

## FRENCH AND AMERICANS CLEAR ARGONNE REGION OF THE ENEMY

Numerous Villages and Important Positions and Thousands of Prisoners Captured in the Fighting of the Past 48 Hours

Paris, Nov. 4.—The Argonne region has been cleared of the enemy by the French and American forces, the War Office announces to-day. Numerous villages and important positions were captured in the fighting of Saturday and Sunday.

Gen. Gouraud resumed his drive between the Aisne and the Meuse Saturday with the American 1st army under Gen. Liggett co-operating.

After preparing the ground by a number of local actions the offensive was begun on a 10 mile front on either side of Vouziers and excellent progress was effected from the start in this difficult country, hilly and wooded and intersected by innumerable streamlets.

The statement says: "The prolonged battle fought in the Argonne by our 4th army in conjunction with the American army has terminated in a complete success for our arms. The enemy, who had stubbornly defended the passages of the Aisne, then clung desperately to the wooded heights where he found excellent natural defence, has seen his resistance give way under our victorious efforts."

"With admirable elan our troops have occupied after a severe struggle the village of Toges, Belleville, Quatre Champs, Noireuil, Les Alleux and Chailion-sur-Bar. Pushing beyond in a northerly direction they have completely occupied the Voncq and Chesne Woods in the northern outskirts of which they hold."

"The enemy rearguards have everywhere been overthrown. The liberation of the Argonne is an accomplished fact. The prisoners and supplies taken have not yet been counted."

Between Grand Pre and the Meuse the Americans pushed ahead 10 miles on Saturday and won the heights which dominate Buzancy, an important centre of the enemy communications. On the other wing Gen. Gouraud reached the approaches to the Ardennes Canal between Attigny and Le Chesne, tending to outflank Rethel from the east, while the

French 5th army began to outflank it to the north-west of Chateau-Port.

The fighting was continued throughout Saturday night and Sunday, progress being made at all points, and by Sunday afternoon the whole forest region was cleared of the invaders.

In Full Retreat American aviators late to-day reported that the Germans to the east of the Meuse appeared to be in full retreat. The aviators' messages said that all roads running northward were packed with troops, artillery and trucks.

More than 60 cannon, scores of 77's, dozens of 150's, numerous howitzers of various calibres, and hundreds of machine guns were captured by the Americans during the advance. Vast quantities of ammunition and war material of all kinds fell into their hands.

VILLAGE TAKEN. With the American Army north-west of Verdun, Sunday, Nov. 3.—The village of Le Champ was taken early this morning, marking an advance of five miles northward from Bayonville. The Americans did not stop there, but pressed on.

One division, which on Saturday captured 79 officers and 2,170 men, sixty machine guns and twelve guns of 77 calibre, was reported to-day to have largely increased its booty.

The troops on the right, like those on the left and centre, also continued to move forward, though less rapidly than the others. The heights Montigny, four miles north of Clermont-Petit were reached at noon. When the Americans occupied the height it was seen that the Germans had evacuated the region immediately to the north.

Make It a Billion—Buy Victory Bonds

## Germany Has Great Man Power

SOMEbody is always taking the joy out of life, according to Briggs, the cartoonist, and we observe that every time the Allies make a plunge forward and take a few thousand prisoners and a few square miles of territory from the Germans, some military expert is on hand to warn us against undue elation. We despise such advice, and act on the theory that when there is an excuse to cheer we ought to rise up on our hind legs and cheer.

We do not suppose that the British soldiers, for instance, will refrain from cheering when they occupy captured towns just because it does not happen to be Berlin. By turning loose a few hearty cheers now they do not necessarily incapacitate themselves from cheering later on. Some people talk as though we had just a certain number of cheers to emit in the course of a lifetime and that if they are dissipated in one place they are unavailable in another. We have any by us to fall back upon in riper years when there is more need for them. We maintain that the present is the time to cheer and that if a loyal subject can outcheer himself just now.

Having thus gone on record we can afford to listen with due respect to what Andre Cheradame says on the subject of German man-power in the New York Times. M. Cheradame is an expert, but being rather uncertain as to whether he is an expert on international affairs, military matters or politics, we shall simply introduce him as an expert Frenchman. He says that the Allies have greatly underestimated Germany's man-power, and equally over-estimated her permanent war losses. He is of opinion that the war cannot end by mere attrition, for however long the war lasts, Germany will not be bled white. In fact, according to his calculations, no nation can be bled white, for he reasons, rather paradoxically, that the longer the war lasts the longer the nations engaged in it can continue to fight. This is because of the natural increase of population. For instance, if the war should last another ten years the children in Germany between the ages of six and sixteen will grow into soldiers.

M. Cheradame insists that the reason such critics as Belloc and Repington have made mistakes as to the exhaustion of German man-power is because they have not taken account of the fresh soldiers that are constantly being added to the German army by the calling up of new classes. He strikes us as being rather unfair to Col. Repington when he recalls that in January, 1916, the English expert said that some time in that year the Germans would not be able to furnish reserves to fill up the holes made by the assaults of the Allies. Every calculation made about the war before the Russian collapse was necessarily falsified by the Russian desertion, and there can be no slightest doubt that if Russia had continued to fight as stoutly as the Allies whom she betrayed, the war would now be over. If, early in 1917, anyone had dared to make forecasts of the war based on the supposition that Russia would sign the Brest-Litovsk treaty he would have been arrested as a traitor.

M. Cheradame says that practically all the armed calculations as to the strength of the German armies have been based on the assumption that the German population is 68,000,000, and, while this may have been the population in 1914, the population in 1918 is probably 70,000,000. At this point it might be mentioned that a short while ago a writer declared that for years Germany had been concealing her population with the purpose of deceiving Europe as to her military strength and that the real population was several millions more than announced. The French writer does not make this point, but he calculates that for the four years of war there have been drafted into the German army from 733,000 to 754,000 men annually, making a total of nearly 3,000,000 soldiers who have come of military age since 1914.

He does not believe that German losses have been exaggerated and sets them down as 5,800,000 up to the first of last June. He says that in 1914 the mobilized forces of Germany were about 13,600,000, but that most calculators make the mistake of subtracting the former figure from the latter and arriving at the conclusion that Germany has left only 8,300,000, whereas to this figure ought to be added the 3,000,000 men who have become soldiers since 1914. He says that Germany has in reality more than 11,000,000 soldiers, of whom there are 7,000,000 on the western front. This leaves only 4,000,000 for operations in Russia, in Turkey and for assuring the security of German communications over immense territories which the Germans occupy and which are inhabited by hostile populations. The point which he does not make is that 4,000,000 are not enough for this purpose, and that it would be good policy for the Allies not to concentrate upon the western front, but to attack on the other fronts as well, where Germany is not so strong. At present, when things are going so well on the western front, it is not likely that M. Cheradame will be able to convince many of the soundness of his strategy, whatever they may think about the accuracy of his figures.

Shakespearean Question. One of the characters in "Twelfth Night" says, "But I am a great eater of beef, and I believe that it does harm to my wit," has caused the claim to be set up that Shakespeare was a fishmonger on the side.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

## To The Editor of The Courier

A NOTE OF SYMPATHY FROM REV. LLEWELLYN BROWN

To the Editor

It has been with deep regret that I have heard of the many in the home city who have been stricken by this great plague that is passing over the land. Brantford has surely suffered very severely, and there are left many vacancies—surely the words of the poet were never more potent than just now.

"There is no flock—howsoever tended,

But one dead lamb is there, There is no fire-side, howsoever defended,

But has its vacant chair. The war and the epidemic have surely joined hands to ravage the home and great has been their toll. In a large city like this you know less of what is going on about you, and there is a wise effort on the part of the officials to keep back facts that would only tend to panic and despair. But ministers and undertakers know something on the inside of the ravages this awful plague is making. Last Monday I was conducting the funeral of a bright young business man of 30 years in not taken by the old cemetery here. It was dusk when we buried him, and the man in charge of the cemetery said to me: "This is my 32nd to-day; we had 22 on Saturday and a R. C. cemetery had a record of 70 as they have fewer cemeteries than the Protestants. I went to a house early in the morning Monday last where a little girl of 8 years lay dead. While there the undertaker told of a case he had in Highland Park, a part of Detroit, where in one family 7 lay dead at one time, and all died within three hours of each other. Now all are required to bury within 24 hours of death; all funerals are supposed to be private. There are signs that the epidemic here is on the wane, fewer are taking it while more are dying of it, but there are still some time. The victims here seem to be between 20 and 40, the children and older ones seen especially. The churches have been closed for two Sundays and will be closed next Sunday, Nov. 3rd, but we have the promise of services for Nov. 10, unless the epidemic increases in the meantime. The schools will open on Monday next. The 3000 teachers here did splendid service as nurses of the most needy and found many families almost helpless without food or fuel, or care of any kind. In many cases all in the house were stricken. The merchants here have suffered greatly through the epidemic, as the hours for doing business have been cut down, and the fears of contracting the disease have kept many at home who otherwise would have gone shopping. The loss to the churches has also been great, but our loss is not to be compared with the many whose loss is beyond all telling. There is a great dumbness that comes over one as we ponder on such a disaster as this. We know not what to say, and so it is best to say little. All things work together for good to them that love God" is a good verse for a day of adversity, and has been the source of many these days. I am often surprised how people bear up as well as they do under such sudden and terrible grief, but we are given strength for the burden we have to bear. To the many whom I knew so well and love so dearly in Brantford who have suffered the loss of their loved ones, I extend my deepest sympathy, and wish it were in my power to say a word of comfort to you personally. The ministers have done well their part. Their messages of good cheer have been most timely and are surely appreciated. The great cloud of witnesses is growing every day, and we know not who may be called next. The hope of the Christian of re-union and recognition beyond is the only thing that cheers us up and on as we think of "our company which have gone before."

"They shall be mine, they as on earth we knew them. The lips we kissed, the hands we loved to press. Only a fuller, life is circling through them, Unfading bliss, unchanging love!"

Sincerely yours, LLEWELLYN BROWN,

The Study, 842 Vermont Street, Detroit, Mich.

Winnipeg has no immediate intention of establishing a municipal dairy. Mayor Davidson declared, saying a scheme of that nature is not possible under present financial conditions.

Emperor William has written to Prince Maximilian of Baden, the imperial chancellor, promising co-operation in the development of constitutional reforms. It is pointed out, however, that no word has been said by him relative to abdication.

Our bombing squadrons dropped 39,600 kilograms of projectiles from a low altitude and fired tens of thousands of rounds from their machine guns. Conditions approaching a panic developed among enemy troops, who were dispersed, but not before they had suffered heavy losses. The convoys and assemblages of enemy forces were also bombarded. Seventeen enemy airplanes were shot down or driven to the earth out of control. One captive balloon was destroyed.

"During the night 29,850 kilograms of projectiles were dropped by our bombarding planes upon the more active stations of the enemy, particularly those at Yverness, Mont Cornet, Hirson, Mezieres, Tervin, and Wassigny."

## CAUSED PANIC AMONG ENEMY

268 French Bombing Machines Make Attack on German Troops

Paris, Nov. 4.—The official statement on aerial operations Saturday night said:

"On November 1 our air squadrons fighting in conjunction with the troops on the ground gave important co-operation in the various regions on the front, where they carried out attacks both in Flanders and before the 4th army. Aerial observers, flying without respite over the enemy lines under protection of our pursuit machines, marked the advance of our infantry, regulated artillery fire on objectives on the field of battle and carried out numerous reconnaissances behind the enemy front."

"Two of the reconnaissances reached more than 74 miles into the enemy lines and enabled the exploration of the Province of Namur. At the same time great activity among troops and convoys was reported behind the front in the zone of the attack by our 4th army and the American army. In the region of Le Chesne, Tannay and Noireuil several bombing operations were carried out. Dirigibles and airplanes to the number of 148, went out in successive groups, accompanied by combat planes numbering 120."

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On Flanders Front. The Belgian official report said: "During the past three days combat formations of allied airplanes have rivalled in audacity the work of the fighting forces. They have absolute control of the air and have bombarded and machine-gunned retreating German troops and convoys, railroad stations and roads of communications behind the German front. German patrol machines have attempted to break through the allied barrier but have lost in many instances. British aviators have obtained remarkable results in this fighting."



MADE IN GERMANY The German idea of the Almighty who punishes countries like England which keep Germany from the Sun.

Norman importation of anthracite coal to the head of the lake is about half a million tons. Out of the 275,000 tons allotted, Western Ontario is allotted 70,000 tons, leaving 205,000 tons of anthracite available for distribution in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

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## NOTICE

### Military Service Act, 1917.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF MEN IN DEFAULT UNDER THE MILITARY SERVICE ACT.

The following Regulations, recently approved by the Governor General in Council, impose strict obligations upon every employer TO ASSURE HIMSELF THAT EACH OF HIS EMPLOYEES OF MILITARY AGE AND DESCRIPTION IS IN POSSESSION OF DOCUMENTS PROVING THAT HE IS NOT IN ANY WAY IN DEFAULT UNDER THE MILITARY SERVICE ACT.

An employer who is charged with having a defaulter in his employ must be able to prove THAT THE MILITARY SERVICE PAPERS ISSUED BY THE REGISTRAR OR MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO THE EMPLOYEE IN QUESTION WERE PRODUCED FOR HIS INSPECTION at the time when the employee was taken into his employment, and that it was reasonably established to his satisfaction that the man was not in default under the Military Service Act. It should be clearly understood that the Canadian Registration Certificates given on June 22, 1918, at the time of general registration, in no way define the status of a man under the Military Service Act.

#### REGULATIONS.

"106. Every person who employs or retains in his service any man who has deserted or is absent without leave from the Canadian Expeditionary Force, or who is in default in the performance of any obligation or requirement for reporting or for military service, imposed upon him by the Act or Regulations, or any proclamation thereunder, shall be guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or by a penalty of not less than One Hundred Dollars, and of not more than Five Hundred Dollars, or by both such imprisonment and fine, unless such person prove that he made due inquiry and that THE MILITARY SERVICE PAPERS ISSUED BY THE REGISTRAR OR THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO THE MAN SO EMPLOYED OR RETAINED IN HIS SERVICE WERE PRODUCED FOR HIS INSPECTION, and that it was reasonably established to his satisfaction by such inquiry and papers that the man was not a deserter or absent from the force without leave, or in default in respect of any of the obligations or requirements aforesaid."

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MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH.



## If this boy were your boy

If you had a boy in France to-day, you would make your purchase of Victory Bonds large enough to represent a real personal sacrifice.

You would be thinking of that lad—out in the hell on earth that is No Man's Land—cheerfully offering his life for Freedom's cause. And you would do your best to save that life.

You would help—with all your might—to provide the money that will shorten the war and reduce the cost of Victory, in human lives.

You would buy all the Victory Bonds you could possibly find the money for—and you would find it by stinting yourself down to the barest necessities of life.

Come—share in the glory of those whose lads are in France to-day. Dig deep into your income—as the kin of soldiers dig into theirs—to buy the Victory Bonds that will carry our armies on to Victory, and give us back our boys.

This Space Donated to the Victory Loan Campaign by the Brantford Courier.