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TUESDAY MORNING MAY 28 1918

VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,712 TWO CENTS

Readin Room
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SENATE P O OTTAWA

REPULSED IN FLANDERS

ENEMY SUFFERS GREAT LOSS WHEN FRENCH BEAT HIM OFF

Strong Attacks by Germans on the Locre-Voormezeele Front Are a Failure, Having Been Repulsed After Fierce Fighting and With Heavy Casualties to the Attackers.

London, May 27.—"On the Locre-Voormezeele front, the French troops repulsed the enemy with great loss."

This announcement was contained in Field Marshal Haig's official report tonight.

The attack against the sector of of Berry-au-Bac held by the British was partially successful by reason of an intense bombardment by gas shells and the use of tanks, and after heavy fighting the British on the left were pressed back to prepared positions constituting the second line.

The text of the statement reads:

"At 3.30 o'clock this morning the British divisions holding a sector of the French front astride the Aisne at Berry-au-Bac, between Bermericourt and Craonnelle, were heavily attacked.

"At the same time hostile attacks in great strength were made against the French troops immediately on the right and French divisions on the left along the high ground traversed by the Chemin des Dames.

"In the British sector the enemy's attack was supported by tanks and accompanied by an intense bombardment with gas shells.

"On our right our troops maintained their battle positions and are in close touch with the French. On our left the enemy succeeded, after heavy fighting, in pressing our troops back to the second line of prepared positions. Severe fighting has taken place along the front, and is continuing.

"On the Lys battle front strong attacks made by the enemy this morning on the Locre-Voormezeele front have been repulsed by the French troops after fierce fighting, with great loss to the enemy.

"In the neighborhood of Dickebusch Lake the enemy succeeded in penetrating for a short distance into the French position. Fighting is still taking place at this point. Other localities in which the enemy penetrated in the first attack have been regained by counter-attacks by the French troops, who secured a number of prisoners.

"On the remainder of the British front the situation is unchanged."

GERMANS RESUME OFFENSIVE CANNOT BREAK ALLIED FRONT

First photograph taken of Hon. Dr. Cody, minister of education for Ontario, at his desk at the parliament buildings yesterday morning. Dr. Cody sat for this picture exclusively for The Toronto World.

Tremendous Attack is Made on 25-Mile Front Along Aisne, Where Allies Make Methodical Withdrawal Before Superior Strength—British Right Wings Hold Firm Near Rheims—Germans Failed in Attempt to Break Franco-British Line.

Germany's great offensive on the western front has been resumed. With only brief artillery preparation, two blows have been struck by the Teuton armies, which have been reorganized since disastrous losses were inflicted on them by the French and British during the Picardy and Flanders battles in March and April. One attack was on the line from Voormezeele to Locre, southwest of Ypres; the other on a 35-mile front from Pinon, north of Soissons, to Rheims. This is known as the Aisne sector.

In Flanders the Germans have gained virtually nothing, but further south the Berlin official statement claims that the German crown prince's troops have carried the whole ridge of the Chemin des Dames and are now fighting on the Aisne River.

The German attack in Flanders is against positions taken by the French on May 20, when they recaptured Bruloose and Locre and strengthened their line on each side of Hill 44, which they had retaken a few days before.

RECALLS FEARFUL BATTLE.

On the Aisne front the present battle recalls the fearful fighting of last summer along the Chemin des Dames, where for weeks the German crown prince hurled his men against the French positions only to see them crushed and beaten. Last year 75 divisions were engaged in the German attacks along this line alone.

The attack here is really in the nature of a line-straightening operation. It is being launched from Laon as a centre and is aimed at the elbow in the line formed during the fighting in Picardy in March and April. Here, however, the Germans must face permanent works which have been occupied by the French for long periods and which can be defended quite easily.

Evidence that the allied supreme command was forewarned of the new German attack may be found in the fact that British troops are fighting there. Up to the present, it had been believed that the British forces did not hold positions much south of the Somme, east of Amiens. The German crown prince is in command in this sector and this may indicate a serious effort to break the allied line. Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria is the nominal commander in Artois and Picardy and the German crown prince, for dynastic reasons, will strive to outdo whatever success was attained by his colleague further north.

ITALIANS LAUNCH DRIVE.

Almost coincident with the new German assault, the Italians launched a blow at the Austrian lines in the mountain region to the northwest of Lake Garda. According to reports, they have carried Monticello pass, the Village of Presena, Monte Zigolon and the mountain spur to the east. Before them lie parallel streams leading down into the Lagarina valley, and, if they successfully carry out their attack there, it is possible for them to outflank the entire Austrian position in the north of Italy.

The long range bombardment of Paris has been resumed after an interval during which it was believed that the big German guns had been silenced.

EIGHT HUNDRED PRISONERS ARE CAPTURED BY ITALIANS

Successful Offensive Launched in Tonale District Where Important Ground Has Been Taken From Austrians.

Paris, May 27.—Severe losses have been inflicted upon the Austrians in the Tonale district by the Italians, according to special despatches from Rome. Among the 870 prisoners taken by the Italians are 14 officers. Twelve cannon and 25 machine guns have remained in the hands of the Italians.

The summit of Monte Zigolon, the Town of Presena, Monticello Pass, and the mountain spur east of the pass have been wrested from the enemy.

The Italian attack is being carried out in a difficult part of the country near the western end of the front. The points mentioned by the Italian war office are northwest of Trent, near the Austro-Italian frontier.

The text of the statement says:

"In the Tonale region the Alpini, fighting on terrain rendered most difficult by glaciers and the stubborn resistance of the enemy, have consecrated with victory the dawn of the fourth year of the war. The attack was begun Saturday morning and continued uninterruptedly during Sunday night and yesterday. Mount Zigolon, with the underlying spur of Marocche, the lake basin, Presena, Monticello Pass and the spur to the east have been wrested from the enemy and held. Our troops showed high spirit.

"The losses inflicted on the enemy were severe. Our losses were slight. Up to the present 870 prisoners, including 14 officers, have been taken. Twelve guns, 14 trench mortars, 25 machine guns, several hundred rifles and material of all kinds in great quantity remained in our hands.

"In the Val Arsa, on the night of May 25, the enemy twice attacked our positions on Monte Corno. Our assailants suffered heavy losses. Later the enemy was driven back by a counter-attack.

"Eight hostile airplanes have been brought down."

BAPTIST EXECUTIVE AGAINST CONVENTION

Matter, However, Has Been Left To a Vote of Members of Church.

Ontario and Quebec Baptist Churches are taking a vote on the question of canceling this year's convention of the Baptist Union. Rev. Dr. W. J. McKay, who did not desire to influence the vote which has to be reported to the secretary on May 29, says that he now feels free to express his thoughts on the question. Dr. McKay says that the executive, without any pronounced opposition, decided in its judgment that it would be better not to have a convention this year. Should it turn out, however, that the churches overwhelmingly favor holding a convention it is expected that some Toronto church will be prepared to become the host for a week of the three or four hundred delegates that certainly would attend.

REV. R. J. D. SIMPSON MENTIONED AS CHOICE

He Is Prominently Mentioned As Next President of Methodist Conference.

Rev. R. J. D. Simpson, pastor Danforth Avenue Methodist Church, is prominently mentioned as the probable choice of the approaching Toronto Methodist Conference for president for the coming year. Rev. Mr. Simpson is chairman of the Toronto East Methodist district. The election of president will take place at the opening general session of the conference on Thursday, June 6, at Elm Street Methodist Church.

U-BOAT OFF U. S. COAST.

British Captain Reports Firing Five Shots at Submarine Off Virginia Capes.

Newport News, Va., May 27.—It was learned here tonight that the master of a British steamer which came into port last Wednesday reported that he had fired five shots at a submarine 150 miles off the Virginia capes.

Washington Pooh-Poohs.

Washington, May 27.—Navy department officials said tonight there was nothing to indicate the presence of enemy submarines on this side of the Atlantic. They thought the British ship which reported at Newport News firing at a submarine 150 miles off the Virginia capes probably had sighted a bit of wreckage or some other floating object.

GERMANS MUTINY AGAIN.

Two Divisions Refuse to Proceed From Dvinsk to West Front—Many Are Hanged.

Moscow, May 27.—Two divisions of German troops in the Dvinsk region refused to obey orders to proceed to the French front. Prince Leopold of Bavaria came to investigate, and many mutineers were hanged and dozens condemned to hard labor for life.

AUSTRALIA'S DEBT.

Melbourne, Australia, May 27.—Acting Premier Watt, the federal treasurer, stated that the total debt of the commonwealth is £609,000,000 sterling, including £148,000,000 of commonwealth war loans and £49,000,000 war loans from the imperial government. This represented an annual interest of £25,000,000 sterling.

TO RAISE CANADIAN FUND.

New York, May 27.—Announcement was made here tonight by the Canadian Club of New York of a campaign by Canadians thruout the country to raise a relief fund for British soldiers recruited in the United States. The Canadians, it is stated, will cooperate with the inter-allied relief agencies.

BRITAIN WILL TAKE IT ALL.

Melbourne, Aus., May 27.—It was announced in the house of representatives that the sale of next year's exportable surplus of butter to the imperial government is being negotiated.

GERMANS PAY DEARLY FOR FUTILE SUCCESS

Battle of Extreme Violence Rages in Rheims Sector, Where Franco-British Troops Retire Methodically, Inflicting Terrible Losses.

Paris, May 7.—A battle of extreme violence was engaged from the region of Vauxaillon to the outskirts of Brimont (Rheims sector), says the official report from the war office tonight. The enemy at the end of the day had reached the region of Pont-Arcy. The Franco-British troops retired methodically and in perfect liaison, making the enemy pay dearly for his futile success. The text of the statement reads:

"The battle continued thruout the day with extreme violence on a front of more than 40 kilometres, from the region of Vauxaillon to the outskirts of Brimont. Masses of the enemy attacked our troops in the first line and pushed ahead, without regard for their losses, into the valley of the Aisne. Certain of their elements reached at the end of the day the region of Pont-Arcy.

"The French and British troops, cooperating magnificently, retired methodically and in perfect liaison, making the enemy pay dearly for his first successes, which were inevitable, and assured that, foot by foot, resistance would prove efficacious.

"The activity of the opposing artilleries was maintained on both banks of the Meuse, in the region of St. Mihiel, and on the Lorraine front."

HEALTH COMMITTEE FOR THE DOMINION

Remedy Advocated at Investigation Into Prevalence of Venereal Diseases.

Ottawa, May 27.—The establishment of a Dominion Health Committee, with plenary powers and authority to enforce treatment and segregation if necessary, was the remedy advocated for the elimination of venereal diseases among the civil population by General Fotheringham, director of medical services, before Mr. Justice Hodgins, of the high court of Toronto, this afternoon. His lordship is conducting enquiry among military and civil medical men and directors of various institutions in his capacity as Ontario commissioner for handling of the mentally defective and those affected by the diseases in question.

It was admitted by several members of the military medical service that venereal diseases in the army were easy of control on account of discipline and the facility for keeping patients under observation. For the same reason the percentage of disease in the army was far lower than in the civil population. Those who gave this evidence were Surgeon-General Carleton Jones, former director of medical services; Col. I. H. Cameron, and Major H. E. Paul.

Following a line of questioning by Mr. Justice Hodgins all the military witnesses admitted that it would be quite feasible to admit civilian practitioners to military clinics, where they could do excellent post-graduate work. The treatment of the evil was as a rule shunned by the average practitioner because it drove other practice away, and the average doctor was therefore not fully conversant with methods of treatment. Civilian doctors, it was added, were already admitted to military clinics, and considerable legislation had been passed combating the social evil in England in the last two or three years.

TRAMPLED BY A BULL.

Seaforth, May 27.—Thomas J. Watt was trampled to death by a bull at the farm of his employer, John Beatty of McKillop Township as he was tying the animal up.

MANY BOMBARDMENTS MARK BELGIAN FRONT

Washington, May 27.—This official account of operations on the Belgian front during the week ending May 25, was made public today by the Belgian legation:

"During the last week the artillery has been particularly active in the regions of Nieuport, Merckem and Boesinghe. We have subjected the enemy's communicating trenches to frequent bombardments. The enemy's long range guns have shelled several of our garages and encampments, namely at Furnes, La Fanne, Forthem, Loo, Ostvieterer.

"In the vicinity of Dixmude and near Asonhoop combats with bombs have occurred. Encounters between patrols are reported from Nieuport, Ramscapelle and Boesinghe.

"Our aviation has new successes to its credit, apart from its regular duties of observing and photographing. Adjutant Domeulemester has brought down his tenth plane; Lieutenant Ollestagers his sixth. Adjutant Coppens has destroyed his fourth German balloon."

FRENCH STATE TRIAL ENDS.

Paix-Seailles and Capt. Mathieu Receive Prison Terms.

Paris, May 27.—M. Paix-Seailles and Captain Mathieu, who have been on trial on a charge of communicating government secrets to unauthorized persons, which charge was an outgrowth of The Bonnet Rouge trial, have been sentenced, respectively, to one year and three months in prison. Sentence was suspended for a time by the court.

BIG GIFT TO RED CROSS.

Washington, May 27. — Germany's challenge of frightfulness in France has been answered by the American people with an outpouring of $133,206,630 for the second war mercy fund of the Red Cross. This was an over-subscription of $33,206,630, with returns still coming in from some districts late tonight.

HATS FOR HOT DAYS.

The real hot days are not far off, which means that now is the time to buy your straw or panama hat. See Dineen's selection right now and your choosing will be a profitable experience. You might travel all over Canada and find no better selection. Call in soon at our store, Yonge and Temperance, and we will quickly suit you in almost every particular.

LLOYD GEORGE PRAISES SCOTCH DETERMINATION

London, May 27.—Before returning to London from Scotland, Premier Lloyd George, interviewed by The Glasgow Herald, said he was very much impressed by the determination of the Scottish people to see the war thru. The message Scotland had given him was to stand fast. The premier continued:

"Scotland is as firm as her mountains. If there is any change between last year and this year it is an even deeper note of resolve, of absolute unity and quiet determination and the subordination of everything to the prosecution of the war. The people of Scotland have their minds fixed upon defeating the terrible menace threatening the world. They decline to consider anything else until this is done, and they are absolutely right."

LONG-DISTANCE RAID ON RHENISH TOWN

British Aviators Drop Twenty Heavy Bombs on Bendorf Railway Station.

London, May 27.—The official statement relative to aerial operations issued today reads:

"Owing to low clouds and dense mist, little flying was possible on Sunday until evening. Four tons of bombs were dropped on targets in the neighborhood of Armentieres and Fricourt. Six hostile machines were brought down in air fighting. None of ours is missing.

"On Monday the Bendorf Railway Station, in Rhenish Prussia, was bombed. Twenty heavy projectiles were dropped and explosions were seen on the railway sidings. Our bombing machines were heavily attacked by hostile scouts. One of our machines was seen to go down under control. All the other airplanes returned safely."

RAID UPON CATTARO BY ALLIED AIRCRAFT

Hit Obtained on Submarine Crew Barracks, Fire Ensuing—Attacks on Zeebrugge.

London, May 27—An admiralty statement issued tonight says: "Bombing operations have been carried out against Mariakerke and Zeebrugge, where bombs were observed to fall close to the lock gates of the canal. Nearly three tons also were dropped on the Bruges docks Wednesday night. All our machines returned safely.

"In home waters numerous flights by the escort patrol and other anti-submarine duties were carried out. Submarines were sighted and attacked and enemy mines were located on several occasions.

"Our seaplanes also carried out long reconnaissances over the North Sea.

"On May 20 allied aircraft made a successful bombing attack on the Austrian naval base at Cattaro. A direct hit was obtained on barracks occupied by submarine crews and a fire was seen to break out."

TELEGRAPHERS' STRIKE HELD UP FOR TWO DAYS

Minister of Railways Requests Committee to Postpone Order Till Matter is Placed Before Cabinet.

At the request of Hon. J. D. Reid, minister of railways, the committee of G.N.W. operators which had a conference with the minister in Toronto yesterday afternoon regarding the refusal of the telegraph company to reinstate Thomas Taylor and George Thomson, operators, dismissed for alleged handling of betting information over their wires, but who were acquitted in court, has agreed to hold up for 48 hours the strike order which was to have taken effect over the G.N.W. system today. In the meantime the minister will lay before the cabinet the information obtained at the interview.

Another Attempt to Reach Hills And to Pinch the British Army

Attack in Flanders is an Effort to Cut Off the Ypres Salient, While Formidable Blow is Struck Near Rheims.

London, May 27.—Germany's long-awaited offensive on the battlefront in France opened this morning at two points where it had been expected—between Rheims and Soissons and in Flanders. In the latter region, of course, it is another attempt to reach the hill positions west of Kemmel, and to pinch the British army holding the Ypres salient. The attack in the Rheims-Soissons sector doubtless is a formidable blow by which the Germans hope to shatter the French army, a similar attempt against the British further north having failed.

That General Foch, the entente allied supreme commander, anticipated Field Marshal von Hindenburg's plans in the Champagne, was disclosed in yesterday's German official statement which announced that British troops had been captured in a raid in this region.

The first result of the German offensive was not disclosed in the British official communication issued this morning, but the confidence with which Premier Lloyd George spoke at Edinburgh on Saturday gives the British public hope that it will fail as did the previous ones.

The Reuter correspondent at headquarters in France describes the German bombardment as scarcely less violent than that which heralded the German offensive on March 21. Gas shells were employed in great quantities, and the bombardment and infantry attack between Soissons and Rheims were on a more formidable scale than in Flanders.

The Germans, according to this correspondent, employed their familiar formations—dense waves of infantry following closely in the wake of a lifting barrage—and they pushed fresh troops up with characteristic recklessness.

"Among the signs of a resumption of the grand offensive are that the enemy is heavily shelling our far back areas with high velocity guns, and also his airmen are unusually venturesome," continues