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The Toronto World

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WEDNESDAY MORNING APRIL 25 1917—FOURTEEN PAGES

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PROBS—Lower Lakes and Georgian Bay—Fresh easterly winds fair and cool.

BRITISH Make Another Advance on Front Between Senee River and Monchy-le-Preux, Gaining Considerable Ground and Reaching Points Near Fontaine-les-Croisilles and Chenisy—Important Avenue of German Supplies Cut Off and Enemy Fails in Attempts to Retake Lost Positions—Two Thousand More Prisoners Are Taken.

MEN AND GUNS THROWN RECKLESSLY INTO LINE TO STOP ALLIED GAINS

But the British and French Advance Goes On, Taking Villages Daily With Thousands of Prisoners—Enemy Now Deprived of Main Lines of Communication.

LONDON, April 24.—Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters in France contrasts the reckless prodigality with which the Germans are now throwing reserves of men and guns into the firing line with their previous prudence and says that they clearly realize the full extent of the Anglo-French menace to their whole system of communications and are desperately trying to counter the danger. Continuing, the correspondent says: "They are throwing in their strategic reserves wholesale and are rushing up guns and ammunition, which must be weakening some other point in their long-drawn out armor. Since the Germans began their retreat in the middle of February they have shown every desire to conserve man power, but during the last 36 hours they have shown a complete recklessness in repeating counter-attacks in mass without regard to the cost, which must be appalling.

"Our gunners, by a constant fire on the Arras-Donal railway, are making it very difficult for the Germans to bring up ammunition. The sinking of the St. Quentin Canal also deprives the enemy of one of his main lines of communication.

"The capture of Beaucamp and Villers-Polich has given us a commanding position on the opposite side of the railway to Gomelieu, and we are now attacking towards Marais, from which we are now about three miles distant.

"One of the most striking features of the fighting is the sudden reassertion of our dominance in the air. Yesterday we brought down 40 German airplanes, only two of our machines being missing.

British Official Report. London, April 25.—A British official communication issued at midnight yesterday.

"Further information received regarding Monday's battle shows that the fighting was of an exceptionally severe nature. Seven German divisions were engaged on the front from Croisilles to Gavrelle. Several points of tactical importance were captured more than once, but eventually all these remained in our possession, except for a few buildings north of Roux.

"The only very frequent hostile counter-attacks shattered by our massed artillery fire, but those of the enemy who succeeded in penetrating our barbed wire were cut down by our side machine gunners.

"Our British corps took prisoners from no less than four German divisions. Our troops advanced along the whole front.

"Today there has again been considerable fighting, the somewhat less intense in nature at several points on the battlefield. Between the Senee River and Monchy-le-Preux our progress has been continued, and the enemy has been advanced within a few hundred yards of Fontaine-les-Croisilles and Chenisy.

"During the afternoon in the neighborhood of Gavrelle a hostile counter-attack by strong forces was broken up by our artillery and driven back in disorder under our fire.

"Two thousand prisoners have passed thru our collecting stations since Monday morning, and there are others yet to come.

"There was a greater amount of fighting in the air Monday than has taken place before in a single day. Our airplanes attacked the enemy's machines wherever they could be found, with striking success, going far behind the enemy's lines and bombing his railways, dumps and other important military objectives, and compelling him to give battle.

"In the course of the fighting 15 German machines were brought down, destroyed, and 24 others driven down out of control, a majority of which probably crashed. A large twin-engine three seater was brought down inside our lines. Its occupants were made prisoners. Only two of our machines are missing.

Tuesday Morning Report.

"The British gained ground on a wide front last night south of the Bapaume-Cambrai road.

"The statement follows: "Severe fighting continued yesterday evening, and at intervals during the night on our whole front from Croisilles to the north of Gavrelle. The enemy constantly repeated his unsuccessful counter-attacks with great determination and regardless of losses.

"The positions gained by us yesterday and already reported have been maintained. Further progress has been made east of Monchy-le-Preux and in the neighborhood of Roux. A particularly violent counter-attack delivered by the enemy early this morning against the village of Gavrelle was successfully beaten off.

"The number of prisoners which passed thru collecting stations as a result of yesterday's operations already exceeds 1500, including 30 officers. Many are still to come.

"South of the Bapaume-Cambrai road we gained ground during the night on a wide front east of Epheby and reached the St. Quentin Canal in the neighborhood of Venduille. Further north the villages of Villers-Polich and Beaucamp have been captured by us, together with a number of prisoners.

Paris, April 24.—The official communication of the French government.

RUSS MILITIAMEN STOP ANTI-AMERICAN MOVE

Petrograd Police Suppress Unfriendly Demonstration Before U. S. Embassy.

Petrograd, April 24, via London.—An effort by a small group of ultra-Radicals to make an unfriendly demonstration before the American Embassy today was frustrated by militiamen as the Radicals marched down the Nevsky Prospect on their way to the embassy.

The demonstration was headed by Nikolai Lenin, the Radical Socialist leader, who recently arrived here from Germany from Switzerland, with a safe conduct from the German authorities. The demonstration is said to have been due to the alleged killing in America of an anarchist named Mooney who was under sentence in San Francisco.

A guard was sent by the authorities to protect the embassy.

The Mooney referred to in the above despatch probably is Thos. J. Mooney, who is under sentence of death for connection with the bomb explosion in San Francisco in July, 1916, in which several persons were killed.

VISITS SWEDEN'S KING.

London, April 24.—Reuter's Stockholm correspondent says that King Christian of Denmark has arrived in Stockholm on a visit to King Gustav.

German Destroyers Bombed By British Naval Machines

Five Enemy Ships Attacked, and Admiralty Considers It Most Probable That One Was Sunk.

London, April 24.—A British Admiralty statement reports an attack by three British naval machines on five enemy destroyers, which were seen at 4.10 p.m. Monday steaming between Blankenberge and Zebrugge in a northeasterly direction five miles off the coast.

"The leading machine," says the statement, "attached, dropping sixteen bombs, one of which was seen to obtain a direct hit. The remaining four destroyers heeled and were attacked by the two remaining machines, 32 bombs being dropped. The leading destroyer was observed to take a list to port and remained stationary after all the bombs had been dropped.

"The four destroyers closed in on the disabled craft. A hostile sea-plane attacked our machines, but was easily driven off. At 5.10 p.m. the four destroyers were reported by a reconnaissance machine as entering Zebrugge harbor. It is considered most probable that one destroyer was sunk."

Gen. Joffre and Party At Washington Today

Joffre and Viviani Empowered to Negotiate With U.S. on All Subjects, Military, Naval and Financial—Commission Now Aboard Presidential Yacht.

Fortress Monroe, W. Va., April 24.—America at daylight this morning. American naval officials aboard the USS Florida met the former French passenger liner which brought the visitors over and the convoy at 11 o'clock last night about 100 miles at sea. Every American ship in the harbor hoisted to their mastsheads the French tricolor, and the band of the ship played the Star Spangled Banner. Marshal Joffre and the military and naval members stood at salute. Immediately after came the French national anthem, which was saluted in a similar manner.

Go into Conference. Upon his arrival Ambassador Jusserand went into conference with M. Viviani and the leading members of the mission. Two hours later M. Viviani, Marshal Joffre, Admiral Chocheprat, the naval representative, the Marquis de Chambrun (Lafayette's grandson), Mr. Hovelague, counsellor, and Joseph Simon of the ministry of finance went on board the American vessel with Ambassador Jusserand and the American officials and remained there until their departure for Washington.

The technical advisers and staff officers of the mission came ashore late today from the French ship to spend the night at an hotel. They will leave for Washington tomorrow morning.

WILL ARRIVE AT NOON. Washington, April 24.—The French commission will arrive in Washington tomorrow at noon on board the presidential yacht Mayflower from Hampton Roads.

Condition of Mme. Bernhardt Remains Still Unchanged. New York, April 24.—A bulletin issued by her physicians late tonight said there had been no change since morning in the condition of Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, and that she had spent a "comfortable day," and that "it has not been decided to perform an operation for the transference of blood."

FORTY GERMAN MACHINES LOST IN FIGHTS 15,000 FEET HIGH

"GOD WILL HELP FURTHER"—PERHAPS

Amsterdam, April 24, via London.—A Berlin statement says that the German emperor has sent the following message to Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, commanding the Artels army group: "The fresh English storm on the battlefield of Arras has been broken by your troops. To the heroes of Arras and their trustworthy leaders, who in capacity, ability and success have equalled their comrades on the Aisne and in Champagne, I send my thanks and those of the fatherland. God will help further."

TAX UPON WAR PROFITS MATERIALLY INCREASED

Finance Minister in Brief Budget Speech Announces Tariff Will Remain Unchanged, and No Personal Income Tax Will Be Levied—Announcement is Well Received.

No tariff changes will be made. No income tax will be imposed. Taxation on war profits will remain as it is where such profits do not exceed 25 per cent. Upon profits over 15 per cent, and not exceeding 25 per cent, the tax is increased from one-quarter to one-half, and from one-quarter to three-quarters on profits exceeding 25 per cent.

New law applies to first accounting period after Dec. 31, 1915. Foreign trade of Canada for year ended March 31, 1917, totaled \$2,042,000,000.

New domestic loan will be floated next fall. Surplus of current receipts over ordinary and capital expenditures, including interest on public debt and pensions, is \$60,000,000. Canada's total war outlay to date is about \$600,000,000. The net national debt, which was before the war \$386,000,000, has risen to more than \$900,000,000, and by the end of the present fiscal year may reach \$1,500,000,000.

By Staff Reporter. Ottawa, April 24.—Sir Thomas White broke the record today by a budget speech whose delivery occupied only thirty minutes. The only new legislation announced was an increase in the war tax on excess profits. Hereafter the tax upon profits over 15 per cent, and not exceeding 25 per cent, will be one-half, and there will be a 75 per cent tax upon profits in excess of 25 per cent. Up to 15 per cent the business tax remains as it is. Profits of corporations up to 7 per cent, are exempt, and profits of individuals and partnerships up to 10 per cent.

The super-tax will largely fall upon the manufacturers of munitions, but only because they are the principal profiteers. All corporations are on an equality so far as the tax is concerned. No income tax is contemplated, and Sir Thomas White argued against its advisability.

Canada's Immense Trade. The finance minister announced that Canada's total trade in the past year amounted to \$2,042,000,000, the balance of trade in Canada's favor amounting to \$314,000,000. This was contrasted with 1912, when the total trade of Canada amounted to only \$841,000,000, with the balance of trade largely against Canada.

The speech was well received, and the opposition, had no suggestions to make beyond urging greater economy in the expenditures of the government and a reduction of the tariff. Dr. Clark of Red Deer strongly urged an income tax, and thought that wealth was not paying its full share of taxation.

Free Permanent Free Wheat. Ake wheat came in considerable discussion and J. G. Turris, Liberal member for Assiniboia, offered an amendment expressing the desire of the house that the government should make its free wheat policy permanent by legislation at this session of parliament. The Liberals argued that the governor-in-council might at any time reimpose the wheat and flour duties.

Desperate Fight Against Turks

Enemy Defeated Near Gaza Withdraws to New Positions and Prepares for New Struggle.

London, April 24.—An official communication dated April 22, and referring to the operations against the Turks, reports the withdrawal for some kilometers of the Turkish detachment on the left bank of the Tigris and of the Turks on the Sinai front.

"The enemy, defeated near Gaza, withdrew his right wing," says the communication. "He is constructing new positions with the object of protecting that flank. The small number of prisoners taken in this fight proves that the struggle was a desperate one. We captured a large number of rifles and some automatic guns. Three armored motor cars which the enemy sent into the fight were destroyed."

The Turkish forces in southern Palestine, who have been reinforced, hold a strongly entrenched position extending from Gaza in the direction of Beerah, according to an official statement from the commander-in-chief of the British forces in Egypt made public here this evening. The organization of positions gained on the front of the Turkish main line is proceeding satisfactorily, says the statement, which says in conclusion that our artillery, assisted by aircraft, exploded a munitions dump in Gaza.

Germany Will Use Harshly Striking Munition Workers. London, April 24.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Amsterdam says the German reichstag committee which was formed to further the operations of the civilian patriotic service, met yesterday to discuss the strikes of munition workers. Gen. Groener, head of the department of munitions, declared at the meeting that it had been decided to oppose ruthlessly any further interruption in the making of arms and ammunition.

British Royal Flying Corps Establishes New Record for One Day by Bringing Down So Many Enemy Machines, While Only Two British Planes Are Missing—Trains Carrying Reinforcements, and Transport Columns Bombed and Disorganized by British Airmen.

By R. T. Small, Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press. With the British Armies in France, via London, April 24.—The intensely bitter ground fighting of the past two days has been reflected in the air, and the British Royal Flying Corps yesterday established a new record by bringing down forty German machines. Fifteen of these were actually seen to crash, while twenty-five collapsed or fell in spinning nose dives, completely out of control. The fights took place 15,000 feet in the air, from which distance it is barely possible to see the ground, and wholly impossible to see an adversary crash unless the pilot deliberately follows down. Such a course is not feasible where the fighting has taken on the character of a general melee, as is nowadays often the case. A remarkable part of yesterday's performance is that only two British machines are missing.

It was the finest day for war flying that the young khaki pilots ever had and today they have been at it again since sunrise, but the full reports of their exploits are not yet in. It is known, however, that one intrepid young flier, failing to find a single German observation balloon aloft, sought out one in his hangar on the ground, dived at it and set the big gas bag ablaze from stem to stern.

Since Sunday the British airmen have been reveling in weather they have long desired. Not a cloud was in the sky today behind which a German could find shelter. Deprived of that means of "digging themselves in," the German fliers were far scarcer than usual and very difficult to find.

British machines were everywhere along the battlefield and far behind the German lines. Bombing raids were carried out 45 miles back, the machines deliberately flying over grounds where battles were raging with the greatest fury.

German trains rushing reinforcements to the front were attacked and transport columns on the roads were bombed and completely disorganized. In several instances the British machines came low over the fighting lines and poured machine gun fire into the German ranks. In doing this machines have deliberately crossed the fire of their own as well as the enemy's guns.

Yesterday one British pilot, after bringing down two Germans and all his ammunition was gone, descended, reloaded, filled up his petrol tanks and took to the air again. Within half an hour he had brought down his third machine for that day. Another pilot felled two machines, while the other 35 were divided among a similar number of British pilots.

The greatest fight yesterday, oddly enough, was a drawn battle. One of the British pilots met a brilliant German flier and for a full hour they manoeuvred in a most marvelous manner, without either being able to bring his gun to bear on the other. They rolled, looped, twisted, deliberately stalled their engines and, standing the machines on their tail, slid backwards thru the air, but all to no avail. It was probably the most wonderful air duel the war has yet seen.

The British pilot reported today that several times he felt sure he would get his adversary between his sights, but the latter invariably wiggled out of the line of fire. The British flier himself was kept busy avoiding the German, and once he had to dive almost perpendicularly. The combat did not break off until both pilots had fairly exhausted themselves and their petrol.

Strangely enough, later in the day another British pilot encountered the same German machine. The Britisher was winging his way home after a hard day's work, but he jockeyed with the German for nearly a quarter of an hour before flying on.

In strange contrast to this was the experience of one British pilot, who somewhat peevishly complained last night that "I only got a rabbit." He explained this by saying that while his opponent had a good machine he was a clumsy fellow and couldn't fight at all, and was sent spinning with the first burst of gunfire.

Still another pilot mounted a fast new machine and deliberately allowed the German to get on his tail. Then he suddenly looped behind his adversary and caught him just within the sights, the burst of fire killing the German instantly. The machine swerved and the dead man pitched out 10,000 feet from the ground.

The fighting yesterday was all within the enemy territory. Several British machines had bullet holes thru their wings, but sailed home undamaged and took the air again this morning.

Berlin Vorwarts Demands Statement of Peace Terms

London, April 24.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Amsterdam says: The Berlin Vorwarts today publishes an article urging the German Government to declare before the whole world that peace must be reached without the sacrifice of territory by any belligerent or the payment of any war indemnity. The Vorwarts adds that Germany must immediately bind herself to this program. An agreement with the enemy, it continues, will not be reached immediately, but the negotiations would be bound to bring about an agreement.

DINEEN'S ALTERATION SALE. The Dineen sale continues during fire alterations. Prices have been reduced until the original costs are entirely lost sight of. There are amazing bargains for your selection in men's hats, furs and millinery. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

Vertical advertisements on the left margin including 'oches Price', 'Specials for y', 'Cream Sets', 'Trays', 'Special Tea', 'Ranges', 'Suits', and '10.00'.