of the Menin Road.

ENEMY SUSTAINED FEARFUL LOSSES

British Make Further Progress East of Loos in Lens Area.

London, Aug. 16.—British and French troops, attacking on a nine-mile front east and northeast of Ypres, in Flanders today, gained all their objectives except on the right flank. The French drove the Germans from between the Yser Canal and Martjevaart and captured the bridgehead of Dreigrachten. The village of Langemarck was carried by the British after they had taken all their first objectives in the center of the attacking lines.

The official statement from British headquarters in France tonight adds that the Germans fought stubbornly on Field Marshal Haig's right for the possession of the high ground north of the Menin road. Suffering heavy losses the Germans finally pressed the British back from the terrain they had gained early in the day.

Many Prisoners.

More than 1,800 prisoners, including 38 officers, already have been counted by the Anglo-French forces. Some German guns also were taken.

The British have made a further progress east of Loos, in the Lens area, and the total of prisoners captured there has now reached 896. The statement reads:

"The allied attacks delivered early in the morning on a front of nine miles north of the Ypres-Menin road have been continued during the day in the face of strong enemy resistance.

"On the left the French troops, advancing on both sides of the Zuydschoote-Dixmude road, drove the enemy front the tongue of land between the Yser Canal and Martjevaart, and captured the bridgehead of Dreigrachten.

"In the center the British troops rapidly captured their first objectives and continuing their advance, carried the village of Langemarck, after heavy fighting. They then forced their way forward for a distance of half a mile beyond the village and established themselves in the German trench system, which constituted their final objective for the day.

"On our right there has been fierce and continuous fighting since the early morning for the possession of the high ground north of the Menin road. The enemy disputed our advance with determined counter-attacking with large forces. As the result of the counter-attacks the enemy succeeded during the afternoon, at great cost, in pressing back our troops in this area from part of the ground won earlier in the day.

"This evening further enemy counter-attacks in this neighborhood were broken by our artillery fire. The number of prisoners taken by the Allies in the course of this attack cannot yet be ascertained, but over 1,600, including 38 officers, already have been brought in. A few German guns also were captured.

"Our troops made further progress this afternoon east of Loos. The number of troops we captured on this front since the opening of our attack yesterday, now totals 896, including 22 officers."

GERMAN LOSSES IN WAR 4,500,000

In July Alone 89,863 Casualties Were Reported in German Official Lists.

London, Aug. 16.—German casualties reported during July in the German official lists, but not necessarily having occurred in July aggregated 89,863 as follows:

Killed or died of wounds or sickness, 21,389.

Prisoners or missing, 14,620.

Severely wounded, 13,896.

Wounded and slightly wounded, 39,958.

The total German losses of all classes since the beginning of the war exceeds 4,500,000.

LITTLE DANGER OF STARVING GT. BRITAIN

Lloyd George Tells of Increase in Wheat and Successful Anti-Submarine Plans.

U-BOAT SITUATION SURELY IMPROVING

Will Be Sufficient Tonnage for All of 1918 and the Following Year.

London, Aug. 16—Premier Lloyd George, speaking in the House of Commons this afternoon, said that this time last year the wheat in this country amounted to 6,480,000 quarters and that now it is 8,500,000 quarters. The stock of oats and barley, he declared also was higher.

There had been a considerable saving in bread consumption, the premier said, and owing to the close miller and food economy there had been an addition to the wheat stock of 70,000 quarters per week.

A quarter is equivalent to 480 pounds.

Mr. Lloyd George said the acreage under cultivation showed an increase of one million acres. If the harvest weather was good the condition of food supplies was very satisfactory.

Reasonable Economy.

The premier added that there had been an increase in the sugar reserve.

"The government has come to the conclusion," Premier Lloyd George said, "that with reasonable economy there is no chance of starving England out.

"The admiralty plans for dealing with submarines have been increasingly successful."

The premier said that in the single month of April 560,000 gross tons of shipping were lost through Teuton submarines. In July the tonnage lost went down to 320,000 gross tons. This month there was a substantial improvement over that of July.

Net Marine Losses.

The net losses since the commencement of Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare was under 250,000 tons a month.

Premier Lloyd George said that in the first six months of this year the new tonnage built was 484,000 tons, while in the last six months, including purchases the new tonnage would be 1,424,000.

The premier also said that a considerable addition had been made in the programme of naval construction.

With the co-operation of America, the premier said, there would be sufficient tonnage for all of 1918, and, if necessary 1919. Although tonnnage had decreased during the last year, he added, more goods had been carried from overseas.

PLATINUM DISCOVERY WILL AID THE ENTENTE ALLIES.

Washington, Aug. 16.—Discovery of platinum in Alaska by Dr. Herschell C. Parker, of New York and others has aroused government agencies to the greatest activity in the hope of finding sufficient quantities of the precious metal to meet the war needs of the Allies.

LANGEMARCK CAPTURED BY HAIG'S MEN

Hundreds of Prisoners Taken by the British in Very Severe Fighting.

RESULT OF BATTLE NOT DETERMINED

Canadians Had Auspicious Success, Announces Premier Lloyd George.

FRENCH OPERATING MOST EFFECTIVELY

Canadians Cling Tenaciously to Hill 70 and All Other Positions.

London, Aug. 16—Premier Lloyd George announced in the House of Commons today that the troops of Field Marshal Haig had captured Langemarck. The premier said that Field Marshal Haig had telegraphed that 1,200 prisoners had been taken and that five guns had been captured by noon today.

The premier said:

"Germany now is barely able to hold her own, not even that. The British advanced, in addition to capturing Langemarck." The premier said the British gained ground at many points. Severe fighting is continuing with the result undetermined.

The French, Mr. Lloyd George said, had been operating most effectively on the left, where the Canadians had auspicious success.

Russia Still Weak.

The premier referred to Russia as "one claw of the nippers temporarily out of repair." Germany, he said, had been beaten in several great battles, with large losses, when Russia was practically out of the campaign. He asked what might be anticipated when Russia recovered, and America was really in. America's troops had been seen marching through the streets, symbols of her resolute entry into the struggle. This was the hour, Mr. Lloyd George added, of Germany's difficulties.

Canadians Hold Hill.

British Front in France and Belgium, Aug. 16—(By the Associated Press)—The Canadians held strongly Hill 70 and all the other positions which they wrested from the Germans about Lens yesterday, after having beaten off ten counter-attacks in which the enemy suffered heavy losses.

The last German counter-attack of the night occurred at half past nine o'clock, and this morning comparative quiet reigned in this sector.

HUN COUNT HAD A CANADIAN CAREER

Was Director of Defunct Dominion Trust Co., of Vancouver and Charlottetown.

Charlottetown, P.E.I., Aug. 16.—Charlottetown is more or less interested in the announcement of the arrest at Salt Lake City of Count Alvo Von Alvensleben, formerly of Vancouver, and for years financial agent of the Kaiser in the United States and Canada. Von Alvensleben was heavily interested in the Dominion Trust Co. of Vancouver, which had a branch in Charlottetown before its disastrous failure several years ago. Count Von Alvensleben was one of the directors who fled to the United States about the time of the crash.

The count afterwards conducted a strong pro-German propaganda in the United States, but had to quit his campaign when that country went into the war.

MOVEMENT FOR A GENERAL ELECTION IN NEWFOUNDLAND

St. John's, Nfld., Aug. 16.—The Newfoundland legislature, which closed its regular session Aug. 8, met again in extraordinary session today to reconsider a bill for raising war revenue by a tax on business profits.

The bill, which would impose a tax of 20 per cent. on all profits made by business men for the current year, was rejected at the regular session by the executive council or upper house after it had been passed by the lower body. The council took the stand that an allowance of six per cent. for capital investment should be made.

The act of the council in throwing out the measure caused criticism which has developed into a movement to have the government appeal to the country on a platform for the abolition of the council, if it persists in its refusal to entertain the bill. Indications have been that the upper body will not again obstruct passage of the measure.

CANADIAN NORTHERN BILL WINS

Hon. George Graham's Amendment Defeated by Vote of 67 to 41.

SECOND READING THEN ORDERED

Albert Champagne, Liberal, of Battleford, Votes with the Government.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Aug. 16—The bill to take over the bankrupt Canadian Northern railroad system was given its second reading in the House of Commons tonight by a vote of 67 to 41. Before the vote on the second reading was taken the amendment of Hon. George Graham was voted down by the same line-up. Albert Champagne, Liberal, of Battleford, voted with the government.

The debate was wound up by R. B. Bennett of Calgary and Hon. Arthur Meighen, the Solicitor-General.

Debate Resumed.

Ottawa, Aug. 16—(Canadian Press)—When the house resumed the debate on the C. N. R. bill, Mr. Bennett took the floor.

It was an axiom, he said, that people using railways should pay. But the position today was that the general taxpayers were being called upon to pay $18,000,000 a year out of general taxation for these railways.

Mr. Bennett, referring to the net revenue of $11,500,000 earned last year by the C. N. R., declared that the total charges of the system amounted to nearly twenty million dollars. "I am advised," he said, "that we cannot hope to earn twenty millions in surplus on the operation of that system under the very best of conditions in less than five or six years."

The Country's Problems.

The Calgary member then outlined the problem before the country. There were but three courses that could be taken in dealing with the C. N. R. It would be allowed to go into the hands of a receiver, the government could give further financial aid, or could acquire it as a public enterprise. The first two alternatives, Mr. Bennett dismissed. Personally he had not been afraid of the bogey of receivership that seemed to frighten so many people. The result of a receivership would be to eliminate MacKenzie and Mann and conserve the road for the people of Canada. However, both sides of the house apparently opposed that course, and it was fruitless to discuss it. The extension of further aid to the C. N. R. was out of the question. The time had come when the people would not countenance any further loans to MacKenzie and Mann.

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WILL SOON CLEAR THE SITUATION

Within a Week Country Will Know Whether There is to Be Union Gov't.

EVIDENCE OF GRIT DOUBLE DEALING

War Liberals Will Have to Decide Their Future Course At Once.

SIR ROBERT MAY ADDRESS COUNTRY

Laurier Plan to Prevent Passing of Franchise Bill and Save Hun Vote.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Aug. 16—Within another week the country will know whether there is to be a union Government or a fight on straight party lines with a reorganized cabinet. Sir Robert Borden has been patient to the limit of endurance in his efforts to form an administration representing all elements whose sole object is the winning of the war.

He has been accused of dilatoriness and hesitancy. The dilatoriness however has not been on his part.

Waited Three Weeks.

He waited for three weeks for Laurier to make up his mind. He waited longer for the official western Liberal party to determine its course and the war Liberals or so-called war Liberals seem to have some difficulty in making up their minds. There is no doubt that every possible influence is being brought to bear upon so-called war Liberals by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his lieutenants of the calibre of E. M. MacDonald to prevent leading war Liberals from uniting with Sir Robert Borden. There is good reason to believe that some of the war Liberals, like some of the Liberal press, are not acting in good faith and that there has been double-dealing.

No Further Delay.

However the situation is that Sir Robert will not tolerate further delay. The war Liberals will have to decide at once. They have been told this plainly and as a result the air should be cleared within a week. There will likely be a statement from the Premier to the country on the situation. If Union fails then there will be a reorganization of the cabinet on party lines although in such a case there would be no need of haste and reorganization might not take place until the end of the session.

There is growing evidence that the Liberals are planning to obstruct proceedings with a view to holding parliament until it runs out on October 7. This is considered good tactics. They plan in this manner to prevent the passing of a new franchise bill and thus ensure for Sir Wilfrid Laurier the foreign pro-German vote in the west.

CASUALTIES

Ottawa, Aug. 16—

Infantry.

Died—E. C. Hicks, Lower Millstream, N. B.

Wounded.

W. McAllister, Gagetown, N. B.

F. J. Osborne, St. John.

J. F. Goodwin, Bathurst, N. B.

Artillery.

Wounded.

Capt. O. A. Mowat, Campbellton, N. B.

PARLIAMENT WILL MEET IF CRISIS ON

Chancellor Bonar Law Makes Announcement in House of Commons.

London, Aug. 16.—In the House of Commons today Noel Billing asked whether Premier Lloyd George could give assurance that in the event of a "social, military or political crisis" during the recess steps would be taken to reassemble parliament. Chancellor Bonar Law replied affirmatively.

Mr. Billing asked whether parliament would be reassembled in the event of an armistice.

"I should consider an armistice a crisis," the chancellor replied.

RUSSIANS AND ROUMANIANS IN RETREAT

Their Troops Driven Across River Sereth by Marshal Von Mackensen.

TEUTONS CLAIM 3,500 PRISONERS

Russian Torpedo Boat Destroyed by Mine and German Steamer Sunk.

Petrograd, Aug. 16.—The war office announces a strategic withdrawal by the Roumanians to the Soveia-Monastieak-Voloshkani lines. Russian forces on the Roumanian front withdrew under pressure to Muncheliu and Monaso, and Roumanian to Movilita, in the Fokshani area. A Russian torpedo boat was destroyed by a mine in the Baltic. A German steamship was sunk in the Gulf of Bothnia by a Russian submarine.

German Statement.

Berlin, Aug. 16, via London—Russian and Roumanian forces, which held the western bank of the River Sereth, on the Roumanian front yesterday were driven across the river by troops of Field Marshal Von Mackensen, according to the statement today of the German general staff. More than 3,500 prisoners were taken and 16 guns were captured.

The statement reads:

"Front of Prince Leopold: The situation is unchanged.

"Front of Archduke Joseph: In the mountains south of the Trotus Valley German and Austro-Hungarian troops during pursuit engagements broke down many times, the resistance of enemy rear guards.

"Front of Field Marshal Von Mackensen: North of Stracani and Pantziu, Prussian and Bavarian regiments successfully warded off numerous attacks by Roumanian and fresh Russian forces. On the Sereth the enemy who was still holding the western bank was driven back over the river by a powerful attack by our troops. Fifty-four officers, including some Frenchmen; 3,500 men, 16 guns and over 50 machine guns remained in our hands.

"Macedonian front: There is nothing new to report."

FURTHER FIGHTING

London, Aug. 17—Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters in Belgium hears fighting is proceeding well beyond Langemarck.

Langemarck has been the scene of much desperate fighting at various times since the beginning of the war. Canadians figured prominently in the first battle of Langemarck over two years ago.

The town, or what little is left of it, lies two miles northwest of St. Julien and southeast of Bixschoote. It is five miles north of Ypres.

CANADIANS IN FIERCE STRUGGLE

Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria Hurls Men Ten Times Against Hill 70.

THOUSANDS OF THE ENEMY SLAIN

The Seventh Prussian Division Wiped Out by Terrific Gunfire.

CANADIANS TAKE 400 PRISONERS

Casualties Among Dominion Soldiers Still Spoken of as Moderate.

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, Aug. 16—(By Stewart Lyon, special correspondent of the Canadian Press)—The taking of Hill 70, stirred the German higher command as nothing else has done on this front. Prince Rupprecht has made frantic efforts to recapture the lost positions, and a grim battle was waged through the day, particularly on and around Hill 70. Ten times the enemy came on, but they seldom got close enough for fighting with the bayonet or bomb.

Hour after hour these attacking troops—the Fourth Prussian Guards, one of the divisions of the German army—were subjected to a frightful concentrated fire from our artillery and machine guns. Their losses were frightful. A veteran machine gun officer tells of having had as a target for an hour and a quarter enemy reinforcements coming up in columns of fours for use in counter-attacks. He said his men killed more Germans yesterday than they had seen altogether at any previous time.

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HUNS ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP CANADIANS

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, Aug. 16—(By Stewart Lyon, special correspondent of the Canadian Press)—All hope that the enemy may have had of recovering Hill 70 was quenched late this (Thursday) afternoon, when an assaulting column of Manitobans and British Columbians, by a gallant attack, drove the Germans, who clung to the eastward slope of the hill, back seven hundred yards on a front of over a thousand yards.

The enemy is now down in a hollow, with our troops overlooking his positions. The assault was the most impetuous charge I have yet seen. Despite a heavy enemy barrage, put down almost as soon as our own, indicated the locality of the attack, the first wave went forward at the double. In less than three minutes afterwards prisoners they had taken were seen running back through the smoke toward our trenches. They numbered between eighty and ninety, and suffered some casualties en route from their own guns.

With characteristic thoroughness the German engineers had mined some of the chalk pits that formed the easterly limits of our advance, and when it was believed by the enemy that our posts had settled down the chalk pits were the scene of a tremendous explosion. It was very fine, and the Bosche is probably still chuckling, but the truth is no one was hurt.