

## Franco-British Drive on Ypres Front

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, Oct. 26.—The French and British troops are attacking to-day took Monkey Mountain, east of Vauxaillon, the village of Pargny in the Ypres region, the war office announced.

With the French Armies in France, Thursday, Oct. 25.—(By the Associated Press)—The French have reached the Aisne canal and Laon, eight miles away, is in sight. Following up the victory of Tuesday the French Filain.

Paris, Oct. 26.—The village of Draebank, Papegoed wood and a number of fortified farms were captured by the French in an attack launched this morning on the Flanders front, the war office reports. Hundreds of prisoners were taken.

## Petain Takes Draebank Village and Other Posts

### Offensive Launched on Ypres Front at Early Hour This Morning; French and British, Acting in Conjunction, Record big Gains

While the Germans on the Aisne were still smarting from the blows General Petain had administered to them leaving him uninterrupted in organizing the captured ground, they were called upon to face to-day the resumption of the Petain offensive in Flanders.

Both Field Marshal Haig and the Paris war office report the launching of the new attack which is said to be developing satisfactorily although under most adverse weather conditions. The French were obliged to wade through water up to their necks in crossing the St. Jansbeek and Coverbeek Rivers, but nevertheless they made important progress on the left flank of the field of attack, capturing Draebank village, Papegoed wood and many farms where the Germans had organized points of support. Hundreds of Germans fell into the hands of the French as prisoners.

The front of the thrust is apparently a far more extensive one than that of last week as the London official statement mentions the attacks as being launched "northeast and east of Ypres." If British have carried the attack to a point as far south as directly east of Ypres the battle front is on a line approximately ten miles long, extending along nearly the entire curve of the new Ypres salient.

#### TWO SEPARATE ATTACKS

British front in Belgium, Oct. 26.—(By the Associated Press)—Field Marshal Haig's this morning made two separate attacks on the German positions north and east of Ypres. The first was from a point near Saint Jansbeek, westward through the southern fringe of the Houthulst ridge to the region of Nieuwemolen. The other assault was on both sides of the Ypres-Monin highway along the Gheluvelt road in the direction of the town of that name.

The British troops, as well as the French who also attacked on the left made excellent headway, pushing forward on a wide front. CHATEAU CAPTURED  
London, Oct. 26.—Shortly before 7 o'clock this morning British forces which began an offensive on the Ypres front were seen entering German pillboxes upon Bellevue spur and shortly afterwards signals showed that the British had carried Polderheek Chateau, which had been strongly fortified by Germans, telegraphs the correspondent of Reuter's Limited at British headquarters in assault was on both sides of the Ypres-Monin highway alone the Belgium.

Crossing the battlefield in the vicinity of Vaurains and Saint Gullain Farms, a correspondent obtained ample evidence of the extent of the splendid French victory. Hundreds of prisoners in large groups were making their way to the rear, marching without escort. Damaged German machine guns lay everywhere while scattered around were heaps of ammunition, cannons and immense quantities of military material.

Many Germans were captured in the enormous cavern of Fruty. The approaches were battered severely and large holes had been torn in the roof, demonstrating the power and accuracy of the French artillery. Not an inch of ground hereabouts had been left unchanged. The cavern has galleries about one kilometre in length with many exits, most of which had been greatly damaged by the French guns. When the French infantry dashed forward in the darkness, they approached the entrances warily and found them full of German bombs soon brought them out with their hands raised in token of surrender.

Meanwhile the tanks had advanced with the infantry until the second German position was reached, destroying on the way any nest of machine guns opposing the progress of the French troops. The tanks advanced several kilometres during which they met and demolished many machine gun nests. One tank was opposed by a determined German of-

After with a large body of men, who poured bullets into the armored sides of the machine without effect. Finally the French officer in command, descended from the tank and with his revolver, forced the whole group to surrender.

Another tank found a battery of field guns facing it. As soon as the tank opened fire, half of the artillery men threw up their hands, while the remainder bolted, only to fall beneath a hail of machine gun bullets from the monster.

To-day the French advance proceeded rapidly and the units reaped the various objectives with regularity. After taking the village of Pinon, the patrols went forward and entered the forest of the same name. They found many German cannon abandoned, but with the breech blocks gone. Dead horses, killed by the German gunners, lay beside the cannon. The Germans had found it impossible to get the weapons away. Hundreds of machine guns were captured by the French, and many of them were turned on the fleeing Germans, who had left plenty of ammunition behind. It is reported that 150 cannon have fallen into French hands, but the number is uncertain owing to the condition of the battlefield and its width. The same uncertainty applies to the total number of prisoners, hundreds of Germans being encountered on all parts of the field marching back to the French lines.

The sight of the towers of the Cathedral of Laon, on the horizon, a few miles away, spurred the French soldiers to wonderful efforts of endurance and swiftness of movement. They went on determinedly in pursuit of the Germans, leaving parties behind to clear out cellars and caverns, which disgorged hundreds of demoralized prisoners, who seemed astonished at the vastness of their defeat.

With all this severe fighting on a battlefield where the Germans held strong positions, and where they accepted the challenge of the French army to a stand-up combat, the French casualties were remarkably low.



MEMORIAL UNVEILED TO INVENTOR OF THE TELEPHONE.  
His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire officiated on Wednesday at the unveiling at Brantford of the monument in honor of Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone. The memorial takes the form of an allegorical monument, unique in its broad, chaste design, impressive in its massive construction and conveying the idea of the annihilation of space by the discovery of the telephone. Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, the distinguished inventor, who with members of his immediate family attended the ceremony as a guest of the city of Brantford, is shown in the upper corner photo. The Bell homestead also shown, is the one-time residence of Alexander Melville Bell and his distinguished son, the inventor. It was in this house in Brantford that many of the experiments were carried out.

## French and Italian Ministries Lack Full Confidence of Parliament

### Only Bare Majority for Painleve Cabinet Yesterday; Less Than That Given His Previous Ministry

By Courier Leased Wire.  
Paris, Oct. 26.—Premier Painleve's ministry obtained 346 favorable votes on October 19 and his new ministry yesterday obtained only 288 votes, slightly more than half the votes in the Chamber of Deputies. The opposition votes numbered 137, partly from the Socialists and partly from the Radical Socialists. The same groups supplied the hundred members who abstained from voting.

### FUEL CONTROLLER FIXES PRICE OF CANADA'S COAL

Order in Council Authorizes Regulations on Coal Supply; Licenses Necessary for all Dealers; Hoarding of Coal Stringently Forbidden

By Courier Leased Wire.  
Ottawa, Oct. 26.—An order-in-council has been passed by the Dominion Government authorizing regulations issued by the Fuel Controller for Canada respecting the importation and sale of coal which goes into effect on November 1. Provision is made for the licensing of all importers and dealers in coal now doing business in Canada and that may hereafter desire to do so.

### Italian Government Defeated by Many Voices When Vote of Confidence Was Taken in Chamber

By Courier Leased Wire.  
Rome, Thursday, Oct. 25.—The government was defeated in the Chamber of Deputies when a vote of confidence failed by 314 to 96.

Application must be made to the Fuel Controller before the 21st of November by registered letter for a dealer's or importer's permit. Heavy penalties are provided for doing business without permit. Provision is also made for the cancellation of permits in cases where any dealer has been found guilty of giving short weights or where any other sufficient cause exists. Under the regulations every mine operator in Canada must forthwith enter into an agreement with the Fuel Controller fixing the maximum prices per ton he may charge for the output of his mine.

The most far-reaching provisions of the new regulations are those dealing with dealers' commissions and profits. Brokers are allowed a maximum of 30 cents per ton for their services, wholesalers a maximum of 35 cents per ton and retail dealers a sum not exceeding 40 cents per ton. These maximum profits are allowed over and above reasonable overhead and handling charges, and will affectually do away with profiteering in coal.

The regulations also set forth the method to be adopted by wholesale and retailer dealers of coal to arrive at the cost prices thereof. Every two weeks an average will be struck by such dealers of the cost of all coal on hand, which will be the governing price for the following period of two weeks.

Stringent regulations are made in regard to the hoarding of coal. It is provided that except between the months of April and September inclusive in each year, no consumer shall obtain any quantity of coal in excess of an estimated supply for two months, with a minimum allowance of three tons.

## Crown Prince is Driven Relentlessly Back by Petain's Forward Sweep—Enemy Losses Heavy

On the heights of the Aisne the German crown prince is being driven back relentlessly toward the fortress of Laon and perhaps to a general retreat along a line from St. Quentin to the Champagne. His stronghold wrenched from him, 15,000 of his troops prisoners, many thousands slain and wounded, and 120 big guns lost, the predicament of the crown prince is most serious.

General Petain's great smash of Tuesday opened the way for further advances, and Thursday, under French pressure the Germans were forced back to the Oise-Aisne canal, evacuating of valuable positions in their retreat. More than 2,000 additional prisoners and many big guns fell into French hands. Laon, the fortress at the southern end of the Hindenburg line is now but eight miles from the French lines, and Petain's big guns can smash it at will. East of Chavignon, the centre of the French advance, stretches the Scheldt River, on the southern bank of which the German army have been fighting desperately to hold back the French for several months. From the newly captured positions the French can sweep the German defenses with torrents of artillery fire.

Every foot gained by General Petain in the Chavignon salient weakens the line northward through La Fere to St. Quentin. The French already are on three sides of La Fere and St. Quentin has all but fallen into allied hands several times since the German retreat. A German retreat from St. Quentin and La Fere to a line running north from Laon would endanger the entire German positions on the western front as far north as Ypres.

Probably the two most important salients on the western front from the sea to Verdun were those east of Ypres and southwest of Laon. Field Marshal Haig is hammering at the one and General Petain is smashing through the other. A German retreat all along the line might result in surprising eventualities, and there are reports from Germany that such action is not without the realm of possibilities.

### WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, Oct. 26  
—The storm which was centred in Montreal yesterday morning has almost disappeared over Labrador and the weather is fine and clear with increasing energy towards the lower lakes. The weather is fine and mild from Ontario to the Maritime provinces and is becoming much colder in the western provinces. Storm signals are displayed on the lower lakes.

Forecasts  
Winds, increasing to gales from southeast and south rain to-night Saturday.—Southwest gales, showery at first, then fair.

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