

Weather Forecast:

Fair and Warmer

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THE LONDON, ONTARIO, ADVERTISER, MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 9, 1917. 80 COLUMNS.

HOME
EDITION

PRICE, TWO CENTS.

HIGH TANKS SPRING DRIVE

BRITISH PERCE FOE'S LINE FROM ARRAS TO LENS AUSTRIA BREAKS WITH U.S.

KAISER COMPELS AUSTRIA-HUNGARY TO WAR ON STATES

Under Pressure From Berlin, Vienna Severs Diplomatic Relations With Washington, Ambassador Demanding His Passports.

Washington, April 9.—Baron Erich Zwiadinek, charge of the Austro-Hungarian embassy here, today demanded his passports. By this act Austria-Hungary breaks off diplomatic relations with the United States.

Washington, April 9.—Austria-Hungary, under the pressure of Germany, has severed diplomatic relations with the United States.

Baron Erich Zwiadinek, charge of the Austro-Hungarian embassy here, today demanded his passports.

Vienna Acted Yesterday.

Almost at the same time a dispatch was received from American Minister Novati at Vienna, saying the Dual Monarchy had broken off diplomatic relations with the United States in Vienna yesterday.

It is presumed this was done by handing passports to American Charge Grete, Ambassador Penfield, who had left Vienna on Saturday night, and their representatives here.

Spain will take over the diplomatic and consular interests of the United States in Austria-Hungary. All Austrian consular agents will depart from the United States with the diplomatic mission as was the case with Germany.

War Declaration Next.

Up to the time Charge Zwiadinek asked for his passports no similar action had been taken by Bulgaria and Turkey—Germany's two other allies.

The Austrian declaration of war is expected here they will follow by breaking diplomatic relations.

Austrians Disappointed.

London, April 9.—A dispatch to the Daily Telegraph from Milan yesterday said the Austrian declaration of war is expected here they will follow by breaking diplomatic relations.

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A FEW FORMER MEMBERS OF "K" COMPANY, R. C. R., WOLSELEY BARRACKS



TOP ROW—Sergeant Major D. Vaughan, G.M.S.C.; Pte. J. Driscoll, R.C.R.; Sergeant Instructor W. H. Walsh, 7th Regiment. BOTTOM ROW—Lance Corporal R. Ryan, R.C.R.; Quartermaster Sergeant W. H. Prowse, R.C.R.; Sergeant W. Mitchell, 1st Battalion, C.E.F.; and Sergeant J. Oakley, 12th Battery, C.F.A.

HIGH PRAISE FOR CAPT. NIVEN IN LORD BEAVERBROOK'S BOOK, HIS COMPANY SAVED THE DAY

Londoner Held Vital Point in Battle of Sanctuary Wood.

GERMANS BROKE THROUGH

But Princess Pats Fired Into Their Rear and Prevented Disaster.

In his second volume, describing the battle of Sanctuary Wood, Lord Beaverbrook, the Minister of Munitions, has paid high praise to a Canadian soldier.

The book, which is a history of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, is a masterpiece of military history.

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IRVIN COBB TO WRITE ABOUT BILLY SUNDAY FOR THIS NEWSPAPER

The Advertiser has just completed arrangements for the publication of a series of articles by Irvin Cobb, the famous journalist, on Billy Sunday during the latter's New York engagement, which commenced yesterday.

Cobb believes in Sunday. He will tell the great human story of the master evangelist in what may be regarded as the climax of Sunday's recent campaigns.

His assault upon the gayest, most care-free, and by some regarded as the most sinful city on this continent—Gotham.

There are few who have not read Irvin Cobb. He is regarded as the foremost writer of human analysis on the continent.

The first article will be published next Saturday. It will be hot with Cobb's impressions derived this week.

If you have friends interested in Sunday, be sure to have them secure the Saturday Advertiser for the next few weeks.

President Thanks King George For Inspiring Message

Proves Community of Sentiment of World's Free Peoples.

London, April 9.—The reply of President Wilson to the message sent to him by King George, as given out here officially today, is as follows:

"To His Majesty George V., King and Emperor.

"Your eloquent message comes to me at this critical moment of our national life as proof of the community sentiment among the free peoples of the world, now striving to defend their ideals, to maintain the blessings of national independence and to uphold the rights of humanity. In the name of the American people and the Government to which they look for guidance, I thank you for your inspiring words.

"Washington, April 9."

SEVENTEEN ENTENTE PLANES BROUGHT DOWN ON SUNDAY

Berlin, via London, April 9.—A dispatch from the German High Command today announced that seventeen Entente planes were brought down yesterday on the western front, the war office announced.

The statement says that the battle of Arras, begun this morning after several hours of strong gunfire, continued.

TEN-MILE FRONT OF ENEMY IS SMASHED AS BRITISH LAUNCH NEW GIANT OFFENSIVE; SEVERAL VILLAGES TAKEN IN TWO SECTORS; LARGE NUMBER OF TEUTONS CAPTURED

BRITISH LAUNCH SPRING OFFENSIVE

London, April 9.—1:35 p.m.—The British early this morning attacked the German lines on a wide front, from a point south of Arras to the south of Lens, thus opening what is believed here to be a general spring offensive. The move has been looked forward to eagerly for some days. The offensive of the British flying corps in the latter part of last week, the attack on Zeebrugge, Saturday night and the activity of the French in Belgium as shown in yesterday's official communication from Paris, were considered a prelude to important military operations.

The British commander, Gen. Haig, whose reports are always modest, says the German line has been penetrated everywhere and that satisfactory progress was made in the direction of Cambrai and St. Quentin, two important positions in connection with the new German line. The extension of the attack northward to Lens doubtless is intended to give them more room for their operations against the Hindenburg line.

Further south the British have been penetrated everywhere and that satisfactory progress was made in the direction of Cambrai and St. Quentin, two important positions in connection with the new German line.

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British in Early Morning Dash Carry German Line On New Wide Front and Advance Further in Move On St. Quentin.

ENTIRELY NEW PHASE OF OPERATIONS OPENED UP BY LATEST BRITISH WIN IN NORTH FRANCE CAMPAIGN

British Have Stormed Villages of Fresnoy-le-Petit, Hermies and Boursies, and Penetrate Far Into the German Positions in Havrincourt Wood.

London, April 9.—British troops today penetrated the German lines all along a wide front from Arras to Lens, the war office announced.

The statement says that in the direction of Cambrai the British have stormed the villages of Hermies and Boursies, and penetrated Havrincourt Wood.

THE STATEMENT.

The statement, which is timed 11:25 a.m., is as follows: "We attacked at 5:30 o'clock this morning on a wide front from south of Arras to south of Lens. Our troops have everywhere penetrated the enemy's lines and are making satisfactory progress at all points."

"In the direction of Cambrai, we stormed the villages of Hermies and Boursies and have penetrated into Havrincourt Wood."

NEAR ST. QUENTIN.

"In the direction of St. Quentin we captured Fresnoy-le-Petit and advanced our line southeast of Le Vergier."

"No estimate of the prisoners taken can yet be given, but considerable numbers are reported captured."

In the direction of St. Quentin, the British took Fresnoy-le-Petit and advanced their line southeast of Le Vergier. No estimate of the number of Germans captured can yet be given, the statement says, but the number is considerable. Referring to the attack on the front between Arras and Lens, the statement says: "We are making satisfactory progress at all points."

STARTED BY AIR BATTLE.

The opening of the new offensive had been foreshadowed in the intense aerial activity of the past two or three days, in which hundreds of airplanes have been engaged on both sides. This work, as the British statements have indicated, has given General Haig's staff photographic reproductions of the German positions for long distances behind the fighting line.

Further south the British have continued their progress in the field of the German retreat, the advance reported at Hermies and Boursies being particularly important. Boursies is directly on the road from Bapaume to Cambrai, about eight miles from the latter place. Hermies is just to the south of Boursies. In their drive toward St. Quentin, the capture of Fresnoy-le-Petit puts the British within 2½ miles of St. Quentin's outskirts.

A TEN-MILE FRONT.

The fighting line from Lens to Arras is approximately ten miles in length, and lies directly north of the field of the retreat which the Germans have been conducting for the past several weeks. The fact that the line has been penetrated by the British all along this wide front indicates that the movement there is a general offensive. "That it is proving a successful drive is indicated by the statement that 'satisfactory progress' is being made 'at all points'."

OPENS UP NEW PHASE.

An entire new phase of operations on the western front is opened up in this new battle on the Lens-Arras line. The field of attack represents the greatest danger point for the Germans, as in the recent fighting a sharp salient was driven into the German line southeast of Arras.

In the Lens region, into which the British are driving, is a rich coal field, which the Germans have been exploiting since their occupation of this territory early in the war.

ON THE FRENCH FRONT.

Paris, April 9.—"Between the Somme and the Aisne patrol encounters occurred during the night," says today's war office announcement. "Notwithstanding the bad weather there was active artillery fighting in several sectors."

"Northwest of Rheims a German attack on our positions in front of Concreux was repulsed after a lively engagement with grenades. In the region of Malson-de-Champagne we made some progress in grenade fighting. There is nothing to report from the remainder of the front."

ARMAND LAVERGNE WILL HEAD RECRUITING FOR QUEBEC DEFENCE ARMY

GERMANY EXPECTING BREACH WITH LANDS OF SOUTH AMERICA

Zimmerman Sees Ministers of Brazil, Argentina, Chile.

London, April 9.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from the German High Command today announced that the German foreign secretary, conferred for an hour on Sunday with the ministers of Brazil, Argentina and Chile. The dispatch says that it is thought in Berlin that the conference was connected with a possible rupture of relations between Germany and the three South American republics.

ITALIAN OPERATIONS ARE HAMPERED BY WEATHER

Rome, via London, April 9.—Reporting military operations on the Austro-Italian front, the Italian official statement issued today says:

"Our artillery, hampered by bad weather almost all along the line, was active yesterday in the Giudicaria and Adige valleys, where our guns fired and damaged enemy military works."

"On the Carso reconnoitering parties disturbed the enemy on defensive positions."

RICHARD OLNEY DEAD

Was Secretary of State in Groves Cleveland's Cabinet.

Boston, April 9.—Richard Olney, secretary of state in the Cleveland cabinet, died here today in his 82nd year. He had been ill several weeks, although it was not until yesterday that his condition became serious.

Mr. Olney, as secretary of state, took a prominent part in the arbitration of the boundary dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela.