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FRIDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 6, 1918

VOL. XXXVIII—No. 43,813 TWO CENTS

# The Toronto World

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## FRENCH WILL AILETTE BATTLE

Put Germans to Flight on a Wide Front and Retake 30 Villages—Allied Pursuit From the Vesle Reaches the Aisne on Eight Mile Front—Somme River Is Crossed, Endangering German Hold on Ham—British Advance on 12-Mile Front.

### GERMANS FAST DRIVEN OUT OF POSITIONS IN PICARDY

**In Sector Between Vesle and Aisne Rivers Also Enemy's Retirement Has the Appearance of the Beginning Almost of a Rout.**

The French and Americans are fast driving the Germans out of their positions in southern Picardy and in the sector between the Vesle and Aisne rivers. So rapid has been the progress of the allies—the French in Picardy and the Americans and French from Soissons eastward toward Rheims—that the retirement of the enemy has the appearance, at present of the beginning almost of a rout.

Meanwhile Field Marshal Haig in the north, from Peronne to Ypres, has been almost as busily engaged with his troops in carrying out successful manoeuvres which are only in a slightly less degree of rapidity forcing the Germans everywhere to give ground. Haig's men again have made the Germans taste bitter defeat on numerous sectors, and the end of the punishment for them seems not yet in sight.

In the last fighting in the region extending from the old Noyon sector to Soissons, the French have reclaimed 30 villages from the Germans; have crossed the Somme Canal at several points and are standing only a short distance from the important junction of Ham with its roads leading to St. Quentin and La Fere.

On the south they have made fur-

### "We Will Continue To Pursue Enemy"

**Marshal Foch Says German Rush Has Been Broken.**

Paris, Sept. 5.—In a telegram replying to the congratulations of the Paris Municipal Council, Marshal Foch, commander-in-chief of the entente allied forces, thanked the council in his own name and on behalf of the French and allied armies and added:

"The German rush which menaced Paris and Amiens has been broken. We will continue to pursue the enemy implacably."

### BRITISH FRONT QUIET; VICTORY IS COMPLETE

**Some Strong Defensive Positions Must Be Taken Before Cambrai is Reached.**

At British Army Headquarters, Thursday afternoon, Sept. 5.—Reuter's correspondent cables that there is a lull in the British battlefield, and says that the absolute failure of the enemy to react anywhere is perhaps the most striking testimony to the completeness of our victory. Today our troops are within seven miles of Cambrai. Between us and Cambrai is the Marconing line, which according to our allies, is little more than a belt of wire. However, there are some of the strongest defensive positions ahead, such as the Havincourt Wood, into which we are now pumping gas and shells, and Bourlon Wood, of unpleasant memory.

### LAWN TENNIS CHAMPION AND AVIATOR IS DEAD

**Flight-Lieut. G. F. Touchard, Formerly of New York, Passes Away in Toronto.**

Flight-Lieut. Gustave F. Touchard, Royal Air Force, one of the leading tennis players of America, died in the Toronto General Hospital yesterday, following an operation on the throat. He came to Canada about 18 months ago, from New York City. During the summer he had been stationed at Camp Gordon, where he was a flight instructor. He was well known by the Toronto tennis players and members of the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club. At the Red Cross tournament held last July he won the open singles and the active-service singles. His death comes as a great surprise to his Toronto friends, as he expected to have come out of the hospital again to resume his aviation work at an early date of about 17 per cent, while the pound sterling has risen to \$5.04.

### HAIG WIRES THANKS TO TRADES CONGRESS

Derby, Eng., Sept. 5.—The following telegram from Field Marshal Haig was read today at the trade union congress in session here: "All ranks of the army send warmest thanks for your message of generous appreciation. We are proud that the representatives of four million workers at home should add to the debt we already owe them for their splendid supply of munitions and equipment, by sending a message of comradeship and good will."

### MARKS FALL; POUNDS RISE.

**Situation on Western Front Affects Copenhagen Exchange.**

Copenhagen, Sept. 5.—The present situation on the western front has caused a fall in marks of about 17 per cent, while the pound sterling has risen to \$5.04.

### NOW FOR NEW FALL HATS.

The weather is just right. The air yesterday had a touch of winter, and those wearing straw hats looked chilly. The Dineen Co. have opened up new Christmas hats, new Heath hats, new Borallino hats, new Sletson; all the new colors and shades in stock. New silk hats, new English tweed caps; also English raincoats, civil and military. All those styles may be seen by calling on the W. and D. Dineen Co., 140 Yonge street.

### THIRTY VILLAGES RETAKEN ALONG THE AILETTE RIVER

**FOUR HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE GERMAN AIRCRAFT ARE DESTROYED**

**Two Hundred Enemy Machines Are Also Disabled By British Since Commencement of Offensive Last Month.**

London, Sept. 5.—Four hundred and sixty-five enemy machines have been destroyed and two hundred disabled since the commencement of the offensive on Aug. 8, according to an official statement on aerial operations tonight. Sixty-one hostile balloons were destroyed and 911 tons of bombs were dropped on various targets. Two hundred and sixteen British machines are missing.

### German Casualties Since March Are 1,500,000 Men

**Permanent Loss is Half a Million and By Spring Americans Will Be As Strong As Whole German Army.**

At French Army Headquarters, Sept. 5.—Reuter's correspondent cables: During the past week General Mangin's army has been fighting with slow, pitiless determination to reach a position which will not only render the German line in Tardenois untenable, but will seriously compromise the one to which he has intended to retire. By his successes of Tuesday and yesterday Gen. Mangin may almost be said to have reached that position. Our troops literally fought their way foot by foot across the Jurvigny plateau and were met by a desperate German effort to check at its most dangerous point, namely, the water line separating the basins of the Ailette and the Aisne, which is five miles eastward of the famous Chemin des Dames.

Since March 21 the Germans have fought 550 divisional engagements, so that it is reasonable to debit them with gross casualties over that period of 1,500,000 men. It is true that 50 per cent. of these will recover from their wounds and be back in the front line within two or three months, but the permanent loss remains in the neighborhood of half a million. Next spring there is every reason to believe that the Americans alone will be numerically as strong as the whole German army. Meanwhile, who victory is certain, the end is not yet. The Germans are retreating, but cleverly, and they still have reserves to throw in. The German high command intends to "fall back and shorten the line, thereby economizing men, and fight a defensive war to the last limit."

### BRITISH CONSULATE AT MOSCOW ATTACKED

London, Sept. 5.—The British consulate at Moscow has been attacked, according to the Central News today. While the report of the attack on the British consulate at Moscow has not been confirmed, it is felt in diplomatic circles only too likely to be true, and anxiety exists over the fate of R. H. Lockhart, the acting consul general, and J. O. Wardop, the consul, who have been waiting at Moscow for safe conduct.

## GERMANS STILL GOING BACK BEFORE ADVANCING BRITISH

**Fire and Explosions Mark Retirement, Especially in Hindenburg Line Area, Where Ground is Becoming Too Dangerous to Hold.**

With the British Army in France, Sept. 5.—The effects of the recent British successes are hourly becoming more apparent. The enemy is steadily, but surely, going back. Successive minor victories in Flanders, the application of sustained pressure in the battle zone south of the Scarpe, the exploitation of the advances north of Peronne and the steady bombardment from the British cannon are all helping the general movement.

The foe's retirement is being marked by the usual destruction, for fires and explosions are reported from various sections, especially the area in front of the Hindenburg line from the Baume-Cambrai line southward, where the torch seems to have been used freely.

It looks as if the Germans here were going behind the line, with its great system of concrete dugouts and defences. They are not in the habit of destroying where they mean to stay, and, besides, the crushing defeat they suffered when the Drocourt-Queant line was smashed makes this ground exceedingly difficult, if not dangerous, to hold.

On the banks of the Somme, south of Peronne, the enemy is manning his machine guns and trench mortars strongly and firing heavily on the crossings and their approaches, apparently fearing a British attempt to cross.

May Try New Line.  
It was thought a somewhat anomalous situation that the Drocourt-Queant switch line was established after the enemy was forced back from the original Hindenburg line in front of Arras. The old Hindenburg line itself does not run straight north and south. To the south of the Drocourt battle area it swerves sharply to the east and then falls off in a southeasterly direction. It is the eastern stretch that the British have been clearing of the Boche.

The Germans may try to establish a new defensive line, which would run almost directly north and south, joining the Hindenburg line at some point southwest of Cambrai, but there are indications that the enemy is by no means sure that his efforts will meet with any success.

The very fact that since the Drocourt-Queant line was smashed the Germans have retreated from the ground behind it, which is of first importance to the retention of their defences in the north and south, without making a single formidable attempt to regain their lost positions by counter-attacks, is considered proof positive of the enemy's weakness in this area.

The fact that the German command has hesitated to withdraw any considerable troops from other sections of the front for the operations here is

### ADVANCE STEADILY UPON ROAD CENTRE

**Throwing of Germans Across Aisne Brings Americans Closer to Laon.**

With the American Army on the Aisne Front, Sept. 5.—With the exception of a few machine detachments, left to sacrifice themselves in an effort to cover the retreat, the Germans were on the north side of the Aisne tonight.

Long before midnight the Americans had worked their way down into the lowlands towards the Aisne, off the plateau from which they had been able to look over the next valley at the cathedral towers in Laon, not 15 miles away.

It is at that point where is located the heart of the present German operations. Laon is a great communication centre and must be defended with the utmost determination.

The retirement of the Germans to positions north of the Aisne is regarded as only preliminary to their reoccupation of their old lines of defence along the Chemin des Dames.

### HERTLING RESIGNS CHANCELLORSHIP

**Munich Despatch Gives Alleged Ill Health as Reason.**

London, Sept. 5.—Count George P. von Hertling, the Imperial German chancellor, has resigned, giving bad health as the cause for his retirement, according to the Geneva correspondent of The Daily Express, quoting a despatch received in Geneva from Munich, Bavaria.

### PROGRESS IS MADE BY BRITISH NEAR PERONNE

**Patrols Also Have Crossed to East Bank of Canal du Nord South of Marquien.**

London, Sept. 5.—The British have made further progress along their front north and south of Peronne, according to Field Marshal Haig's report tonight. British patrols have been able to cross to the east bank of the Canal du Nord, south of Marquien.

The statement says: "On the southern part of the battlefield both north and south of Peronne our troops are advancing and driving in the enemy's rearguards. They are approaching the high ground on the front between Athies and Nurlu. Between Nurlu and the River Senne engagements of a minor character on different parts of the battlefield are reported.

"Our lines have been advanced slightly on the spur north of Equan-court and local fighting has occurred about Neuville-Bourbonval and Meuvres."

"South of Marquien our patrols have crossed to the east bank of the Canal du Nord and brought back prisoners from a German post."

"On the Lys front the enemy again attacked strongly this morning on the sector north of Hill 63 and was repulsed after sharp fighting. We pushed our lines forward a short distance during the day south and southeast of Niseppe and northeast of Wolverghem."

### RETIREMENT IN NIGHT.

Paris, Sept. 5.—The German retreat before the French northeast of Noyon continued during the night, today's war office announcement shows. The French troops kept in touch with the enemy rearguards and pushed after the retreating foe east of the Canal du Nord.

### RETREAT WEAKENS ENEMY SERIOUSLY

**Allies Suffer Light Losses From Ineffective German Resistance—Dangerous Risks.**

London, Sept. 5.—The light losses of the allied troops and the large number of German prisoners taken by them in the present offensive are attributed to the temporary lowering of the fighting power of the German army as the result of being "over fought" and certain disorganization due to the general retreat under constant heavy pressure. Military experts expect an improvement in the enemy's morale when these factors are moved.

Viewing the western front as a whole military experts express belief that the German high command has kept the situation in hand, but to do so it has made demands on the troops which cannot continue indefinitely without dangerous risks. Although the Germans generally have maintained their front during their hasty withdrawal, they have lost an enormous amount of material, and doubtless have suffered a severe weakening in their morale and power of resistance. Thousands of Germans are being used in reconstruction work when every rifle is needed on the front lines, the military observers say.

### U. S. RAILWAY EMPLOYEES GET LARGE INCREASE

Washington, Sept. 5.—Nearly a million railroad employes, including clerks, track laborers and maintenance-of-way men, are to receive wage increases of \$25 a month, the equivalent of \$1 a day, or 12 cents an hour, over the pay they received last Jan. 1. Under a wage order issued today by Director-General McAdoo, advances are effective as of Sept. 1.

This order, affecting half the railroad men of the United States, adds approximately \$150,000,000 to the annual pay roll.

### St. Thomas Wants More Power Deputation to Wait on Beck

St. Thomas, Sept. 5.—Representatives of the city will meet Sir Adam Beck and the provincial hydro-electric commission in Toronto in the near future in an effort to secure more power. A deputation was previously appointed to go to Ottawa, but a veto from Sir Henry Drayton informed the committee that he had no jurisdiction in the matter. The deputation was instructed at a meeting of the committee of the city council to proceed to Ottawa if results are not obtained at Toronto.

### Former Major is Committed On a Charge of Bribery

Montreal, Sept. 5.—Firmen Blesonette, a former major in the Canadian forces, was today committed for voluntary statement by Judge Lacombe in the enquete court on a charge of peeling a military employe at the Peel street barracks with \$800 in order to secure the discharge of a drafted soldier. Evidence was heard from two witnesses, after which Judge Lacombe thought there was sufficient testimony to commit the accused for voluntary statement. This was fixed for Thursday next.

### Spain Discredits Report Of Ex-Czarina's Assassination

Madrid, Sept. 5.—A despatch was received here last night from London, reporting the assassination of the former Russian Empress and her daughters, but in view of the steps taken by King Alfonso to obtain the transfer to Spain of the family of the deposed and murdered Russian monarch, the report was treated with all reserve.

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