

THE GERMANS ARE CLOSE TO THE BELGIAN CAPITAL

OFFICIAL BULLETIN GIVEN OUT BY THE FRENCH WAR OFFICE CONTAINS CHEERING INFORMATION

Says Position is Excellent, Advance in Alsace-Lorraine Continues, and Germans are in Retreat Towards Strassburg—Discovery of Opening at North of Belgium May Change Plans of Operations.

Paris, Aug. 20.—Today first official bulletin, issued from the French war office said: "Our entire position is excellent. The advance in Alsace-Lorraine continues. Reports of French defeats at Muelhausen and Legers, coming from German sources, are utterly without foundation. The German retreat toward Strassburg continues. The Germans are outnumbered by the French, and consequently have failed to make any determined stand against our forces."

Paris, Aug. 20.—Telegrams received from the Hague at twelve o'clock today say that it is persistently rumored that the Germans entered Brussels this morning. The war office admits that it has received such reports, but says there is absolutely no confirmation to them.

Brussels, Aug. 20.—The Germans in force have occupied Tienen. Cavalry, heavily supported by artillery, charged the town and now hold it. The German infantry advance progresses slowly but steadily, and the high tide of the fighting today was reported in the neighborhood of Namur and north of Dinant. Reports are freely circulated here that Louvain has been occupied by the Germans, but the Belgian military heads say they have no confirmation.

London, Aug. 20, 230 a. m.—The Brussels correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, telegraphing Tuesday night says: "The Germans seem to be moving in the direction of Antwerp. Any Belgian backward movement in that direction may therefore be explained as strategic maneuvering, which points to the early discomfiture of the enemy."

Paris, Aug. 20.—An official communication received from Brussels, says: "The Germans have gained ground on both banks of the River Meuse and are in contact with the armies of the allies."

The enemy finding the routes to the southward strongly held by French and Belgian, discovered an opening to the north. This may entirely change the strategy on both sides."

Paris, Aug. 20, 230 a. m.—The communication given out by the French war department this morning was one of the briefest for some days. It announced only the bare facts of important developments now in progress in Belgium, and added that there was nothing new along the front in Alsace-Lorraine.

OVER A HALF MILLION IDLE IN PARIS

Paris, Aug. 20.—A warning issued by the French government today says that while one great struggle is in progress on the frontier, another fight must be fought in the inner part of the country against the misery which follows the disorder in its economical life. The Prefecture of Police in Paris estimates that there are six hundred thousand out of employment in the French capital and its suburbs, or nearly one-sixth of the total population of the Department of the Seine.

Those who have savings find difficulty in getting hold of them as they may only draw five per cent. of their deposits during the first two weeks, but beginning today they may draw ten per cent., and it is likely the government will further liberate the deposits in the banks.

The labor leaders are co-operating with the utmost energy with the government commission of which Marcel Sembat is president, to re-open opportunities for work.

WOODSTOCK VOLUNTEERS OFF TO VAL CARTIER

Special to The Standard.

Woodstock, N. B., Aug. 20.—The patriotic spirit has struck here and all eyes and ears are open for matters pertaining to the war.

The 67th regiment and Brighton engineers left Woodstock on the north bound express today for Quebec for brief training before going to the front. There were two carloads and all along the route the boys were met with marked enthusiasm. At Woodstock the station was decorated profusely with flags, and the band played "God Save the King" as the train came to a stop. The band then marched to the Exchange Hotel and played outside the dining room while the officers were at dinner, after which the latter fell into line behind the band and were escorted to the station.

An immense crowd gathered to honor the departing soldiers and while the music of the National Anthem again swelled to the breeze as the train pulled away there was scarcely a dry eye in the assembled throng. At that moment the realization came to everyone that not all who were going would return. There is a horrible likelihood that many of those boys will die on the battlefield. Never was the meaning of war brought nearer home.

NANAIMO COAL MINERS' STRIKE CALLED OFF

Vancouver, Aug. 20.—At a mass meeting of the striking coal miners at Nanaimo last night, the strike called since May, 1913, by the United Mine Workers of America, was called off. Strike relief was stopped by the union six weeks ago and realizing the futility of continuing the strike without financial assistance the men by a large majority voted to call the strike off. As the mines of the district are working full time but few of the striking miners will be able to secure employment.

Miss Hegan Safe in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Hegan, 51 Hazen street, have received no word from their daughter, Miss Edith Hegan, since the outbreak of the strike here on August 1, saying that she would have to remain in Baden-Baden, Germany. The Belgians, who have been travelling Mrs. Hegan received information from New York yesterday saying that 150 Americans marooned in Baden-Baden, are being used very well by the German government, but are not allowed to send any communications whatever outside of Germany. On receiving this information Mr. and Mrs. Hegan felt more assured of their daughter's safety.

GERMAN'S ARE CLOSING IN ON BRUSSELS, AND ATTACK ON CAPITAL IMMINENT

Enemy's Artillery in forest of Soignes from which point Siege will likely begin—Censorship of news more strict, and only information going out of city carried by Curriers.

Brussels, Aug. 18 (Tuesday), via London, Aug. 20, 6.30 a. m.—The war office is rapidly drawing nearer this city. Already four hospitals are filled with wounded soldiers. German aeroplanes have been seen scouting above the city after sundown. German cavalry is reported frequently in the region of the farther side of the forest of Soignes, which flanks the city. This forest is the point from which the attack is most likely to come, in the opinion of many here, and a network of trenches has been thrown up along the woods. The trenches are occupied by burghers and a new civil guard.

The forest of Soignes, which is to the southeast of Brussels, extends in the direction of Wavre, where severe fighting has been reported. Trustworthy reports have just been received of an engagement near Charleroi. It is claimed by the Belgians that 6,000 Germans were killed in this battle.

The censorship here is now so strict that no news of the war is going out of the city, except by courier. The Belgian papers, because of the right censorship, have ceased to be sources of war news. They are publishing chiefly local matters unconnected with the war. The mails also are being held up.

An order has just been issued prohibiting the granting of further military passes to newspaper men or others, and without these it is impossible for correspondents to go outside the city.

The populace does not appear unduly excited over the prospect of fighting in their streets. The crowds seem placid, and the people are attending to their business as usual. Paris, Aug. 20.—A portion of the Belgian army has begun to retire in the direction of Antwerp, according to an official announcement this morning concerning the situation in Belgium.

East of Namur, the Germans have attained the line between Dinant and Neufchateau. Large German forces continue to cross the river Meuse, between Liege and Namur. German outposts have occupied Dyle.

London, Aug. 20.—An official communication issued at Paris last night states that very large German forces are crossing the Meuse between Liege and Namur. The statement continues: "The French army is making a rapid advance on the Sambre river, and is now within a few miles of the Belgian capital."

THE BOY SCOUTS OF FRANCE PUT UNDER WAR OFFICE CONTROL

Paris, Aug. 20, 12.20 p. m.—The Boy Scouts of France, some thousands of them, from nine to fifteen years old, have felt badly because, although they were carrying messages for the Red Cross, they were not under orders from the war office.

Adolphe Messimy, the French war minister has now taken them directly under his direction. They still are carrying messages, but they feel that they are in the military service as their fathers are.

At the end of the day have reached Delme, on one side of the river, and Morhange on the other. A despatch to the Times from Paris says that the first point at which the Germans crossed the French frontier was at Grey-Sur-Vesouse. Since then there has been continued fighting in that region, until a day or two ago, when it ended in the victorious advance of the French forces, who inflicted a decisive defeat on the enemy and drove them back across the frontier east of Lunville. The correspondent says that the laconic reports of the French Minister of War gives little idea of the desperate struggle that occurred around the handful of villages scattered along the French border. Point after point was taken and retaken by one side or the other.

Hop, Hop! To Bassen's biggest merchandise ever happened in St. John, 207 Union street, Opera Building.

Wash your clothes with GOLD DUST

Good soap washes clothes well—if you use enough elbow grease, but Gold Dust washes them more thoroughly—and with little or no rubbing. Gold Dust saves half your time, and spares your poor back.

Another great advantage* of Gold Dust—use any kind of water you like. Gold Dust softens the hardest water and makes it soft as rain water.

Gold Dust is just a vegetable-oil soap in powdered form, with other cleansing ingredients added to make it work more thoroughly and quickly than soap ever can.



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Five Roses Flour
Not Bleached Not Blended

Presentations. Two presentations of interest to friends took place yesterday in the office of the Ames-Holden Company, Canterbury street, in which two popular members of the staff, J. Walter McIntyre and Harry Adams were made the recipients of gifts. The former received a handsome travelling bag. He will leave this week to commence his studies for the Methodist ministry. Mr. Adams was the recipient of a valuable wrist watch. He left last night as a member of the Signalling Corps in the overseas volunteers. Both presentations were made by W. M. Angus, local manager, in behalf of the staff.



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MULHAUSEN RE-TAKEN BY FRENCH AFTER HARD FIGHT

Paris, Aug. 20 (3 p. m.).—The re-occupation of Muelhausen, Alsace, by French troops, is announced officially here today. The recapture of Muelhausen was preceded by a very severe battle during which the French troops took one of the suburbs at the point of the bayonet. They also took, as a result of their victory, six German cannons and six ammunition wagons.

The official note says the situation in Vosges Mountains is unchanged. In Lorraine, it is stated, the French line extends from the north of Saarburg, passing by Morhange to Delme. The situation in the Duchy of Luxembourg and in Belgium is unchanged.

BEELMAN FIELD ARMY OUTNUMBERED, FELL BACK.

London, Aug. 20 (5.33 p. m.).—The following information was given out by the official bureau this afternoon: "The Belgian field army, confronted by superior numbers, has fallen back. Reports are freely circulated here that the Belgian troops have admirably performed their duty in delaying the hostile advance and enabling their allies to complete their concentration."

CHINA WILL REMAIN PASSIVE, NO MATTER WHAT ACTION JAPAN TAKES

Peking, China, Aug. 20.—China today inquired of the United States what its attitude would be toward the cessation by Germany to the United States of the territory of Kiau-Chow for immediate cessation thereafter back to China.

The inquiry of the Chinese government was made to the American charge d'affaires, and it was understood to be based on information from Germany that such a course might solve the problem.

The Chinese government is not sure that such a programme would meet with the approval of Japan or Great Britain, and the opinion is freely expressed that it will not. But China has informed the United States that no matter what action Japan may take as a result of her ultimatum the Chinese republic will preserve an absolutely passive attitude.

DECREASE IN BANK CLEARINGS GENERAL

St. John. Bank clearings for the week ending yesterday were \$1,020,087, for the corresponding week last year \$1,431,438.

Winnipeg. Winnipeg, Aug. 20.—The bank clearings for the week ended yesterday were \$1,020,087, for the corresponding week last year \$1,431,438.

Montreal. Montreal Aug. 20.—Montreal bank clearings again show a heavy decrease in volume this week, the six days aggregate being \$15,186,400 under that for the corresponding period last year and \$7,806,702 in the same week in 1912.

The decrease reported last week was \$5,592,718. The continued darkness of the Stock Exchange and the interruption in the industrial and shipping activity were, of course, the potent factors in the showing for the week.

The figures for the corresponding weeks of the three years follows: 1914, \$44,088,575; 1913, \$60,184,975; 1912, \$52,795,277.

Halifax. Halifax, N. S., Aug. 20.—Halifax bank clearings for the week ended today were \$2,122,555.66, and for the corresponding week last year, \$2,994,087.99.

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ARRIVED AT LIVERPOOL. Allan line steamship Calgarian arrived at Liverpool at 3 a. m. yesterday.

THE COURTS.

County Court. Hearing in the case of O. Arnold Crawford vs. Murray & Gregory, Ltd., application under the Workmen's Compensation Act to recover compensation for injuries received by the petitioner in the defendant's mill last May, was commenced yesterday morning before Mr. Justice Crockett. The petitioner had the four fingers of his right hand severed by the band coming in contact with a saw. The petitioner, Dr. W. W. White, Stephen Long, Richard Perrie, and Foster Duval were examined this morning. Hearing was then adjourned until September 1st. A. A. Wilson, K. C.

Circuit Court. The case of Gregory vs. The Fundy Fox Co. was continued before Mr. Justice Barry in the Circuit Court yesterday morning, according to the K. C. is appearing for the plaintiff and Dr. W. B. Wallace, K. C. and J. A. Sinclair for the defendants.

THE CELTIC CARRIED 15,000 TONS OF FOODSTUFFS

New York, Aug. 20.—The White Star liner Celtic, sailing at noon for Queenstown and Liverpool, was the only transatlantic vessel to leave this port today. She carried 115 cabin passengers and approximately 100 in the steerage.

Fifteen thousand tons of foodstuffs of every description—all the insurance underwriters would allow—were packed in her hold.

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