

FURTHER GROUND GAINED BY ENEMY IN FURIOUS FIGHTING BRITISH PRESSED BACK TO VICINITY OF NEUVE EGLISE Germans Capture Merville Village; Fighting Continues

Enemy Struggles Desperately to Increase Gains, But Brilliant Defense of Haig Results in Slowing up of Offensive; Attacks Have Not Diminished, But are Being Withstood

Having pushed back the British positions on a front of 25 miles, north and south of Armentieres, to an average depth of a little more than two miles, the Germans are struggling desperately to increase their gains. The brilliant defense of Field Marshal Haig, however, is beginning to tell and the enemy advance has slowed up greatly although the German attacks have not diminished in intensity, especially on the north and in the centre.

Messines Ridge and Wytschaete are the vital points on the battlefield and the Germans in two days have not been able to reach the crest of the hills. Repulsed along the Ridge from the southern tip of Wytschaete, the enemy has thrown heavy forces against Hollebeke, where the Ridge declines and the Ypres-Menin railroad and the Ypres-Comines canal cut through. At Hollebeke and Wytschaete, however, the British ninth division has repulsed the enemy with heavy loss. The southern approach to the Ridge, about Ploegsteert and Ploegsteert wood the Germans have made small gains.

BRITISH LINE STRAIGHTENED

By abandoning Armentieres, the British have straightened out their line. Evidently the Germans have not yet occupied the town, as the latest official statement from Berlin reports fighting in the suburbs. The British withdrew Wednesday afternoon, their position having become untenable.

West of Armentieres the Germans have pushed back the British several hundred yards north of Steenwerck.

On the centre of the battle front, between Estaires, Lestrem and Loisine there has been bitter fighting. Along the River Lawe, between Lestrem and Loisine the Germans made incessant attacks, only to be repulsed with severe loss by the fifty-first division. These troops then attacked and drove the enemy from positions he had gained previously. North of Estaires the British have been driven back somewhat, but the town is still held by Field Marshal Haig.

On the Picardy battlefield there has been no change in the situation. The British front is quiet and the French have repulsed two German attacks in the region of Noyon. North of Montdidier and around Lassigny the artillery fire has been violent. The German advance in the Coucy region has halted.

ATTACKS CONTINUE ABOUT ARMETIERES

By Courier Leased Wire. With the British Army in France, Thursday, April 12.—(By the Associated Press)—Determined enemy attacks continued to-day against points of strategic value along the new battlefront, north and south of Armentieres, from which the British have withdrawn. The Germans having placed H in a pocket by driving a wedge on either side of it, Givenchy, on the extreme right the Germans to-day were pounding away against the British defences at Givenchy, which has changed hands numerous times since the initial enemy onslaught Tuesday. North of Armentieres the Germans were showing an equal desire to possess Messines Ridge and Wytschaete, which are dominating positions, and which changed hands several times yesterday and last night.

The Germans got a footing in the Messines village and they were still there this morning, but the British were clinging to the west ridge and were keeping the enemy from Wytschaete.

In the neighborhood of Ploegsteert the enemy again surged forward and hard fighting was proceeding in this section late to-day. South of Armentieres, the enemy also delivered violent assaults.

The British this morning made a successful counter-attack and forced the enemy from Paradis, southwest of Lestrem. This is on the front between Estaires and Givenchy.

WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, April 12.—The Atlantic coast low area is now moving northward toward New England. The weather continues warm in the western provinces and cool from Ontario eastward. Forecasts: Fresh north-easterly winds, unsettled with light local showers. Saturday, Fair, with a little higher temperature.

"Zimmie"

FOUNDLING ASYLUM WAS TARGET

Three Killed and Eleven Injured by Hun Long Range Guns

Paris, April 12.—A shell fired by the German long range cannon yesterday, struck a foundling asylum in the Rue De La Croix, the Mont Rouge district, on the southern outskirts of Paris and three persons there were killed and eleven wounded. Within the hospital were thirty women with new born babies. One maternity nurse, one patient and one baby were killed, while two probationers, six women patients and three infants were injured. The building is two storeys high and the shell entered on the ground floor and burst in the middle of the ward. Had it come half an hour earlier it would have made many friends of the patients had just left.

NOBODY WANTS HOME RULE IN IRELAND NOW

Premier's Promise Will Not Ease the Way for Conscription

IS OPPOSED BY ALL Nationalists Will Oppose Conscription and Unionists Home Rule

OFFICIALS RESIGN

By Courier Leased Wire. London, April 12.—Promise of a Home Rule Bill by the Government has not had the smallest effect in easing the way to conscription in Ireland, according to special despatches from Dublin. The Unionists will not sit quiet and allow the bill to be rushed through and the Nationalists are more concerned in the defeat of conscription than in obtaining Home Rule. In consequence the situation as regards Home Rule at present is that nobody wants it. Meanwhile the Irish Times, which in the past clamored for conscription and Wednesday endorsed the resolution of Ulster Unionists in Parliament accepting it, yesterday visited John Dillon to make a bargain with the Government. The Irish Times suggests that in the six weeks before the ministry for conscription can be in working order, the Nationalists should undertake to raise seven divisions by voluntary recruiting—a result which, it says, should persuade the Government to abstain from enforcing conscription.

Mr. F. O'Connor, high sheriff of the city of Cork, has resigned that he be relieved of his duties as a protest against conscription. John Dooley, Irish Party candidate for parliament in North Kings county, has resigned at the institution of conscription not to contest the seat against the Sinn Fein candidate, although he was confident of winning. Mr. Dillon is said to have sent him a message advising him to abandon the contest.

By order of the military authorities, the Belfast Evening Telegraph was suspended yesterday owing to the publication in Tuesday's edition of a report regarding the decisions of the Irish convention, which had been prohibited in advance of official publication.

Dillon's Appeal. London, April 12.—John Dillon, Irish Nationalist leader, in the House of Commons yesterday, said he understood that motor cars, machine guns and tanks had been shipped and were sailing away from the battle front toward Ireland. Mr. Dillon pleaded strongly against what he termed the government's "guillotine" methods.

The debate on the man power bill centred largely around a discussion of requests by Mr. Dillon and others for more time in which to consider the measure. The government eventually conceded to permit the House, contrary to custom, to sit on both Friday and Saturday, so as to add two days to the time for the discussion. The bill then entered committee and an amendment substituting forty eight years for fifty-one as the age limit was defeated by a vote of 262 to 152.

Merville is Taken by the Germans, British are Also Pressed Back to Neuve-Eglise, in Neighborhood of Ploegsteert; British Gain Ground North of Festubert

London, April 12.—Attacking yesterday in the neighborhood of Ploegsteert, the Germans pressed back the British to the vicinity of Neuve Eglise, it is announced officially. Last night the Germans captured Merville. Heavy fighting is continuing in the neighborhood of Merville and Neuf Berquin.

On the remainder of the northern battle front there is little change. North of Festubert the British regained ground by a counter-attack. On the front between Loisine and the Lawe River, German attacks were repulsed. The announcement follows: "Have and continuous fighting took place last night in the neighborhood of Merville and Neuf Berquin, in both of which localities the enemy is continuing his pressure and has made progress. Merville was captured by the enemy during the night.

Attacks made by the enemy yesterday in the neighborhood of Ploegsteert succeeded, after heavy fighting, in pressing our troops back to the neighborhood of Neuve Eglise, to new positions. "On the remainder of the northern battle front the situation is substantially unchanged. A part of our positions into which the enemy forced his way north of Festubert was regained by a counter-attack.

"On the front between Loisine and the Lawe River and to the north hostile attacks have been repulsed. Fighting is continuing on the whole front north of La Basse canal, as far as Hollebeke."

Mr. A. W. Burt Retires from Position After Over Twenty Years of Service—Will Continue as Teacher of English—A. M. Overholt of Sarnia is the New Principal

Laying down the reins of leadership which had been his for over twenty years past, Mr. A. W. Burt, beloved as a friend and counsellor by thousands of pupils and colleagues of the Collegiate Institute, last night tendered his resignation to the Board of Education, agreeing to remain at the institution in the capacity of teacher of English. His successor is Mr. A. M. Overholt, M.A., of Sarnia, who will assume his duties at the commencement of the next term in September. It was with expressions of manifold regret, and with liberal encomiums to the services rendered by Mr. Burt, that the board accepted his resignation.

The Management Committee reported as follows: 1. Mr. A. W. Burt, having expressed to your committee his desire to resign the principalship of the Collegiate Institute, at the close of the present term, your committee have accepted his request, but have suggested that he will remain with the board for a further period of at least two years, and discharge the duties of head of the English Department. In connection with Mr. Burt's resignation after so many years of public duty, your committee will cause to be prepared a suitable acknowledgment of his services and of the high appreciation in which he is held by all with whom he has been associated.

2. Your committee recommended the appointment of Mr. A. M. Overholt, M.A., of Sarnia, to the position of principalship of the Collegiate Institute to commence from September 1st next. Salary, \$2,800 per annum, to be increased by \$100 yearly, up to a maximum of \$3,000.

3. That the salaries of Misses Simpson, Coyne and Jackson of the Kindergarten staff be increased to \$600 per annum.

Appointments Made With Care. The committee keenly felt the responsibility of acceding to the request of Mr. Burt, and of selecting a successor, observed Dr. Marquis, chairman of the Management Committee, after reading the above report. He emphasized the necessity of selecting a first class man to fill the vacant position; a teacher, an organizer, a disciplinarian, a man who must be a valuable citizen to the community. The matter of an appointment was gone about systematically, citizens and ex-pupils having been consulted, as well as the Ontario Department of Education. Ultimately, the committee virtually settled upon one man, and their choice now awaited the sanction of the board.

The three teachers recommended for increases, he explained, were now doing full teaching duty, instead of kindergarten work, as formerly.

"I am sure that we can all be satisfied that the new principal will have put into his hands an institution second to none in the province," observed Dr. Gamble. The personal respect enjoyed by Mr. Burt was an evidence of the splendid character of the institution, and the change of management would be regretted in all. The services of Mr. Burt were to be retained, however, and the school would lose in no respect, the speaker was satisfied that the future of the school would be one of success.

Mr. Burt's record speaks for itself, declared Mr. Shepperson, "and that of the school is one of which no one need be ashamed. Whoever takes charge of the Collegiate is coming to a well conducted institution, with as fine a class of young ladies and gentlemen as can be found in the province."

GERMANY POLAND'S PRINCIPAL ENEMY

Disintegration of Austro-Hungary is Necessary to Independence

Washington, April 12.—The congress of the oppressed Austrian nationalities inaugurated by the mayor of Rome, in the Italian capital, ended Wednesday after adopting a unanimous declaration setting forth the aspirations for freedom and national unity of the races held under Austro-Hungarian rule. A cable despatch from Rome to the Italian embassy says the Polish delegates added to their declaration that they considered Germany the principal enemy of Poland and that they could obtain their independence only through the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the uniting of all Poles as one nation. The United States, France and Great Britain were represented at the conference, the message said, and many messages of sympathy and approval were received by the congress from throughout Europe.

CONVENTION FOUNDATION OF AGREEMENT

Sir Horace Plunkett Hopes For Benefits from Irish Conference

LEGISLATION COMING Agreement Unprecedented in History Has Been Made Possible

NO MAJORITY REPORT

By Courier Leased Wire. London, April 12.—The Irish convention laid the foundation for an agreement on the Irish question which is unprecedented in history," Sir Horace Plunkett, chairman of the convention, said in a letter accompanying the report of that body.

"We had every reason to believe the Government contemplated immediate legislation on the results of our labors," says Sir Horace. "The work of an Irish settlement, it is now felt, admits of no further proposition to be made in the Dominions and the United States, as well as the Allied countries, tried, the unsettled Irish question is a disturbing factor, both as regards war effort and peace aims."

After every possibility of an agreement had been explored, Sir Horace writes, as he was instructed to draft a report which would be a narrative of the convention's proceedings with a statement for the Government's information of the conclusions adopted unanimously or by a majority. This draft of the report was adopted by a majority.

Sir Horace adds that the results have been left to rather from the narrative of the proceedings what the contents of such a report would have been. The issue of minority reports by the Ulster Unionists and a minority of Nationalists has minimized the agreement reached and emphasized the disagreement.

The convention did not find it possible to overcome the objections of the Ulster Unionists, says Sir Horace. A majority of the Nationalists, and all the southern Unionists and five of the seven Labor representatives agreed upon a statement regarding the settlement which is given in the conclusions reached by the majority which, he states, would be enacted into law.

In his letter, which is addressed to Premier Lloyd George, the chairman says the customs question has come one of the vital points, and that upon a decision regarding it, depends the extent of an agreement which could be reached. The geographical position of Ireland imposed restrictions regarding naval and military affairs and the claim for Home Rule was concentrated on the demand for unrestricted fiscal powers.

The Nationalists made a strong case for such fiscal powers, and were able to prove that a considerable number of the leading commercial men had come to favor fiscal autonomy. A majority of the Nationalists and of the southern Unionists

(Continued on page three)

ays

Trunk Railway

LINE EAST Standard Time. Guelph, Palmerston and Galt, Hamilton, Niagara Falls, Toronto and Montreal. Hamilton, Toronto and Galt. Hamilton, Toronto, Niagara Falls, Toronto, Niagara Falls, Toronto and Galt.

LINE WEST

Departure Detroit, Port Huron London, Detroit, Port Huron and Intermediate London, Detroit, Port Huron and Intermediate London, Detroit, Port Huron and Intermediate London, Detroit, Port Huron and Intermediate

GODEFRICH LINE

East 10:55 a.m.—For Buffalo stations. 6:30 p.m.—For Buffalo stations. West 10:55 a.m.—For Goderich stations. 6:30 p.m.—For Goderich stations.

C. RAILWAY

MARCH 3RD, 1918. ROUND except Sunday—For Hamilton points, Toronto, Niagara Falls and Philadelphia. ROUND except Sunday—From intermediate points, for intermediate points, St. Chicago. except Sunday—From Hamilton and Intermediate Waterford and Intermediate

ARRIVALS

Brantford 6:30 a.m.; 1:53 p.m.; 8:50 p.m. Brantford 2:16 a.m.; 3:52 p.m.; 6:52 p.m. Galt 6:30 a.m.; 1:30, 8:30, 10:10 p.m. 10:10, 11:25 a.m., 12:15, 10:25 p.m. 6:51, 10:31, 11:50 a.m., 6:52, 10:32, 11:51 p.m. Galt 6:48, 10:48 a.m., 6:52, 10:48, 11:50 p.m. 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 8:30, 11:05, a.m., 1:05, 10:05 a.m., 12:05, 2:05, 11:00 p.m. Service on G. F. and the C. E. and N. same as that of first class. Scheduled to leave Brantford 6:30 a.m. and 8:50 p.m. arrive Brantford 9:05 a.m.; 4:40 p.m.

N. Railway

10:20 a.m., 12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10 a.m., 10:10, 11:25 a.m., 12:15, 10:25 p.m. 6:51, 10:31, 11:50 a.m., 6:52, 10:32, 11:51 p.m. Galt 6:48, 10:48 a.m., 6:52, 10:48, 11:50 p.m. 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 8:30, 11:05, a.m., 1:05, 10:05 a.m., 12:05, 2:05, 11:00 p.m. Service on G. F. and the C. E. and N. same as that of first class. Scheduled to leave Brantford 6:30 a.m. and 8:50 p.m. arrive Brantford 9:05 a.m.; 4:40 p.m.

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N. SALE

Received instructions from the estate of the late Mr. J. H. Ford to sell at Hotel yards his cows, FRIDAY, commencing at 1.30 p.m. of 20 heads cows, all young. This herd is in good strain. The cows are of very scarce and per kind, and we good grade Holsteins. Credit will be given on joint notes and cash on off for cash prior.

MAS, Auctioneer.

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