

# Whole German Divisions Virtually Blown to Atoms

## Commanders of Enemy Reinforcements Lose Their Heads and March Men Directly Into French Artillery Fire.

From a Staff Correspondent of The Associated Press  
GRAND HEADQUARTERS OF THE FRENCH ARMY, on the French front, April 19.—(Evening)—The French success in the forward movement was much more considerable than indicated by the published reports of the army communications, which narrate a very sober tale of the events. There is no mention of relaxing the pressure on the Germans, who are opposing with a tenacious resistance without avail.

Besides points of formidable strength and most important strategic value, such as Ostel, Courtecon and Vailly, which have fallen before the French assaults, reports sent by runners from reconnoitring parties, indicate steady progress everywhere and large captures of material. The staffs take no risks; everything is methodically prepared in order to be as certain as is humanly possible of success before trying to approach each objective point.

**Weather Is Better**  
Today's weather was better for the operations, but it was so misty that airplanes were almost useless.

The commanders of the German reinforcements hurrying to the front appear to have lost their heads or have been badly directed in several cases. One division marched directly into wire entanglements and was almost entirely annihilated or taken prisoner. Eighteen new German divisions have been thrown into the front since Monday, several of which were blown virtually to pieces by the French artillery immediately after their arrival. Two divisions launched directly into an effectual counter-attack before Juvincourt, suffered in this way.

Owing to the extent of the battle line, the Germans are no longer so much favored by manoeuvring on the inside line circles. The French soldiers' confidence and spirit have been intensified under the most severe hardships during the advance. Nothing seems to depress them. Even the old territorialists, roadmaking on the heels of the attacking troops, maintain a constant cheerfulness.

### Foe Perceives Necessity of Evacuation of Front Lines

Copenhagen, in London, April 19.—In an article in the Berlin Voestische Zeitung, Captain Salzmann, military correspondent of the newspaper, characterizes the fighting raging on the western front in France as a "competitive struggle of strength in war materials."

### front lines. Against superiority in materials no heroism can avail."

As long as the entente allies have superiority in these," says Captain Salzmann, "Field Marshal von Hindenburg's strategy is the only one which, namely, the speedy evacuation of any materials no heroism can avail."

## WAR SUMMARY

### THE DAYS' EVENTS REVIEWED

HEAVY actions are still proceeding north of the Aisne River and in the Champagne and the French are still pressing forward in the teeth of heavy German reinforcements and they are drawing near the last of their objectives chosen for this section of the allied operations. North of the Aisne the French are proceeding with their withdrawal towards the Chemin des Dames. This is a great highway leading to Laon. In their pursuit they occupied the villages of Aisy, Jouy, and Laffaux, and they seized Fort de Conde. The Fort de Conde is a fortress, situated northeast of Conde-sur-Aisne. North of the Hurtebise Farm they captured a point of support, 500 Germans and two cannon. West of Berniercourt they took 50 prisoners. North of Aubertive, in the Champagne, the French carried on a front of a mile and a quarter a strongly organized German system of trenches. These joined Aubertive with Moronvillers Wood. The enemy then withdrew to the outskirts of Vadesinour.

It is thus apparent that the throwing of twelve fresh divisions or 120,000 to 140,000 bayonets in the struggle by the enemy yesterday, to stop the French, has not succeeded in its object, for the French are still pressing back the enemy on the flanks of the advance. In order to save the situation both German flanks north of Solons and in the Champagne would have to hold firm. In the next sector to the Champagne, the Argonne, the Germans are becoming alarmed, expecting the next attack to fall on them in this region. They showed their nervousness by making an attack yesterday. On both banks of the Meuse, before Verdun, the heavy artillery firing proceeds. By standing firm the French are retaining a good base for an advance down the Meuse upon Antwerp when the proper time comes. The line of the Meuse is the shortest line that the enemy can hold in the west, and a successful French attack from Verdun during the coming German retreat would make this line untenable.

The British front remains nearly stationary, while the French are finishing their operations north of the Aisne and in the Champagne. The British, nevertheless, keep improving their positions at various points, as at the front of the Somme, east of Fampoux, and southeast of Loos, capturing more German trenches. The Germans attempted a bombing attack against a British advanced position south of Lens, and they were speedily repulsed. In the operations before Arras and on the Vimy Ridge, the British captured 228 guns. Besides these, of course, are many guns destroyed by the British artillery before the infantry charge. The Germans on this 12-mile front suffered the heaviest loss in guns that any side has suffered on a front of like dimensions in this war.

Evidence accumulates that the capture of Vimy Ridge by the Canadians is a staggering blow to German pride and morale. The German general staff plainly believed that the ridge could not fall without a year of fighting more German trenches. One officer who was taken prisoner last Tuesday, told his British questioners that the Germans regarded the loss of this ridge as the biggest defeat suffered since the war began. He believes that the artillery fire demoralized the garrison before the infantry charged. If the Germans generally regard the result of the action at Vimy Ridge as this officer says they do, so much the better for the allies and so much the more disheartening for the enemy.

The triumphant march of the British infantry over the strongest of German positions is evoking generous if belated praise of the British army from American students of the war. Some of these men a year ago were prone to expand at great length on nausome alleged British failure. In viewing the operations at the front, it must be borne in mind that none of the bulletins of Sir Douglas Haig have made claims of "victory." In reality each of the operations so far carried out bears a definite relation to the whole campaign and it is of course expected that when the whole schedule of them has been gone thru the result will be a decisive victory, the end of the very last stage of the war. Owing to the enormous numerical strength of modern armies battles involve vast forces of men and last often many months. The present operations are regarded by allied military men and all the writers on the war in the confidence of the allied war offices as a continuation of the prolonged battle of the Somme. The operations which began nearly ten months ago alone have made possible the present extensive operations.

The rapid success which is attending the allied staff plans for the campaign in the west is creating a great hope in London that the war will speedily end in complete victory. It is certain that the allies are carrying out their operations according to schedule; it is also certain that they have for the first time in the war a great mechanical superiority over the enemy. As to the length of the war, a speedy victory depends upon many factors which are still centered from the knowledge of mankind. The enemy will endeavor, as he has been endeavoring for almost a year, to postpone the inevitable hour of retribution. So it must be regarded still possible for Von Hindenburg to delay the decision for another year. He will resort to delaying tactics as much as possible.

From Russia comes the news that the Germans are making preparations to attack the Russian northern front, supported by their fleet. The enemy is massing troops on the front of Dvinsk and Riga, and he is collecting warships, transports and shallow draft vessels in his Baltic seaports. He has also moved a portion of his fleet from Kiel to Libau. The plan of the enemy appears to be the cutting off of Petrograd from the active army by landing an army on the Russian coast between Riga and Petrograd.

The report of the spreading of discontent in the German army over the cut in rations since April 15 is encouraging for the allies. Instead of one-half a loaf daily the German soldier now receives only one-third of a loaf. Much grumbling has developed and the humor of the enemy has become more ugly as a result of his retreat from the Bapaume Ridge and the severe buffeting received in the actions of Arras and the Aisne.

## DECLARE IRELAND SEPARATE NATION

### Count Plunkett Presides Over Sinn Fein Convention at Dublin.

#### ATTENDANCE IS LARGE

#### Many Priests Present, But Prominent Public Men Hold Aloof.

Dublin, April 19.—The Sinn Fein convention met today at the mansion house with Count Plunkett presiding. Two hundred and fifty-seven Irish public men had been invited to send delegates, but two hundred of them declined to do so.

The attendance was large, including, unexpectedly, numerous priests, but no prominent Irish public men took part in the proceedings. The convention proclaimed Ireland a separate nation and demanded representation at the peace conference. Arthur Griffith moved a resolution claiming the application to Ireland of President Wilson's principle of national freedom.

The Dublin Trades Council, which is mainly composed of men associated with Liberty Hall, was especially represented at the conference and endorsed its declarations. The convention also added new elements to those previously opposed to John Redmond and the constitutional movement.

## STEEL CO. MAKES FIVE MILLION NET

### Shareholders Receive Annual Financial Statement and Hear President's Address.

Hamilton, Friday, April 20.—That the steel business would continue to be large while the war lasted, but no longer being declared there would be a period of adjustment, was stated by Robert Hobson, president of the Steel Company of Canada, at the annual meeting held in the Royal York Hotel here today. The old board of directors was re-elected, and the annual financial statement, which had been prepared by the new board, was received and adopted. In this statement it was shown that the net profits for the year ended December 31, 1916, were \$5,021,351.53.

"The period of adjustment after the war," President Hobson said, "will mean that the total financial arrangements in Europe will have to be lined up, and the credit of foreign purchasers, other than the government, will have to be carefully considered. President Hobson said that the wisdom of establishing steel plants in Canada had been fully proved during the past two and a half years. Without these plants Canada could not have provided the material for the vast quantities of munitions which had been turned out since the war started. He also pointed out that the steel industry in Canada had been largely instrumental in putting Canada in her present favorable financial position.

## SCORE'S TOGGERY SHOP.

For this week-end special, we are showing a Scotch zephyr shirt in the colors of the rainbow. The shirt has a white hair line stripe in the collar and cuffs, and three different widths, others are plain and very popular for the most part. Guaranteed fast dyes. Special price \$2.00. See our window. R. Score and Son, Ltd., tailors and haberdashers, 77 King street west.

## FRANK M. PRATT DIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

### Was for Fourteen Years General Secretary of Toronto Central Y.M.C.A.

Frank M. Pratt, for fourteen years general secretary of the Toronto Central Y. M. C. A., died in Vancouver on Tuesday. He was one of the first graduates of the Springfield Training School and also one of the first members of the international committee of the Y. M. C. A. centre.

He came to Toronto from Hamilton at a time when the Central Y. M. C. A. was badly in debt and by his rare financial genius and ability as an organizer, succeeded not only in placing the institution on a firm financial basis, but laid the ground work of the great campaign that gave Toronto pre-eminence as a Y. M. C. A. centre.

Mr. Pratt was not able to complete the work he commenced, as his nerves, which were badly shattered in a railway accident in the New England States, finally broke down and he returned, to be succeeded by G. A. Warburton, who carried his plans to completion.

Mr. Pratt, after recuperating, moved to the coast, where as manager of the Toronto General Trusts Corporation, he found a large field for his financial ability as a member of the directorate of the Y. M. C. A. He was a strength to association work in that city.

## SCORE'S GREAT SALE.

The hundreds of suitings and overcoatings that have been selected from the big stocks of fine British woollens during the R. Score & Son's \$50,000 estate sale is the best evidence that could be presented for the quality of the goods, the superiority of the tailoring, the splendid values, and the continued success of the sale but emphasizes its timeliness.

## DUTCH REMAIN NEUTRAL.

The Hague, via London, April 19.—The official gazette publishes a decree proclaiming the neutrality of the Dutch government in the war between the United States and Germany.

# DINEEN'S

## LAST DAYS OF FIRE SALE



**Greater Crowds Than Ever Throng the Store**  
**Final Days of the Big Sale Are Here**  
**EACH DAY NOW YOUR OPPORTUNITY GROWS LESS**

Thousands of people have profited by this fire sale. Now comes the Final Days! Now one sensation after another follows in quick succession. Nothing is reserved—not even the new spring merchandise that is coming to hand daily. The carpenters are here, and are hammering and tearing down—driving us from one section to another. So you will understand our determination to close out the balance of the stocks as quickly as possible by forcing prices down to the lowest point.

### This List for Friday and Saturday Selling

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Sweater Coats</b><br>New shipment of Ladies' Silk Sweater Coats in latest styles and shades at greatly reduced prices. Coats which sell regularly at \$13.50, selling now at \$9.75.<br>Regularly at \$15.00, selling now at \$10.50.<br>Regularly at \$17.50, selling now at \$12.75.<br>Regularly at \$20.00, selling now at \$14.75.<br>Very special line in brushwool sweaters. Regularly \$6.50, Half price, for \$3.25. | <b>Small Furs</b><br>1 only, Persian Lamb Stole. Reg. \$40.00, now at \$25.00<br>1 only, Persian Lamb Stole (silk combination). Reg. \$65.00, now at \$40.00<br>1 only, Persian Lamb Cape. Reg. \$65.00, now at \$40.00<br>9 only, Persian Lamb Stoles cape effect. Reg. \$65.00, now at \$30.00<br>8 only, Capelines, Persian Lamb. Reg. \$45.00, now at \$18.00<br>15 only, Short Ties (assorted furs). Reg. \$15.00, now at \$4.00 to \$5.00<br>1 lot, Short Ties. Reg. \$22.50, now at each \$7.00, \$7.50 and \$8.00<br>1 lot, Short Ties. Reg. \$15.00, now at each \$5.00<br>1 lot, Persian Paw Stoles. Reg. \$18.00, now at \$7.50<br>1 only, Malletto Stole. Reg. \$12.00, now at \$5.00<br>1 lot, Persian Muffs. Reg. \$18.00, now at each \$5.00<br>4 only, Persian and Silk Combination Muffs. Reg. \$15.00, now at \$12.00<br>1 only, Black Fox Stole. Reg. \$9.50, now at \$4.50<br>1 only, Black Fox Stole. Reg. \$13.50, now at \$8.00<br>1 only, Black Fox Stole. Reg. \$33.00, now at \$18.00<br>1 only, Black Fox Stole. Reg. \$37.50, now at \$20.00<br>1 only, Black Fox Stole. Reg. \$25.00, now at \$12.00<br>1 only, Black Fox Muff. Reg. \$25.00, now at \$12.00<br>1 only, Black Fox Muff. Reg. \$35.00, now at \$20.00 | <b>Ladies' Fur Coats</b><br>To effect a quick clearance these garments have been reduced beyond all semblance of former prices. It will pay you to secure one of these coats and have it stored, as prices for all furs are rapidly advancing.<br>3 only, Pony Coats. Reg. \$40.00, now at \$10.00<br>1 only, Baby Lamb. Reg. \$225.00, now at \$90.00<br>1 only, Tiger Fur. Reg. \$150.00, now at \$60.00<br>1 only, Astrachan (sable trimmed). Reg. \$75.00, now at \$30.00<br>1 only, Miaser Muskrat. Reg. \$6.00, now at \$28.50<br>1 only, Hudson Seal. Reg. \$150.00, now at \$75.00<br>1 only, Hudson Seal (Alaska sable collar). Reg. \$250.00, now at \$145.00<br>1 only, Persian Lamb Coats (very fine). Reg. \$265.00, now at \$170.00 |  |
| <b>New Millinery</b><br>Large assortment in Ladies' Trimmed Hats greatly reduced. Prices ranging from \$1.50 to \$6.50.<br>Panama Hats, various shapes. Reg. \$5.00, for \$2.25<br>Ladies' Untrimmed Shapes from \$1.50 up.  | <b>The "Java Hat"</b><br>In various combination colors, trimmed with smart bow of heavy corded ribbon. Reg. \$2.00, now at \$1.50<br>Very special line in Children's Trimmed Hats in various colors. Reg. 95¢, now at 75¢<br>Children's Trimmed Hats. Reg. 75¢, for 65¢<br>Reg. \$1.50, for 1.05<br>Reg. \$2.50, for 1.05<br>Misses' Trimmed Hats, milan straw, trimmed with velvet ribbon and flowers. Reg. \$2.75, for 1.25<br>Misses' Trimmed Hats, in brown only. Half price, \$2.50, for 1.25<br>Assortment of Children's Cotton Hats, in white and colored. Reg. 60¢, for 40¢   | <b>Special Furs</b><br>1 only, R. S. Ermine Muff, pillow shape. Reg. \$150, now at \$75.00<br>1 only, R. S. Ermine Stole (full length). Reg. \$150, now at \$75.00<br>1 only, Island Fox Stole (double fur). Reg. \$10.00, now at \$4.95<br>1 only, Chds. Island Lamb Coat. 10.00, Reg. \$17.50, now at \$10.00   |  |
|  | <b>Men's Raincoats</b><br>These coats are out of the ordinary and are a decided bargain. You should secure one before they are all gone. Extra fine quality; cut on latest designs, to fit figure, silk finish linings, satin tape seams, in cashmere effect. Reg. \$14.50, now at \$9.75<br>Another lot, tweed effects, splendidly made, cut to conform to figure. Reg. \$15.00 to \$18.00, for \$9.75<br>Reg. \$12.00 and \$13.00, for \$7.50   | <b>Ladies' Hat Bands</b><br>Assortment of Ladies' "Fugarie" Hat Bands, in all the late New York fancies; the craze in New York; all shades; plain and fancy effects; were to sell at \$1.50, now \$1.00<br>Clearance of Children's Odd Hats in silk and linen materials. Regular 75c, today, choice at \$1.25<br>Clearance Boys' Tweed and Felt Hats. Regular 75c, now at \$1.35  | <b>Sweater Coats</b><br><b>Regular \$10.00</b><br>These coats are real novelties in style and neatness. Fine merino fleece wool, fawn shades, with combination colors in collars, pockets, and cuffs. A real bargain. 4.95<br>Come quick |
|  | <b>Men's Hat Specials</b><br>Shipment of soft felt hats just to hand, in new blocks, wide, medium and narrow brims, in black and colors. Regular \$4.50, for \$2.65<br>Another assortment, various styles and makes, black and colors, new blocks. Regular price \$3.50, for \$1.75<br>Odd lines, all splendid quality, various shapes in hard hats. Regular \$2.00, for \$1.87   | <b>Raincoat Special</b><br>Just to hand for our Spring trade (will be included in Fire Sale prices). Splendidly made, silk lustrous finish, in fawn and drab shades. Reg. \$10.00, now at \$5.00<br>Another lot of fancy and plain, tweed effects. Reg. \$15.00, now at \$7.50<br>Another lot, extra quality. Reg. \$9.75, \$23.00, now at, each \$9.75   | <b>Be On Hand As Soon As The Doors Open</b><br>Store Opens at 10 a.m.—Store Closes at 6 p.m.<br><b>The W. &amp; D. DINEEN COMPANY LIMITED</b><br>140 Yonge St.—Cor. Temperance St.   |

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### MORE NURSING SISTERS WILL SERVE OVERSEAS

Another Call From A.M.C. for Doctors for Home and Overseas Duty.

Another party of nursing sisters has been named to proceed shortly from Toronto and district for service overseas in connection with the Canadian army. The nurses named are: E. Simmons, M. Barwick, T. Davidson, M. E. Webber, M. E. Wiggins, M. E. A. Kitt, G. D. Long, E. J. Deyman, J. Coulter, E. M. McGregor, M. R. Heath, A. A. Carscallen and C. H. Hague.

The Army Medical Corps authorities announced yesterday that more doctors are required from Toronto district for military service both in Canada and overseas.

**Toronto Forestry Draft Gets Warning to Move to the East**

No. 2 Toronto Forestry Draft has received word from Ottawa to get its first draft of 125 men ready to leave shortly for a point east. Enough men from other drafts will be added to increase the total of 170. Lieut. Forbes C. Grassick is to go overseas as conducting officer. Lieut. A. E. Bradley will also accompany the draft. Capt. W. E. Gardner, commander of No. 2 draft, has been requested by Ottawa to remain in Ontario to organize another draft, to be recruited in time to go east next month. He will continue to use the forestry recruiting office at 105 West Queen street.

**DISCUSSED HIGHER RATES.**

Court Eureka, C.O.F., No. 27, met last night in the S.O.E. Hall, with Chief Ranger Wm. Smith in the chair. The members discussed the increased rates question, but no action was taken.

**Joe Martin Worries About Creation of Canadian People**

Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, April 19.—Joseph Martin, in the house of commons, has given notice of a resolution that this house regrets in the time of the great fight of the world for democracy, of government against autocracy, of government should become responsible for the appointment of resident commissioners in Canada, thus introducing the edge of aristocracy in a purely democratic country.