

FOR SALE

Factory site, Dupont Street, extending from Bathurst to Albany Avenue, 280 feet frontage, by a depth of about 500 feet; suitable for railway siding at rear. Apply H. H. WILLIAMS & CO. Main 5450.

PROBS

Moderate to fresh northwesterly, not much change in temperature.

Senate Reading Room SENATE P O OTTAWA

TUESDAY MORNING APRIL 24 1917—FOURTEEN PAGES

FOR RENT

95,000—King, near John, three-story brick warehouse, 28,000 square feet. Will rebuild to suit tenant. Apply H. H. WILLIAMS & CO. 38 King Street East.

VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,313

# The Toronto World

## BRITISH GAIN ON EIGHT-MILE FRONT TAKE TWO VILLAGES, 1200 PRISONERS

### Worst Fighting of the War Now Going On on Both Sides of Scarpe River Against New German Trench System—Canadians Advance to Outskirts of Avion Village, Near Lens—Germans Throw Thousands of Troops into the Fighting and Casualties Are Heavy

## BRITISH OPEN GREATEST EFFORT WITH A BIG DRIVE DOWN SCARPE

### Despite Savage Resistance, Germans Have to Give Ground Before Onslaught on Wide Front—Three Villages Fall to Attacking Troops—Field Marshal Haig Also Pushes Wedge Along Souchez River, Throwing Loop Further About Lens.

By Arthur S. Draper. Special Cable to The Toronto World.

London, April 23.—The British grand offensive was renewed today. The battle of Arras became the battle of Douai.

Surging forward over a wide front on both banks of the River Scarpe, after the most furious cannonade thus far achieved in the war, General Haig's troops captured the village of Gavrelle together with the hostile trench system for two and a half miles to the southward as far as the cemetery of Roux, where the river banks run down to the stream. On the southern bank of the river, British troops debouching from the bloody heights of Monchy fought their way south and east of the town and captured Guemappes, just below it.

Still farther south, at the neck of the Havincourt Wood, the occupation of the village of Trescault was completed; practically bottling up the German defenders who still held the line just below Lens the British wedge was pushed forward along the Souchez River, extending the loop which is being thrown around the coal city.

Fighting Savage. Thus far the number of prisoners counted considerably exceeds a thousand around Trescault. Throughout the day the fighting was most savage. The Germans prepared to battle for every yard of the ground which leads to their base at Douai, counter-attacked again and again, but without being able to check the British advance. Both General Haig's communique and the Berlin bulletin comment on the heavy losses inflicted on the enemy. The British attack has grown more violent and the Hindenburg defence has stiffened.

Biggest Effort Yet. There is excellent authority for stating that today's fighting opens up the most ambitious plan in the war. Provided that today's keen spring weather holds it is the beginning of the real "big push" that will keep on going until the desired results are obtained. The big battles of the past two weeks on the British and French fronts constituted the necessary preliminaries to the effort which began today. Everything is now ready for the final assault on Lens, which is virtually surrounded and must fall quickly. Douai and the roads to Lille, the great industrial centre of northern France, constitute the next objective. Hindenburg must be already at his wits' end to imagine how to defend them.

The morning's bombardment was the most fiercely concentrated of any yet known in the war, but it is likely to be surpassed in the next few days. The Hindenburg line is now in the gravest danger. Gavrelle and the road leading down from it to Roux form the last defences before the supplementary German switch line running between Quant and Drocourt is reached. This trench system, uncompleted as yet, may form but a shadowy obstacle against the pulverizing British bombardment, in which high-power shells fall almost as quick as rain drops. The German tunnel inaugurated by Haig today may result in Hindenburg giving up all attempts to hold the line before Douai, the objective of the fighting and the costly German counter-attacks would indicate a stubborn determination to stand at least until some sort of retreat can be organized. The German official description of the battle, issued from Berlin, is: "The new English assault broke down without success under very heavy enemy losses."

Important Positions. The positions which the British have maintained and gradually extended for more than a week on the heights east of Monchy were the key to much of the day's fighting. The importance of these ridge lines to the Germans lies in the fact that they dominate the plains of Douai for 40 miles. Not a day has passed that the

Germans have not thrown an energetic counter-attack against Monchy and sometimes the assaults occurred two or three in a day. They have been consistently hoodlums shattered. When Haig's khaki-clad soldiers swept down from the heights at day-break this morning they passed over ground covered by thousands of grey-coated bodies. In one day the Germans lost as many as 2,800 killed before Monchy.

British Up Germans. The consolidation today of Trescault, south of the Sapaume-Cambrai road, practically seals the fate of the Germans left in Havincourt Wood. Observers here expect heavy capture of men and guns as all doors to escape are now shut. This salient has been holding up the British advance on Cambrai, which should now proceed.

Yesterday's clear weather led to much air activity in which, says the night report, the British were "entirely successful." Six German planes crashed to the earth and fifteen more were driven down beyond control. In the air the British flyers attacked an enemy squadron of eight, two of which were destroyed and a third sent toward the ground in flames. Another German machine was destroyed by the anti-aircraft guns and seven German kite balloons were accounted for. Seven British planes are missing.

Berlin asserts that German aviators fired four enemy captive balloons and brought down eleven planes. It is reported that the pursuit squadron, operating under Baron Richthofen, has brought down 100 allied flyers.

Calm in French Lines. Except for the occasional pounding of the artillery the day was relatively calm along that part of the French front faced by the formation of the Crown Prince. But there were attempted German diversions both on that portion of the Belgian front still held by French troops and east of St. Mihiel and in the Woëvre, beyond Verdun.

In Belgium several attacks in force were aimed at the French trenches, but the alert defenders smothered them in machine gun fire. Here and there groups of the enemy succeeded in entering the advance lines, but they were at once driven out with the bayonet and great numbers were killed.

At other sectors of the Belgian front the cannonade increased in pitch and there was spirited bomb fighting for the final assault on Lens, which is virtually surrounded and must fall quickly. Douai and the roads to Lille, the great industrial centre of northern France, constitute the next objective. Hindenburg must be already at his wits' end to imagine how to defend them.

The morning's bombardment was the most fiercely concentrated of any yet known in the war, but it is likely to be surpassed in the next few days. The Hindenburg line is now in the gravest danger. Gavrelle and the road leading down from it to Roux form the last defences before the supplementary German switch line running between Quant and Drocourt is reached. This trench system, uncompleted as yet, may form but a shadowy obstacle against the pulverizing British bombardment, in which high-power shells fall almost as quick as rain drops. The German tunnel inaugurated by Haig today may result in Hindenburg giving up all attempts to hold the line before Douai, the objective of the fighting and the costly German counter-attacks would indicate a stubborn determination to stand at least until some sort of retreat can be organized. The German official description of the battle, issued from Berlin, is: "The new English assault broke down without success under very heavy enemy losses."

Important Positions. The positions which the British have maintained and gradually extended for more than a week on the heights east of Monchy were the key to much of the day's fighting. The importance of these ridge lines to the Germans lies in the fact that they dominate the plains of Douai for 40 miles. Not a day has passed that the

Big Canadian Wheat Cargo Sent as Gift to Belgians

New York, April 23.—The local officers of the Belgian relief commission authorize the information that another full cargo of Canadian wheat, a gift from the people of Canada, has been shipped to the commission's headquarters at Rotterdam, for distribution among the destitute population of Belgium. The value of the cargo is estimated at \$12,235 and is the seventh complete cargo of wheat sent to Belgium by the people of Canada.

## CANADIAN LINE NOW CLOSE UP TO AVION

### Attack Launched at Dawn Was Speedily Successful and Objectives Were Reached With Relatively Small Losses.

By Stewart Lyon.

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, April 23.—At dawn this (Monday) morning, after a considerable artillery preparation, an attack was launched upon that part of the enemy line opposite the northern end of the Canadian corps. On the centre and on the extreme south the attack was speedily successful and our objectives were reached with relatively small losses. At the northern end of the line the enemy developed a tenacious resistance, at the electric station to the west of Avion. Here houses had been transformed into carefully fortified machine gun positions, which were difficult to deal with.

Our infantry was held back while heavy artillery turned a concentrated fire on the electric station and on the western part of Avion, whence also a galling enfilading fire was directed upon the troops who, in the first rush, had occupied Poese Seven. House-to-house fighting was resumed after this bombardment, which greatly weakened the enemy resistance. The progress made is important, in that it brings our line close up to Avion, a suburb of Lens, to the south.

The victory by which the British troops have captured Gavrelle, in a rapid advance, uncovers this part of the Hindenburg line. This win renders of little value the work of construction of wire entanglements, upon which the Germans have been busily engaged since their retreat from Vimy ridge ten days ago.

During the past two days the enemy have been putting gas shells into Vimy and Petit Vimy and this morning in the black area, they experimented with what is believed to be a new form of poison gas. Eight bombs, bursting high in the air, threw out at first a ruddy glare, then a bright orange vapor, which rapidly changed to a heavy grey cloud that drifted before the wind. No ill effect, however, was observed in the district in which these bombs burst.

## OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

### BRITISH.

London, April 23.—The official report from British headquarters in France tonight reads: "There was heavy and continuous fighting throughout the day on both banks of the Scarpe, and important enemy positions were gained by our troops. A marked feature of the day's operations was the frequent violent enemy counter-attacks, in which he suffered heavy losses."

"We captured the village of Gavrelle and the enemy's defences for two and a half miles to the south of the village, as far as Roux cemetery. "On the right bank of the Scarpe our troops fought their way forward on a wide front south and east of Monchy-le-Preux, and captured Guemappes. "The number of prisoners taken has not yet been ascertained, but it is known to exceed considerably 1000. "We also made progress south-west of Lens, in the neighborhood of the Souchez River. "There was great activity in the air yesterday, in which our aircraft were entirely successful. In the air fighting six German airplanes, brought down, crashed. Fifteen others were driven down out of control. In one engagement a hostile formation of eight machines was attacked by two of our airplanes, which brought down two hostile machines and drove down a third out of control. "Besides those destroyed in the air fighting, one German airplane was shot down by anti-aircraft

### FRENCH.

Paris, April 23.—The official communication issued tonight, reads: "In Belgium the enemy launched this morning several attacks at various points along our front, but these were completely repulsed by our fire. Some enemy groups which succeeded in penetrating our advance elements were driven out immediately after a hand-to-hand engagement. The Germans left prisoners in our hands. "Between the Somme and the Oise, our batteries effectively shelled the enemy organizations. Between the Aisne and the Chemin-des-Dames we made new progress in the course of the day. North of Nancy the artillery fighting was particularly lively in the sector of Hurlshies Farm. Intermittent artillery actions continued on the rest of the front. "On April 23 our pilots fought a number of aerial engagements, six enemy airplanes being brought down. One of our groups composed of fourteen machines, last night dropped 1740 kilos of projectiles on railway stations and bivouacs in the valley of the Aisne. "Belgian communication: On various portions of the Belgian front there were heavy artillery actions. Around Het Sas there was spirited bomb fighting.

BY R. T. Small, Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.

With the British Army in France, via London, April 23.—The battle of Arras, which has been smoldering for a week past, burst into flaming fury again today, and is still raging tonight, with some of the heaviest fighting of the war in progress.

The sky is alight for miles with the flashes of guns, with star shells that spread a moonlight paleness over the battlefield and with vari-colored rockets, which flash signals to the opposing artillery. The cold east wind carries the echoes of the reverberating cannonade far back of the British lines.

The fighting today covered approximately an eight mile front, from south of Vimy ridge to a point well below Croisilles. At the north end of the attack the British swept over the German fixed positions running about due south from Lens and captured long sections of German positions in front of the Hindenburg line and a great number of prisoners.

Surrender in Hundreds. "Before then 1200 prisoners were counted in this sector late today, and others were still coming in. The largest number of prisoners was from the 11st Pomeranian, who surrendered in hundreds after very brief resistance. A battery of field guns was also taken.

Between Gavrelle and Croisilles the heaviest fighting occurred along both banks of the Scarpe and around Monchy-le-Preux, where the British Easter advance had projected a sharp salient into the German lines. Monchy was taken in the first phase of the Arras battle after three days fighting, and has been held against desperate counter-assaults.

The Germans always managed to cling to the slopes on either side of the hill on which Monchy-le-Preux is perched, this being the highest point east of Arras and Vimy, overlooking the great broad eastern plains of northern France. The Germans today were undoubtedly throwing their full force into their resistance along the Scarpe. They had brought up strong reserves to oppose a further British advance and had thrown in scores of new batteries of artillery.

The fighting about Guemappes, due north of Monchy, was extremely bit-

ter. The attacking British waves "went over" in the half gray light of dawn. It was still dark enough to make a fiery spectacle of the barrage which crept ahead of them—a veritable wall of exploding shells. Men who have been over several times under the protection of a barrage are apt to grow a bit over-confident in following the shells, and occasionally get hit by bits flying back, although usually every shell clearing the way for the infantry bursts forward with a great spray of shrapnel bullets. A modern barrage as set up by the British and French gunners is a terrifying thing to face, and the Germans involuntarily break before it, many of them seeking any dugouts available.

For Casualties Higher. Today in many parts of the battle front there were no more dugouts to serve as shelters and the Germans had to stand and fight, with the result that their casualties were higher and the prisoners fewer in those sections of the line.

The British advanced in nearly every instance from mere half trenches where they had been lying for the past week, awaiting the bringing up of artillery and the order to advance. The Germans opposite them had been digging at every possible opportunity of their old positions which skirted the battlefield it seemed as if every building contained machine gun crews. Many machine guns were fired on the opposite bank of the River Scarpe, and it was somewhat difficult to deal with them.

The artillery preparation for today's attacks did not cover the ground and did not equal in intensity that of Easter Monday, when the first battles of Arras were launched. There had been what is termed a deliberate bombardment for two days, but nothing like the mass of fire which was concentrated to blow the Germans out of their old positions opposite the cathedral city.

Pounding Every Acre. Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters in France, describing the new British advance, says: "We are not now up against a 'set space' to reform the regular trench system, but are dealing with immovable defence patches in the shape of machine gun fortins, of little redoubts and short traverses and saps running in various directions. No

Additional light is gradually being thrown upon the extent of the recent strike in Berlin, by items appearing in the Berlin newspapers. The Vorwarts which previously denied, explicitly with other Berlin newspapers, that the big munitions centre of Spandau, near Berlin, was affected by the strike, printed the following in Monday's edition: "The lathe operators at Spandau, who are on strike, have decided to return to work. The big munition factories at Spandau are again working in full force. Partial strikes at the German weapon and munitions factory and Ludwig Loewe (an important establishment not previously mentioned) are ended. The Borsig plant is again in full operation, substitutes having been found for the women operatives not reporting."

"Thus the strikes at Spandau, despite the denials of their existence, lasted for a full week.

An American who has just arrived here from Hamburg says that Hamburg last week was affected by the same strike movement as Berlin. A big demonstration led to lavish promises by the authorities, and even to the suspension of the card system for the day, during which it was possible to buy bread and, as far as available, potatoes. Now it is almost impossible, according to this American, to obtain these necessities even on cards.

This American saw Albert Ballin, director-general of the Hamburg-American Steamship Co., who has close relations with the German authorities, and confirms the report that Herr Ballin entertains an optimistic view of the possibility of an early peace.

RUSSIA NOT WEAKENING. Washington, April 23.—Further encouraging reports from Russia came today in despatch to the state department telling of the effect of President Wilson's war address and declaring that Russia under the new democratic provisional government, is no more likely to abandon the war without achieving her object than is the United States.

DINEEN'S POPULAR SALE. The Dineen Sale continues to be of absorbing interest to shoppers on Congress street. Every day finds a new throng with renewed interest in the bargains. Original coats are entirely lost sight of in the great reductions made for the closing days of the sale. Store opens at 10 o'clock this morning. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

where is there any regular tracing of trench works to barrage.

"For the present, it must be a business of clearing out the widely pulverized enemy, which is being done with the least costly tactics by pounding ground rather than by attempting to rush positions in direct infantry attack.

"I hear that many tanks have been in action and have given a fine account of themselves.

"The weather is all in our favor and our aimers are busy. It is too soon yet to get definite details of the extensive operations. However, we have taken over 1500 prisoners and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy.

"While we got on well in places, we have not done quite so well in other places. That is all that can be said for the moment."

## GERMAN STRIKERS RETURN TO WORK

### Disturbances Interfere With Munition Factories at Spandau.

## HAMBURG AFFECTED

### Big Shops Lie Idle for Entire Week, Dislocating Industry.

Copenhagen, via London, April 23.—Additional light is gradually being thrown upon the extent of the recent strike in Berlin, by items appearing in the Berlin newspapers. The Vorwarts which previously denied, explicitly with other Berlin newspapers, that the big munitions centre of Spandau, near Berlin, was affected by the strike, printed the following in Monday's edition: "The lathe operators at Spandau, who are on strike, have decided to return to work. The big munition factories at Spandau are again working in full force. Partial strikes at the German weapon and munitions factory and Ludwig Loewe (an important establishment not previously mentioned) are ended. The Borsig plant is again in full operation, substitutes having been found for the women operatives not reporting."

"Thus the strikes at Spandau, despite the denials of their existence, lasted for a full week.

An American who has just arrived here from Hamburg says that Hamburg last week was affected by the same strike movement as Berlin. A big demonstration led to lavish promises by the authorities, and even to the suspension of the card system for the day, during which it was possible to buy bread and, as far as available, potatoes. Now it is almost impossible, according to this American, to obtain these necessities even on cards.

This American saw Albert Ballin, director-general of the Hamburg-American Steamship Co., who has close relations with the German authorities, and confirms the report that Herr Ballin entertains an optimistic view of the possibility of an early peace.

RUSSIA NOT WEAKENING. Washington, April 23.—Further encouraging reports from Russia came today in despatch to the state department telling of the effect of President Wilson's war address and declaring that Russia under the new democratic provisional government, is no more likely to abandon the war without achieving her object than is the United States.

DINEEN'S POPULAR SALE. The Dineen Sale continues to be of absorbing interest to shoppers on Congress street. Every day finds a new throng with renewed interest in the bargains. Original coats are entirely lost sight of in the great reductions made for the closing days of the sale. Store opens at 10 o'clock this morning. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

## NEW BATTLE AT ARRAS ONE OF WAR'S HARDEST

### Germans, Stimulated to Extreme Efforts by Officers, Make Stubborn Resistance, But Lose Heavily—Conflict is One to Death.

London, April 24.—Correspondents at British headquarters in France concur in statements that the battle which has been resumed at Arras is much fiercer than when it began. The Germans, they say, were fully prepared for its renewal and are being stimulated to extreme resistance by their officers. One of the correspondents asserts that it is one of the most difficult battles of the whole war. The correspondent adds, have constructed numerous trenches and machine gun pits, not in a definite line, but strewn everywhere in apparent disorder, as the each position had been selected by virtue of some rise in the ground. Another correspondent writes:

"The battle is extremely hard for our men. It is a battle to the death. So far all is vague. Fighting is in progress at all the points attained by our troops, and there is an ebb and flow in the battle. Our men are beaten back for a while by the intensity of the fire, but they are attacking again and again and getting forward."

Almost all the fighting it seems is being done by English and Scottish troops. It is said that the German casualties have been very severe and that those of the British are moderate, inflicted largely by machine guns and shrapnel and not of a serious character. Estimates of the prisoners vary. One correspondent says the first day's prisoners aggregated not less than 2000. The captures of guns are mentioned without an estimate of their number being given.

1917  
FOR SALE  
Factory site, Dupont Street, extending from Bathurst to Albany Avenue, 280 feet frontage, by a depth of about 500 feet; suitable for railway siding at rear. Apply H. H. WILLIAMS & CO. Main 5450.  
PROBS—Moderate to fresh northwesterly, not much change in temperature.  
Senate Reading Room SENATE P O OTTAWA  
TUESDAY MORNING APRIL 24 1917—FOURTEEN PAGES  
FOR RENT  
95,000—King, near John, three-story brick warehouse, 28,000 square feet. Will rebuild to suit tenant. Apply H. H. WILLIAMS & CO. 38 King Street East.  
VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,313  
Worst Fighting of the War Now Going On on Both Sides of Scarpe River Against New German Trench System—Canadians Advance to Outskirts of Avion Village, Near Lens—Germans Throw Thousands of Troops into the Fighting and Casualties Are Heavy  
BRITISH OPEN GREATEST EFFORT WITH A BIG DRIVE DOWN SCARPE  
Despite Savage Resistance, Germans Have to Give Ground Before Onslaught on Wide Front—Three Villages Fall to Attacking Troops—Field Marshal Haig Also Pushes Wedge Along Souchez River, Throwing Loop Further About Lens.  
By Arthur S. Draper. Special Cable to The Toronto World.  
London, April 23.—The British grand offensive was renewed today. The battle of Arras became the battle of Douai.  
Surging forward over a wide front on both banks of the River Scarpe, after the most furious cannonade thus far achieved in the war, General Haig's troops captured the village of Gavrelle together with the hostile trench system for two and a half miles to the southward as far as the cemetery of Roux, where the river banks run down to the stream. On the southern bank of the river, British troops debouching from the bloody heights of Monchy fought their way south and east of the town and captured Guemappes, just below it.  
Still farther south, at the neck of the Havincourt Wood, the occupation of the village of Trescault was completed; practically bottling up the German defenders who still held the line just below Lens the British wedge was pushed forward along the Souchez River, extending the loop which is being thrown around the coal city.  
Fighting Savage. Thus far the number of prisoners counted considerably exceeds a thousand around Trescault. Throughout the day the fighting was most savage. The Germans prepared to battle for every yard of the ground which leads to their base at Douai, counter-attacked again and again, but without being able to check the British advance. Both General Haig's communique and the Berlin bulletin comment on the heavy losses inflicted on the enemy. The British attack has grown more violent and the Hindenburg defence has stiffened.  
Biggest Effort Yet. There is excellent authority for stating that today's fighting opens up the most ambitious plan in the war. Provided that today's keen spring weather holds it is the beginning of the real "big push" that will keep on going until the desired results are obtained. The big battles of the past two weeks on the British and French fronts constituted the necessary preliminaries to the effort which began today. Everything is now ready for the final assault on Lens, which is virtually surrounded and must fall quickly. Douai and the roads to Lille, the great industrial centre of northern France, constitute the next objective. Hindenburg must be already at his wits' end to imagine how to defend them.  
The morning's bombardment was the most fiercely concentrated of any yet known in the war, but it is likely to be surpassed in the next few days. The Hindenburg line is now in the gravest danger. Gavrelle and the road leading down from it to Roux form the last defences before the supplementary German switch line running between Quant and Drocourt is reached. This trench system, uncompleted as yet, may form but a shadowy obstacle against the pulverizing British bombardment, in which high-power shells fall almost as quick as rain drops. The German tunnel inaugurated by Haig today may result in Hindenburg giving up all attempts to hold the line before Douai, the objective of the fighting and the costly German counter-attacks would indicate a stubborn determination to stand at least until some sort of retreat can be organized. The German official description of the battle, issued from Berlin, is: "The new English assault broke down without success under very heavy enemy losses."  
Important Positions. The positions which the British have maintained and gradually extended for more than a week on the heights east of Monchy were the key to much of the day's fighting. The importance of these ridge lines to the Germans lies in the fact that they dominate the plains of Douai for 40 miles. Not a day has passed that the  
Germans have not thrown an energetic counter-attack against Monchy and sometimes the assaults occurred two or three in a day. They have been consistently hoodlums shattered. When Haig's khaki-clad soldiers swept down from the heights at day-break this morning they passed over ground covered by thousands of grey-coated bodies. In one day the Germans lost as many as 2,800 killed before Monchy.  
British Up Germans. The consolidation today of Trescault, south of the Sapaume-Cambrai road, practically seals the fate of the Germans left in Havincourt Wood. Observers here expect heavy capture of men and guns as all doors to escape are now shut. This salient has been holding up the British advance on Cambrai, which should now proceed.  
Yesterday's clear weather led to much air activity in which, says the night report, the British were "entirely successful." Six German planes crashed to the earth and fifteen more were driven down beyond control. In the air the British flyers attacked an enemy squadron of eight, two of which were destroyed and a third sent toward the ground in flames. Another German machine was destroyed by the anti-aircraft guns and seven German kite balloons were accounted for. Seven British planes are missing.  
Berlin asserts that German aviators fired four enemy captive balloons and brought down eleven planes. It is reported that the pursuit squadron, operating under Baron Richthofen, has brought down 100 allied flyers.  
Calm in French Lines. Except for the occasional pounding of the artillery the day was relatively calm along that part of the French front faced by the formation of the Crown Prince. But there were attempted German diversions both on that portion of the Belgian front still held by French troops and east of St. Mihiel and in the Woëvre, beyond Verdun.  
In Belgium several attacks in force were aimed at the French trenches, but the alert defenders smothered them in machine gun fire. Here and there groups of the enemy succeeded in entering the advance lines, but they were at once driven out with the bayonet and great numbers were killed.  
At other sectors of the Belgian front the cannonade increased in pitch and there was spirited bomb fighting for the final assault on Lens, which is virtually surrounded and must fall quickly. Douai and the roads to Lille, the great industrial centre of northern France, constitute the next objective. Hindenburg must be already at his wits' end to imagine how to defend them.  
The morning's bombardment was the most fiercely concentrated of any yet known in the war, but it is likely to be surpassed in the next few days. The Hindenburg line is now in the gravest danger. Gavrelle and the road leading down from it to Roux form the last defences before the supplementary German switch line running between Quant and Drocourt is reached. This trench system, uncompleted as yet, may form but a shadowy obstacle against the pulverizing British bombardment, in which high-power shells fall almost as quick as rain drops. The German tunnel inaugurated by Haig today may result in Hindenburg giving up all attempts to hold the line before Douai, the objective of the fighting and the costly German counter-attacks would indicate a stubborn determination to stand at least until some sort of retreat can be organized. The German official description of the battle, issued from Berlin, is: "The new English assault broke down without success under very heavy enemy losses."  
Important Positions. The positions which the British have maintained and gradually extended for more than a week on the heights east of Monchy were the key to much of the day's fighting. The importance of these ridge lines to the Germans lies in the fact that they dominate the plains of Douai for 40 miles. Not a day has passed that the  
Big Canadian Wheat Cargo Sent as Gift to Belgians  
New York, April 23.—The local officers of the Belgian relief commission authorize the information that another full cargo of Canadian wheat, a gift from the people of Canada, has been shipped to the commission's headquarters at Rotterdam, for distribution among the destitute population of Belgium. The value of the cargo is estimated at \$12,235 and is the seventh complete cargo of wheat sent to Belgium by the people of Canada.  
BY R. T. Small, Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.  
With the British Army in France, via London, April 23.—The battle of Arras, which has been smoldering for a week past, burst into flaming fury again today, and is still raging tonight, with some of the heaviest fighting of the war in progress.  
The sky is alight for miles with the flashes of guns, with star shells that spread a moonlight paleness over the battlefield and with vari-colored rockets, which flash signals to the opposing artillery. The cold east wind carries the echoes of the reverberating cannonade far back of the British lines.  
The fighting today covered approximately an eight mile front, from south of Vimy ridge to a point well below Croisilles. At the north end of the attack the British swept over the German fixed positions running about due south from Lens and captured long sections of German positions in front of the Hindenburg line and a great number of prisoners.  
Surrender in Hundreds. "Before then 1200 prisoners were counted in this sector late today, and others were still coming in. The largest number of prisoners was from the 11st Pomeranian, who surrendered in hundreds after very brief resistance. A battery of field guns was also taken.  
Between Gavrelle and Croisilles the heaviest fighting occurred along both banks of the Scarpe and around Monchy-le-Preux, where the British Easter advance had projected a sharp salient into the German lines. Monchy was taken in the first phase of the Arras battle after three days fighting, and has been held against desperate counter-assaults.  
The Germans always managed to cling to the slopes on either side of the hill on which Monchy-le-Preux is perched, this being the highest point east of Arras and Vimy, overlooking the great broad eastern plains of northern France. The Germans today were undoubtedly throwing their full force into their resistance along the Scarpe. They had brought up strong reserves to oppose a further British advance and had thrown in scores of new batteries of artillery.  
The fighting about Guemappes, due north of Monchy, was extremely bit-