BRANTFORD DAILY COURIER.

FORTY SEVENTH YEAR | THE COURIER, BRANTFORD, CANADA, FRIDAY, SEPT. 13, 1918. | TWO CENTS

ST. MIHIEL SALIENT THREATENED

Brilliant Operation by the American Forces Yesterday

Ground 4 Years in Foe Hands Near Recapture

PAYER STRIVES TO BLIND EYES OF HUN PEOPLE

Says Allies Are Feeling the War's Burden as Well as Germany

NO FOOD SHORTAGE

By Courier Leased Wire.

Amsterdam, Thursday, Sept. 12.—The postponement of peace prospects and the likelihood of a fifth war winter weigh heavily on all belligerents, not on Germany alone, in the opinion of Friedrich von Payer, imperial vice-Chancellor of Germany, in a speech at Stuttgart.

"Our state debts," the vice-chancellor said, "are every where reaching fantastic heights, and everywhere we struggle against the encroachments of our personal liberty. All of the belligerents of Europe must admit, if they are not blind, that the longer the European forces lacerate each other the more certainly will the historical and paramount position of weakened and impoverished Europe be lost in favor of cleverer and more calculating people."

Herr von Payer reminded his hearers that after four years the war still was being waged almost entirely on enemy territory. He admitted that the U-boat warfare had not worked so quickly and surely as had been hoped. He added that it was useless to dispute whose was the fault. The enemy, he said, was still unable to compensate their losses by new construction, and declared that the robbery of neutral ships, almost without parallel by the entente could not be repeated.

"The more troops the United States sends the greater will be the need for reinforcements of munitions and provisions," Herr von Payer said. "The filling up of the enemy army by Americans therefore bears in itself its limitations."

He argued that the loss of shipping would become fatal to Great Britain after the war, because it would lose its shipping superiority to the United States, and "the hope of compensating themselves from the German fleet, which still has to be conquered, will surely be adequate comfort only for the very imaginative Britishers."

Contending that technique and inventive genius, which already had helped the Germans over heavy obstacles, would still help them, von Payer said:

"If we lack cotton and oils, our enemies lack coal. Food is scarce here and there, but already things have probably turned in our favor. In the East the world is again open to us for a food supply, while our enemies supplies of food stuffs and raw materials give precedence to the front's calls for America's army and their provisioning."

The speaker said that the Germans have only to see that the war continues to be waged in a foreign country, that the Germans are fighting for their lives and their homes, and that the enemy's only hope is that the Germans collapse inwardly sooner than they. He asserted that the enemy attempts to sow discord were unavailing, and that the Germans were strong enough to reach a decision "in our differences of opinion regarding economic power and political rights, even down to the food question."

Herr von Payer urged the necessity of the Germans holding together in the hour of danger, and said that disappointed hopes must be prevented, justified hopes fulfilled and actually existing wrongs redressed. Regarding the Prussian suffrage bill, which he considered of prime importance, he said that it is no longer Prussian, but imminently a German question, and on its fate depends the confidence which the population places in the Prussian Imperial government. Further postponement, he said, is not permissible, adding, "moreover it is my belief that the decision of the Prussian government may be regarded as already taken, and if equal suffrage does not issue from the committee of the Upper House, the government will proceed to dissolution."

Herr von Payer considered that the present terrible struggle would not end with a peace of the customary character. A mere glance at the state of complete exhaustion of the world excludes such a possibility, he said.

WEATHER BULLETIN

"Zimmie"

Toronto, Sept. 13.—The disturbance has moved very little since yesterday and showers have occurred throughout Ontario and Quebec. In the Western Provinces the weather has been fine and warm.

Forecasts.

Moderate west to northwest winds, a few scattered showers, but mostly fair to-day and on Saturday, not much change in temperature.

PERSHING PENETRATES TO DEPTH OF EIGHT MILES ON FRONT OF FOURTEEN

American Troops Still Advancing South of St. Mihiel

FURTHER PROGRESS

Attention of the Nation Centered on the Present Operations

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, Sept. 13.—By the Associated Press.—Bulletin.—Gen. Pershing's forces in their attack on the southern side of the St. Mihiel salient have advanced for a distance of eight miles. The assault was made on a front of fourteen miles.

The Americans this morning were making rapid progress in the continuation of their drive.

German prisoners say the American attack was expected but that it was delivered so rapidly that they had no time to put up a stubborn resistance when they were ordered to Pannes, which was energetically defended by the Germans, but easily captured by the Americans.

Was Unexpected.

London, Sept. 13.—The British public has been anxiously looking for another move, but hardly expected it so soon and the news of the Franco-American attack to pinch out the St. Mihiel salient was received here with the greatest enthusiasm, and, according to British correspondents at the front, who saw the good process the Americans are making, with equal enthusiasm there.

As a big advance in this direction would soon cause great inconvenience to the enemy before Metz, it is fully expected that resistance would be met. According to military experts the German front between Verdun and the Swiss frontier for many months has been thinly held with inferior troops in comparison to the remainder of the front to the sea and one of the objectives General Ludendorff, undoubtedly expected this section of the battle line to be the object of an attack by the American army, which was generally supposed to be somewhere in this neighborhood.

Tributes to U. S. Forces.

London, Sept. 13.—The assault on the St. Mihiel salient dominates the news columns of the newspapers to-day, which feature it was the biggest headlines. The opening blow in Marshal Foch's great offensive scheme claims attention in any case, but this one has a special attraction as the first stroke of the independent American army under direct American command and as such is hailed as one of the milestones of the war.

That the blow thus far has succeeded so well and brought such a large haul of prisoners affords an opportunity for congratulations by the supreme command.

"The day adds a glowing page of glory to American history," says The Graphic, "and it will be a proud recollection for America that her sons had a lion's share in wiping off the battle map a salient which persisted there for almost four years."

The Daily News calls attention to the "strikingly restrained" tone of General Pershing's command and says:

"This new formidable thrust adds to these enemies perplexities and gives first proof of the commanding superiority and resources of the Allies, which foreshadows the future course of the war."

The Daily Mail describes the incident as "one of the great moments of the war."

"The enemy," says The Times "has very good reason for disentangling himself without delay. He is a sack and the strings are being drawn on both sides. Unless he can repel one or the other of the American force he must resort with all speed to "the elastic defensive" he has been practising on the Marne and the Somme or run the risk of having the strings drawn and neck closed. The stroke is well conceived and the Americans may be trusted to deliver it with their usual vigor and determination."

GUNMAN IS GIVEN YEAR IN PRISON

Sam Ponessa Sentenced For Shooting at Fellow Italian

Sam Ponesso the Italian who perpetrated the gun-play on the market on a Saturday morning some weeks ago appeared in the police court this morning, well dressed and wearing a flower on his coat. Although found guilty some time ago, he volubly told of the wrongs done him by Bimonte the man he shot at. Bimonte had, he said, broken into his house while he was away and stolen all his property of any value, including his registration card. Ponesso claims he comes of a very respectable family and has four brothers at the front at the present time. Ever since he had come to Canada he had been a law abiding citizen and did not see why he should be sent to jail because of the shooting affray. Despite all his pleading the magistrate sentenced him to one year in the Ontario Reformatory.

PTE. J.P. POWERS REPORTED MISSING

More 125th Men in Casualties—Pte. Alfred Fitness Wounded

To Mr. and Mrs. John Powers, 153 Darling street, came the sad news this morning that their only son, Pte. John Patrick Powers has been missing since August 31, and that uncertainty as to his fate still exists. Pte. Powers was born and raised in Brantford, but held a position with a lumber company in Sarnia for some time previous to enlisting in the 125th battalion, returning here to join that unit. He had been for nearly two years at the front. In addition to his parents, Pte. Powers has two sisters, Miss Sadie at home, and Mrs. D. Burke, also of this city.

PTE. ALFRED FITNESS

Mr. and Mrs. James Fitness, 420 Colborne St., have received word that their youngest son, Pte. Alfred W. Fitness was admitted on August 28th to Barrington hospital, Shropshire, England, wounded in the groin. Pte. Fitness was a mason by trade prior to enlistment in the 125th battalion, and went overseas with the rank of sergeant in the 125th battalion, reverting from that rank in order to reach the front. He is married.

PTE. THOS. WALSH.

Word was received in the city today by Mrs. Copperwaith, Erie avenue, to the effect that Pte. Tom Walsh had received gunshot wounds in his left side. Pte. Walsh went overseas with the 84th Battalion and went to France with the 75th Battalion. He has been over there a considerable length of time and has been wounded four times.

DISTRICT MEN WOUNDED

Pte. W. Layland, of Simcoe, and Pte. R. Deveny, of Burford, were both reported in last night's official casualty list.

MAY GIVE UP LILLE AND THE AUBER'S RIDGE

On the map appearing above the shaded area represents the Allied gains since Friday which at some points reached five miles. The British gain on both sides of the Lys are not shown, as they do not make much of a showing on the map. Nevertheless they are very significant.

MAXIM GORKY TO DIRECT BOLSHEVIK PROPAGANDA

By Courier Leased Wire

Stockholm, Thursday, Sept. 12.—Reports from Petrograd state that Maxim Gorky, the Russian author and revolutionary, has accepted the post as director of Bolshevik propaganda. The reports add that Gorky declared that the attempt on the life of the Bolshevik Premier, Lenine, caused him to decide to co-operate with the Bolsheviki Government.

Despatches received in Copenhagen last month from Russia stated that Maxim Gorky had been ordered arrested by an investigating commission of the Soviet Government and that his newspaper had been suppressed permanently.

GERMAN ATTACK ON TOWN OF HAVRINCOURT BEATEN BACK

Enemy Forces With Co-operation of Airplanes, Launched Drive Against Town Taken by the British—Fresh Progress by Haig's Troops

By Courier Leased Wire

London, Sept. 13.—German troops last night delivered an attack, with the co-operation of airplanes, on the town of Havrincourt, southwest of Cambrai, recently taken by the British. The attack was repulsed with great loss, Field Marshal Haig announced in the official statement today.

Further south on the front opposite St. Quentin, the British have gained possession of Holnon wood.

A German attack opposite Moeuvres on the canal line west of Cambrai failed completely.

British troops have captured the town of Jeancourt in the St. Quentin sector, north of Vermand.

In Flanders the British made progress, pushing ahead west of Ouchy in the La Bassee region.

The text of the statement:

"Yesterday our troops gained possession of Holnon wood, driving the enemy from the localities in which he offered resistance.

"Further north our line has been advanced to the east of the village of Jeancourt, which is now in our hands.

"In the course of the evening strong hostile forces assisted by a squadron of low flying airplanes attacked our new positions at Havrincourt and were repulsed with great loss.

"Opposite Moeuvres hostile infantry assembling for a counter-attack were observed and subjected to a heavy and accurate fire by our artillery. The attack which developed subsequently was completely unsuccessful, the few Germans who reached our positions being killed or taken prisoner.

"Progress was made by our troops during the night to the west of

PLANT TAKEN OVER

By Courier Leased Wire.

Washington, Sept. 13.—Bulletin. — The War Department has taken over the Smith and Wesson Company of Springfield, Mass., and will operate the plant and business to continuous production and prevent industrial disturbances.

The company recently gave notice that it would prefer to have the government operate its plant rather than abide by a decision of the War Labor Board enforcing collective bargaining.

YESTERDAY'S OPERATION A MAJOR STROKE UNDER AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

First in Which the U.S. Officers Commanded Operations—Salient For 4 Years Occupied by Germans is Now Near Deliverance

By Courier Leased Wire.

With the American Force in Lorraine, Sept. 12.—By the Associated Press. — The Allied offensive on the western front for the first time is dominatingly American, the French co-operating, and in a military way is regarded as a continuing phase of the battle, which began early this summer.

Secretary of War Baker, with several other notables witnessed the beginning of the battle from the vantage point of a French fort, close behind the middle of the line.

The front over which the attack was made was so extended that the brilliant bands of vivid light soon stretched from far eastward to westward, lighting up the clouds. Soon there began to arise star shells, signal rockets and flares thrown up by the enemy to betray the Americans, should they leave their trenches suddenly to begin infantry attack. To this general color scheme there was soon added a reddish glow as ammunition dumps exploded and buildings set on fire behind the enemy lines began to blaze, and ammunition, giving off this color, exploded about four o'clock.

The character of the artillery fire changed slightly, lessened a little in intensity, and German star shells burst with more frequency as five o'clock approached, as though the enemy surmised that that hour was set for the attack.

More ammunition dumps exploded just before five, the artillery bombardment suddenly resumed its original intensity, and as the sky was beginning to be tinged with dawn, it again took on a white look along the horizon. Precisely at five o'clock the thunder of the guns accompanying the glare of light stopped, and in the sudden silence the Americans went over the top. All along the lines could be heard the chattering of German machine guns, and then suddenly the thunder commenced again, when a barrage was laid down to protect the soldiers as they approached the German trenches.

SALIENT IS THREATENED

By Courier Leased Wire

New York, Sept. 13.—The Associated Press to-day issues the following:

The St. Mihiel salient, after four years of German occupation, is threatened on both sides by the First American Army, with certain French units co-operating, in the first operation of a major character under the leadership of American commanders.

The immediate objective of the American drive apparently is to close the mouth of the salient from which the Germans will experience great difficulty in extricating themselves without great loss of men and material. Ultimately it is believed that General Pershing hopes to cut off the enemy's control of the Briey ore region, from which are obtained much of the raw material for German guns and munitions. At the present rate of the American advance the occupation of the German fortress at Metz is a possibility.

Well prepared by months of training the Americans were favored in their initial appearance as a unit in the great Allied force by favorable weather conditions and a firm terrain. In the first few hours they had reached their objectives at some points and were still progressing at others in the latest strategical move of Marshal Foch's program of offensive action, which since July 18 has resulted in driving the Germans from the greater part of the territory gained by them in their drive for Paris and the channel ports.

More than a dozen villages were captured in the early hours of the drive, which also netted the Americans, 8000 prisoners with more coming into the cages. On the northern side of the salient, both hinges of which are controlled by General Pershing's men the line has been advanced to Les-Martin la Montagne, Tresavaut and Bouillouville, while on the southern hinge of the salient, American cavalry patrols and tanks are reported to be operating near Vigneulles, ten miles northeast of St. Mihil which indicates that the mouth of the salient is being rapidly closed. Cavalry patrols also are reported to be operating northeast of Pon-a-Mousson along the railroad line leading to Metz about ten miles distant.

The battle began on a front of about 20 miles on the triangular salient with the French holding positions directly in front of St. Mihiel. As the conflict developed and the advance went forward the front was greatly increased in length, probably to about thirty-five miles. The distance between the points of greatest advance at the mouth of the salient is about ten miles. It is over this short front that the Germans in the salient must escape.

Field Marshal Haig's British forces are pressing the Germans in the north and advancing their lines near the coveted position of Cambrai after crossing the Canal Du Nord. In this advance which resulted in the capture of Havrincourt the British captured 1,000 prisoners.

HUNS LEAVING LILLE

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, Sept. 13.—Numerous fugitives from the City of Lille are reported by Belgian newspapers to be arriving at Malines and Antwerp, according to a dispatch from Amsterdam to the Central News Agency. Apparently Lille is being evacuated by the Germans.

BRITISH PROGRESS

By Courier Leased Wire.

With the British Forces in France, Sept. 13.—By the Associated Press.—Bulletin. — British forces in their advance yesterday in the Havrincourt section, southwest of Cambrai, penetrated the German positions in some places for a depth of 2,000 yards.