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GENERALLY FAIR

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MIGHTY GERMAN OFFENSIVE IS STEADILY LOSING MOMENTUM

ANOTHER GIGANTIC ENEMY ATTACK IN DRIVE FOR ARRAS

Crisis of Terrific Struggle Has Not Been Reached, and Situation Must Be Regarded with Keenest Anxiety as Enemy is Throwing in Everything—New Thrust Heavier Than Drive on the Somme—Kaiser at St. Quentin—Canadians Come into Action.

Haig's Gallant Troops Protecting Amiens—Tremendous Pressure Brought to Bear on Northern End of Albert-Roye Line—Germans Capture Roye, 25 Miles from Amiens—Estimated 800,000 Germans Hurling into the World's Greatest Battle—Hun Casualties, 250,000.

(By Arthur S. Draper.)

(Special Cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard)

London, March 26.—The battle front extended northward to Arras is the centre of another gigantic enemy attack. The crisis of the terrific struggle still has not been reached. The situation must be regarded with the keenest anxiety and the enemy is throwing in everything.

The new thrust at Arras, if possible, is heavier than the drive on the Somme, where Anglo-French troops hold the old lines from which was launched the offensive of 1916. On the Somme battle front the Germans have shown signs of exhaustion, though sheer momentum is carrying them forward.

Amiens, a centre of great strategic importance, is covered by Haig's gallant troops. Tremendous pressure is being brought to bear on the northern end of the Albert-Roye line. Seventy odd divisions, roughly 800,000 bayonets, have been hurled into the world's greatest battle by the enemy and his reserves are still moving up. He has made heavy captures in men, guns and material, but what he has accomplished falls short of a decision. The Germans have dropped behind the schedule of the Kaiser who, from St. Quentin watching the struggle upon which is staked his dynasty, must be sharing the anxiety of his military leaders who already have suffered probably 250,000 casualties.

The very fact that the Kaiser is making the final gamble of the war means that the battle will continue some weeks and that both sides will throw in an ever increasing number of troops until a decision is reached. Coolly and calmly Petain and Haig are waiting the psychological moment to spring their counter measures.

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GERMAN FORCES CROSS THE OLD SOMME BATTLE LINE

Berlin Announces Capture of Roye, Noyon, Lihons, Biaches, Barleux, Etalon, Bussy, Nihucourt, Biefvillers, Grevillers, Irlas and Miramont, Army Crossing the Ancre—Claim 963 British Guns Captured.

Berlin, via London, Mar. 26.—The night report from general headquarters announces the capture of Lihons, Roye and Noyon, and declares that the German forces have crossed the old Somme battle line at many points. The text reads: "A new phase has come in the tremendous battle on both sides of the Somme. The enemy is retreating on a wide front. "During the pursuit we have already crossed at many points our old positions before the Somme, battle in 1916 in a westerly direction. "We are before Albert, Lihons, Roye and Noyon have been taken. "The number of guns captured by the Germans in the battle now in progress

has increased to 963, army headquarters announced today. More than 100 tanks were lying in captured positions, it is added. "Germans on Heights. Biaches, Barleux and Etalon have been captured by the German forces. The Germans are standing on the heights to the north of Noyon. They have captured Bussy, Nihucourt, Biefvillers, Grevillers, Irlas and Miramont and crossed the River Ancre. "Since the beginning of the battle, says the statement, 93 enemy airplanes and six captive balloons have been brought down. British troops (Continued on Page 3)

MYSTERIOUS GUN DESIGNED FOR HUNDRED MILES

Experiments Made in Germany Before War With Type of Great Gun.

WAS INTENDED AS FRIGHT PRODUCER

Germans Have Overcome Difficulties of Long Range Firing.

Special to The N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard.

(By Arthur S. Draper.)

London, Mar. 26.—A resident of Germany stated that prior to the war Germany was experimenting with the gun with which Paris is being bombarded. Trials were conducted in the neighborhood of Frankfurt and shells were fired from there over the Black Forest. The trials were at that time unsatisfactory, but evidently the difficulties have since been overcome.

The gun was then said to be theoretically capable of firing a hundred miles and was designed as a "fright producer," for firing over the Alps.

Doubles Old Velocity.

It is stated in London that fragments of the shell picked up in Paris show that the whole projectile was rifled for a velocity necessary to throw a 9.4 inch shell 74 miles. This is estimated here to be 6,000 feet per second about twice the velocity of the shells of the most powerful guns before the war.

The Germans are known to have overcome one of the difficulties of long range firing. The late Major Morhart in 1915 asserted that the big Krupp guns were being lined with a very special steel capable of resisting heat gases under tremendous pressure which tends to melt a very thin layer of the interior of the tube and rifling. The Krupp claim that the life of their 16 inch Howitzer is 200 rounds as a result of this lining.

The previous record for long distance firing was the German bombardment of Dunkirk in 1916 from a distance of 20 miles with a 16 inch naval gun which was discovered and destroyed by airmen.

ST. JOHN MAN HELD A CONSTABLE UP WITH A REVOLVER

Montreal, March 26.—"Your Honor, the reason I had a gun in my possession was because I have read in the papers that Montreal was a dangerous place, hold-ups and murders being a daily occurrence here."

So spoke James S. Stanton, of St. John, N. B., in the recorder's court this morning when he was accused of pointing a revolver at Constable Raymond and telling the sleuth to "beat it." Constable Raymond approached three men who were drinking in a lane off Cathedral street, and told them to move on. In answer to the policeman's request Stanton pressed an automatic against the constable's back and walked the officer up street until he was seen by another policeman who came to the rescue and placed Stanton under arrest.

As Constable Raymond was in plain clothes at the time, Recorder Geoffrion thought that he should have informed Stanton that he was an officer, and the judge suspended sentence on the charge of having a revolver. Stanton, however, was condemned to \$10 and costs for pointing a gun and the costs of the court or one month in jail for being drunk.

Yesterday's Developments As Announced by Marshal Haig and the War Office

London, Mar. 26.—The battle continues on the whole front south of the Somme river. Field Marshal Haig reports from the war zone in France tonight. The Germans have also launched new attacks around Chaules. The statement says: "North of the Somme local fighting has taken place at different points. Much movement of hostile troops and transports has been observed in the battle area and these have been engaged by our artillery and aeroplanes.

"South of the Somme the hostile attacks reported this morning have been pressed vigorously with fresh German divisions against Noyon and Roye.

"This afternoon new hostile attacks commenced in the neighborhood of Chaules and between Chaules and the Somme, to the north of it. The battle is continuing on the whole front south of the Somme.

"In the past six days of constant fighting our troops on all parts of the battle front have shown the utmost courage. In addition to those British divisions which have already been mentioned, exceptional gallantry was shown also by the following: The eighth, eighteenth, thirty-first, forty-first, sixty-first, sixty-third and sixty-sixth divisions.

London, Mar. 26.—The war office tonight announced that the Germans took Roye at 10.30 o'clock this morning. The enemy has been checked west of Roye and Noyon, the announcement adds.

In the Roye area British, French and American troops are fighting shoulder to shoulder, the official announcement states. French reinforcements are rapidly coming up.

"The enemy made no further attacks during the night of March 25-26, on our front north of the Somme," the announcement says. "During the afternoon there have been local engagements on this part of the battle front in which the enemy has been repulsed, but he has attempted no serious attack.

"The line north of the Somme now runs: Bray, Albert, Beaumont-Hamel, Puisieux, Boiry, Henin, Wancourt, just west of Monchy to the Scarpe, and thence along our original front.

"The Germans have been attacking heavily south of the Somme this morning and took Roye at 10.30 a.m."

ENEMY'S PROGRESS NOW SLACKENING

After Six Days of Terrific Fighting German Offensive in France is Beginning to Show Signs of Losing Its Momentum—German Efforts to Widen New Salient Meet Defeat.

After six days of terrific fighting the German offensive in France is beginning to show signs of losing its momentum. The progress of the enemy has materially slackened and the form of the dent made in the allied line is the familiar wedge-like salient, instead of the broad straight forward movement of an offensive which carries all before it.

At its apex this wedge has gone beyond Albert, to the south of that place and is to the westward of the old salient.

NEW YORK CITY SHAKEN BY BIG EXPLOSIONS

A \$1,500,000 Fire Destroys Much Property in Jersey City.

New York, Mar. 26.—Fire, following a series of unexpected explosions, destroyed the six storey building of the Jarvis Warehouse Company, Inc., near the Erie Railroad terminal in Jersey City late today and badly damaged the Erie repair shops. No loss of life had been reported tonight. The material damage was estimated by Jersey City Police and fire officials at close to \$1,500,000.

The goods stored in the warehouse, said to have included a quantity of chemicals, were a total loss.

The cause of the explosion has not been determined, although a rigid investigation was begun at once by federal, state and city authorities. The first of the terrific detonations, (Continued on Page 2)

Halfway, Mar. 26.—At the adjourned meeting of shareholders of the Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Company today a resolution was adopted authorizing the directors to sell the Company's holdings in the Prince Edward Company at any time when all of them consider this advisable, of 185,000 shares in the company, 123,779 were cast. The ballot resulted as follows: In favor—89,256. Against—34,523. A resolution was also adopted approving of a proposal in a bill now before the legislature, to increase the capital to \$2,000,000.

FOSTER MINISTER DESIRES A COMMISSION TO ADVISE HIM

Should Crown Lands Be Administered by Minister of Crown Elected by People or Should He Be Permitted to Shelve Portion of His Responsibility on Shoulders of Non-Representative Commission Appointed by Him—Decidedly Interesting Session of Legislature.

(SPECIAL TO THE STANDARD)

Fredericton, March 26.—Should the Crown lands of the province be administered by a minister of the Crown elected by the people and responsible to them or should he be permitted to shelve a portion of his responsibility on the shoulders of a non-representative commission responsible only to the minister and appointed by him? Of what use is a government when members of that government find it necessary to come to the legislature and ask for public authority to appoint men to advise them as to their duties?

These are the questions that were apparent to all during the consideration in committee this afternoon of the bill introduced by Hon Dr. E. A. Smith, Minister of Lands and Mines, to establish a provincial forestry advisory commission. The afternoon session was devoted to the bill and it was the most interesting session so far. Ill-advised supporters of the government took occasion to attempt to draw comparisons between the Crown land administration of the present government and that which preceded it. The opposition was not disposed to be unduly critical, but unfair statements from the government benches drew spirited replies.

(Continued on page 4)

COUNTER THRUST EXPECTED SOON

Everything is Going Satisfactorily is Latest News in Paris—If Situation is Serious It is Not Alarming and Officials Confident.

(By J. Wilbur Forrest, Copyright 1918)

Special Cable to N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard.

Paris, Mar. 26.—Everything is going satisfactorily is the latest news in Paris tonight from the great battle to the northward. In military circles, those who watched the battles of the Marne, Verdun and the Yser, and also the Italian situation, where things hung in the balance, are holding the same confidence today. They know who its enemy commanders because they have proved the ability when it hung in the balance before.

The Petit Parisien says: "If the situation is serious, as we said yesterday, it cannot be considered as alarming. Knowing with confidence we await the end. Germans glorify themselves with Hindenburg. We have at the bar the savior of Verdun. Petain commands."

The Petit Journal says: "It appears now while attacking from the beginning on the whole of the front, the Germans have brought their principal efforts to the west of St. Quentin. In thus acting, they wish to upset the English, reach the Somme and to secure for themselves in this direction a route to Amiens, which they want at all costs to possess in order to separate the English from the French armies. It is to this object that the German centre has made for three days such gigantic efforts. Hindered by the forces of the heroic resistance made by the English, Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, always with the idea of reaching Amiens, determined to realize his programme by passing around the obstruction in the north.

British Bravery. "It is thus that he ordered his right wing operating north of Peronne to engage itself completely. Under the furious blows of the assailants the English have been obliged to withdraw, but the obstinacy with which they have fought has permitted them to take the necessary measures to oppose any plans of the enemy south.

"Finally, the left wing operation south of St. Quentin appears to have had for its mission to effect a diversion in order to favor the march towards Amiens. Prince Rupprecht expected undoubtedly that his troops marching in the direction of Paris would absorb the attention of the adversary, but the intervention of the

French troops has disturbed this calculation. Our poilus, although much less numerous, have replaced the English in this sector, so that our Allies can dispose of all their reserves, to continue the fight on the other sectors. As for our poilus, from the moment of their entry into line, in spite of their numerical inferiority, they have held the enemy at bay inflicting upon him terrific losses and only yielding ground inch by inch by order of the command. The defensive struggle is continuing, while waiting for the right moment to give a counter thrust."

(BULLETIN) Paris, March 26.—The French troops co-operating with the British south of St. Quentin, have taken up strong positions on the left bank of the Oise above Noyon, where they are holding the Germans, according to the war office announcement tonight.

The text of the statement reads: "Our troops are holding solidly to their positions on the left bank of the Oise above Noyon. The fighting continues with undiminished violence along the front comprising Braye-Sur-Somme, Chaules, Roye and Noyon.

"There is nothing to report from the rest of the front. "Eastern theatre, March 25.—Artillery actions occurred in the region of Vetrinik, Dobropolje and west of Monastir. French aviators successfully bombed enemy encampments in the Sermeni Valley, northwest of Glighevli."

FRENCH HOLDING GERMANS ABOVE NOYON VILLAGE

Fighting Continues with Undiminished Violence Along Front Comprising Braye-Sur-Somme, Chaules, Roye and Noyon.

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