

Weather Forecast:
Fine and Warm

The London Advertiser

HOME
EDITION

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THE LONDON, ONTARIO, ADVERTISER, SATURDAY EVENING, AUGUST 18, 1917. 112 COLUMNS.

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Hundreds Die In Quebec Explosion

COMPLETE REPULSE FOR HUNS IN FLANDERS AND AT LENS IN BATTLE AT DAWN TODAY

Germans Counter-Attacked Near "Coal City" and in Belgium, But Were Thrown Back at Both Points—Further Progress Made by French.

British Front in France and Belgium, Aug. 18.—By the Associated Press.—German troops delivered another sharp but futile counter-attack against a section of the new Canadian positions northwest and west of Lens early this morning. The Germans succeeded in penetrating the British trenches, but were driven out immediately as the result of strenuous hand-to-hand fighting, which cost the attackers a considerable number of dead and a few prisoners.

London, Aug. 18.—The German troops in Flanders were again completely repulsed by the British after sharp fighting, according to the British official statement issued early this morning.

The enemy early today delivered another counter-attack against our recently captured position immediately northwest of Lens. His troops were again completely repulsed after sharp fighting, in which we secured a few prisoners. There was considerable hostile artillery activity during the night in the neighborhood and also north-east of Ypres.

FRENCH MAKE PROGRESS.

Paris, Aug. 18.—The French last night made further progress in Belgium, north of the road between Bixchoote and Langemarck, it is announced officially. They captured a strong point of support east of the Steenbeke River. German attacks on the Aisne front were repulsed.

DESPERATE FIGHTING AROUND POLYGON.

British Front in France and Belgium, Aug. 18 (By the Associated Press).—The fighting on Thursday at Polygon was unusually desperate. Wave after wave of the enemy came surging up against the London troops, who held on determinedly with rifle and bayonet until two simultaneous counter-attacks from different directions forced them to retreat. Gradually they withdrew, fighting all the time, and the London troops were surrounded and fought until forced to surrender. One young officer, in command of ten men, fought himself surrounded by the enemy and his men being swept by machine gun fire. The last heard of him was contained in a message he signalled back to his division saying that his men were facing certain death, and that he saw no way but to surrender and save their lives.

Along most of the French front it was comparatively quiet, although a hard local battle was continuing about a strong German redoubt known as "Les-Valles," where the enemy had thousands of yards southwest of the St. James River. In their advance the French pushed forward on either side of this position, making a sort of pocket about it, and it was expected that the strong German garrison would be compelled to surrender shortly. The German counter-attack on the French extreme right flank, but this was repulsed by artillery fire.

Excellent Co-operation.
The contact between the French and British armies was excellent. The prisoners accounted for to date totaled more than 370, and this figure represented considerably more than the entire French casualties along their whole front in Thursday's offensive. The remarkably small casualties were due to the fine work of the French artillery. Preliminary bombardment of German positions was the most effective, and the advance was made under a perfect barrage.

German Barrage Poor.
As was the case with the British front about Langemarck, the German barrage was quite inadequate, and their counter-battery work gave no trouble. French counter-battery firing resulted in silencing a large number of enemy guns, and as a result the French have been little troubled by gunfire in carrying out consolidation. The work of the French engineers in this difficult terrain which, as it approached the river is a veritable morass, had been thrust forward swiftly, and when it came to bridging the flooded Steenbeke for crossing at dawn Thursday there was not the slightest delay in getting the numerous bridges over.

The French air service played an important part in the advance, going ahead along the line and keeping up the patrols at heights of 200 to 300 metres. The German air force was driven back and the air was cleared of enemy machines. In addition to patrol work, the French airmen did good execution with machine guns and bombs on enemy redoubts.

FLIERS FROM CANADA PLAY HAVOC WITH THE ENEMY

Fearless Canadian Airmen
Take Heavy Toll of
Germans.

FIERCE SKY FIGHTING
114 Hun Airplanes Brought
Down During the Past
Week.

(By William Philip Simms, U. P. Staff
Correspondent.)

[Special Cable to The Advertiser.]
With the British Armies in the field—a total of 114 German airplanes have been brought down during the past week in a fierce sky fighting, which has been in progress in connection with the Allied offensive.

Many of these exploits are attributed to Canadian members of Royal Flying Corps, who are credited with being absolutely fearless in their work. Sixty-two of these enemy machines were destroyed outright, and 25 were driven down out of control.

The aerial operations were carried out despite unfavorable weather, and were marked by extreme daring. A check-up today showed 40 British machines missing, following the week's fighting.

The Prussian fliers took great chances in their efforts to communicate artillery ranges back of their lines. It was learned today they were under orders to get the ranges or die in the attempt.

Industrial Workers
Preparing To Burn
Crops In the States

Planning To Use Phosphorus
On Harvest Fields of
West.

Boise, Idaho, Aug. 18.—Industrial workers here are planning to use phosphorus with which to burn grain fields and grain held in storage throughout Idaho, Oregon and Washington, according to information sent here last night by Harvey Allred, director of the state farm market bureau. Vigilance committees are being organized in the principal towns.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 18.—President Wilson is making a personal study of the labor situation in the northwest, according to a report received here last night by a Washington, D. C., source.

Wilson and Hoover
HOLDING CONFERENCE
OVER COAL PROBLEM

President May Take Over
Stocks and Control of
Distribution.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 18.—President Wilson went to the food administration today for a personal conference with Herbert Hoover and later went to the federal trade commission. It was believed the president discussed the coal situation and the extent to which he would assume the powers to control distribution vested in him by the food bill.

Under the law the president may fix price of coal, operate the mines or commandeer stocks and sell to the public. Some decision of which course he will pursue is expected as the result of today's conferences, which were based on the federal trade commission's now completed report on the coal situation.

NOW THAT THEY ARE APPROACHING THE WOODSHED



6 CANADIANS KILLED, 23 HURT BY EXPLOSION IN ENGLISH CAMP

London, Aug. 18.—Six Canadians were killed and 23 injured in the accidental explosion of a mine during a mimic war at the manoeuvres camp at Hampshire Thursday, according to the Daily Mail.

RACE FOR MAXWELL
CAR ENDS TONIGHT,
MARKING BIG WEEK

Second Supply of Receipt
Books Nearly Exhausted.

DARK HORSE ENTERED?
New Candidate Presents Himself and Promises "Big Business."

The race for the five-passenger Maxwell car closes tonight at 8:30 o'clock. It has been a short, but swift race all week, and already the second supply of receipt books has been nearly exhausted.

Also, all candidates appreciate the fact that the heat extra vote offer closes tonight, and that all extra votes this week will count toward winning the regular prize.

The contest department is anxious to see each candidate have a "run" for his money, and while only one person can win the special prize, all have the satisfaction of having added many thousands of votes to their credit which will swell their total vote toward the other automobiles and many other prizes.

Candidates in this contest will never again get such a vote offer as the one which closes tonight, so it behooves each and every candidate to gather in every subscription, thus getting the 50,000 extra votes for every \$10 worth of new subscriptions and 25,000 extra votes for every \$5 worth of old subscriptions turned in by 8:30 tonight.

Was the "dark horse" entered the race in The London Advertiser's prize contest? This is the question the contest department is asking itself today. A new nomination was received yesterday accompanied by a number of new subscriptions to The Advertiser, with a note attached, saying: "Many more will follow Monday." The unexpected has happened in other contests, and any happen in this one.

The contest department will be open tonight for the convenience of those who wish to send in their returns.

MIDNIGHT RAID OF
BRITISH FLIERS ON
ENEMY NEAR BRUGES

Railway and Junction at Thourout Bombed and Heavy
Damage Done.

London, Aug. 18.—The admiralty announced that another bombing raid was carried out about midnight Thursday by the naval air service on the railway station and junction at Thourout, a town in West Flanders, 11 miles southwest of Bruges. Fires were caused, and it is thought that an ammunition dump was hit and the railway damaged. Many tons of bombs were dropped on the objectives. All machines returned safely.

THE WEATHER

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.
Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night: Highest, 69; lowest, 55.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 68; lowest, 44.

TOMORROW—FINE AND WARM.
Forecast.
Moderate westerly winds, fine and moderately warm.

The following were the highest and lowest temperatures of the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

Station	High	Low	Weather
Victoria	64	50	Fair
Calgary	62	52	Clear
Winnipeg	58	44	Clear
Port Arthur	58	46	Fair
Parry Sound	58	42	Clear
Port Stanley	70	46	Clear
Buffalo	70	56	Clear
Toronto	72	50	Clear
Kingston	72	48	Clear
Ottawa	72	52	Clear
Montreal	76	56	Fair
Quebec	70	42	Cloudy
Father Point	74	48	Cloudy

The shallow depression, which was over Quebec and the Middle Atlantic States yesterday is now moving into the Maritime Provinces, where the weather has become showery.

HUNDREDS OF WORKERS PERISH WHEN QUEBEC POWDER PLANT IS DESTROYED BY AN EXPLOSION

U. S. PRESIDENT TO MAKE CLEAR ALLIES' POLICY

Wilson Will Reply to Pope's
Peace Proposals For
Entente.

(By Carl D. Groat, U. P. Staff
Correspondent.)

Washington, Aug. 18.—President Wilson's reply to the pope's offer may afford an actual working basis for hastening the end of the war. Germany and Austria have already moved in this direction, dispatches from Rome say today.

Belief grows that the president, in courteously declining the holy see's suggestion, now will offer a constructive policy, in which the liberals of the world may find real encouragement.

Opinion is strong here that a decision on the scope of the Allied answer has been left to the president.

No official announcement, however, has been made as to the answer, but Wilson's advisers say he will make the "United States" position and position of her allies clear before the world.

The president will be deliberate about his course, but his reply will be thorough and conclusive.

BATTALION OF NEGROES
FROM UNITED STATES
FOR THE BRITISH ARMY

Chicago, Ill., Aug. 18.—The British recruiting mission in Chicago announced today that it is attempting to raise a battalion of negroes, subjects of Great Britain, in Chicago. If the effort is successful the battalion will be trained in Chicago and later attached to the British army.

The mission is also recruiting among friendly aliens. This departure was taken because of many applications from Poles and Bohemians, and it is said that this will afford service to many not eligible at present to service in the United States army.

LAKE STEAMERS WILL
BE TAKEN OVER FOR
WAR TRANSPORTATION

U. S. Commanders All Inland
Vessels That Can Pass
Welland.

Cleveland, Aug. 18.—A representative of the United States shipping board was in Cleveland today definitely indicating Government plans to commandeer lake freighters for coastwise and trans-oceanic war trade. Figures tabulated by the Government agent, in conference with local shippers, owners, builders and tugmen, show that upwards of eight lake boats can be taken to salt water. The shipping board's decision will rest upon the report to be made by its representative. The plan is to take every boat possible of passing through the Welland Canal, and thence through the St. Lawrence River to the Atlantic, before lake traffic is ice-bound.

The shipping board is now making a list of boats under 260 feet length and 42 feet beam, which can pass through the Welland Canal without alteration. Boats up to 320 feet in length and not more than 42 feet beam will be cut in two, bulkheaded and towed by tugs through the canal and river.

PASS WAR TAX BILL.
Melbourne, Australia, Aug. 18.—The House of Representatives has passed on the second reading of the war-time profits tax assessment bill, which provides for a tax of 50 per cent for the year ended with June of 1916 and 75 per cent thereafter.

Three Explosions Raze Section of Great Munition's Factory at Rigaud, Near Montreal, and Wipes Out Adjoining Village.

EARLY ESTIMATES OF THE KILLED
PLACE NUMBER IN THE HUNDREDS

Forty Houses at Dragon, Nearby Community, Blown Down By Concussion or Destroyed By the Flames—Special Trains Are Rushing From Montreal With Doctors and Nurses.

Ottawa, Aug. 18.—First reports received here from stations surrounding the scene of the Rigaud disaster state that in the neighborhood of 250 persons are believed to have been killed.

Rigaud, Que., Aug. 18.—The great plant of Curtis & Harvey, Limited, explosives manufacturers, in which a number of explosions occurred this morning, is a total wreck, and buried beneath the ruins of the dozen or so small structures that comprised the factory are an unknown number of dead. Estimates made this afternoon seem to point to the number being miraculously light considering the fact that several thousand munitioners, male and female, employed in the plant, were in the danger zone for hours.

The greatest loss will be in the value of the buildings and stock, placed well up in the millions.

CAUSED BY OVERHEATING.
The first explosion was caused by the overheating of the machinery in the nitric acid building. The flames leaped along through the building and another explosion occurred. The workers had ample time to get from the first building affected, and the alarm was sounded, which enabled munitioners in other buildings to make their escape.

MANY EXPLOSIONS.
For the next hour, explosions occurred every five minutes or so, altogether fifteen detonations being counted. One of the explosions blew down a number of houses in Dragon, where most of the munitioners lived, and farm houses in the vicinity also caught fire.

RESCUERS FROM MONTREAL.
The C. P. R. tracks run close to the plant, and as a precautionary measure the train service was suspended for a while. The relief train, made up in Montreal, bringing doctors and nurses, reached the scene soon after noon, but nobody could approach the ruins because of the tremendous heat for hours. Provision was made by the people of Rigaud for accommodating the homeless munitioners.

Stories of heroism displayed at the Curtis & Harvey powder plant at Rigaud, which blew up this morning, began to reach Montreal soon after noon, when rescue parties reached the town, but at 1:30 nothing definite had been obtained here regarding the number of casualties.

PHONE GIRL SENDS NEWS.
The Curtis & Harvey Company received its first information about the disaster from a telephone girl at Rigaud. While in the midst of her announcement that the plant had blown up, she stopped, and another detonation was heard. The officials of the Curtis & Harvey Company this afternoon intimated that early advice they had received about the accident indicated that no information was obtainable as to whether anybody had been killed.

LOSS IS GREAT.
The plant was comprised of a large number of small buildings, and the structures alone cost several million dollars. The stock of raw material for making explosives was also particularly expensive.

Montreal, Aug. 18.—The powder plant at Rigaud, Quebec, blew up this morning. It is feared the loss of life will be heavy. The plant belonged to Curtis & Harvey, Limited.

FIVE THOUSAND WORKERS.
The plant covers five miles square. Reports received here soon after the explosion said that the plant was nearly all in flames. Five thousand men and women are employed in the factory.

The explosion blew up the telephone and telegraph systems, and rendered it most difficult to get information out of Rigaud.

The C. P. R. Ottawa-Montreal line is close to the plant. Traffic was suspended temporarily this morning on this section.

THREE EXPLOSIONS.
From points near Rigaud it was learned that three explosions took place. The first, at 9 o'clock, was heard in Vaudreuil, twenty miles away. It was followed by two others in quick succession.

Trainmen who got away from the scene of the explosion stated that forty houses at Dragon, a little village near the factory, occupied by workmen in the

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CANDIDATES IN THE ADVERTISER'S \$16,000 PRIZE CONTEST



Some of the energetic contestants in The London Advertiser's \$16,000 prize contest. Reading from left to right, they are: B. C. Kuehner, District No. 8; Miss Viola Johnston, District No. 2; Miss Carrie Cooke, District No. 7; Miss Mabel Hicks, District No. 5; Miss Tennie Gilthead, District No. 4; Mrs. T. Elfer, District No. 1; Miss Bertha Bishop, District No. 2; Mrs. James Baigent, District No. 7; Mrs. James Leonard, District No. 3; Robert Sanford, District No. 5; Miss Pearl Wilson, District No. 3.