

HARD FIGHTING CONTINUES AND SEVEN COUNTER-ATTACKS REPULSED

British Improve New Positions Captured in Flanders and Take 1,614 Prisoners.

A despatch from British Front in France and Belgium, says:—The British on Thursday continued to strengthen the line to which they battled their way on Wednesday. The Australians completed their conquest of the German positions at the eastern extremity of Polygon Wood. Two places secured here represented the only remaining troublesome points along the Anzac front, which reaches northward to the east of Polygon Wood.

There has been much hard fighting in this section, but on Thursday the weary Germans apparently withdrew to more favorable ground further back and the Australians pushed forward. To the south of that point the Germans continue to hammer away with their artillery at the British defences a stride the Menin road and make threats of an infantry assault. The neighborhood of Hill 40, north-west of Zonnebeke, continues to be hotly contested ground, with little give or take on either side.

Consolidations have been completed by the British in a majority of the places, the Anzacs having finished this work.

USE AIRPLANE TO CARRY WOUNDED

Remarkable Tests Carried Out by French Army Officials.

A despatch from Paris says: Tests made on Saturday at Villa Coublay of an airplane fitted with two stretchers for carrying wounded proved highly satisfactory. Dr. Chassaigne of the Army Medical Service and Corporal Tetu represented wounded passengers during a twelve-minute flight, the equivalent to a fifteen-mile journey.

Corporal Tetu declared that this form of transport was far superior to an ambulance, of which he had vivid recollections when wounded two years ago. Dr. Chassaigne removed a muffer from his head and unfastened straps during the flight. He expressed the opinion that there would be no unnecessary pain to a wounded passenger, because the equilibrium of the airplane is so perfect. The airplane was constructed by the Aero-nautic Service of the army, which hopes to use this form of transport for the severely wounded, declaring that the absence of any jolting fully compensated the patient for any risk.

BRITISH NAVAL FORCES BOMBARD OSTEND.

A despatch from London says: The German naval base of Ostend, on the Belgian coast, was bombarded by British naval forces. British aerial patrols over the fleet encountered six hostile aeroplanes and downed two. "Naval aeroplanes," says an Admiralty statement, "copiously bombed the Sparapelloek aerodrome. They made several direct hits, smoke being observed from the sheds on the south-west side. Several of our fighting patrols over the fleet encountered six hostile aeroplanes, two of which they brought down.

"There was a bombardment of the naval establishments at Ostend by our naval forces. Several hits were observed on Anstetier de la Marine."

TWO FOE SEAPLANES ARE BROUGHT DOWN.

A despatch from London says: Two large German seaplanes have been brought into Flushing, Holland, by Dutch torpedo boats, and it is reported that they participated in the air raid on England, says a despatch to The Evening News from Rotterdam. One of the four German airmen was seriously wounded. The three others have been interned.

ANOTHER U. S. LOAN MADE TO FRANCE.

A despatch from Washington says: A further credit of \$40,000,000 was extended by the Government to France. This brings the total advanced the allies up to \$2,466,400,000.

ITALIANS WIN STRONG GROUND IN DRIVE ON ISONZO FRONT

Capture Positions on Bainsizza Plateau With 1,409 Prisoners—Austrian Counter-Attacks Repulsed.

London, Sept. 30.—The Italians have started another big offensive against the Austrians on the Isonzo front, where for a fortnight variable quietude had prevailed. On the Bainsizza plateau height positions have been stormed and taken by General Cadorna's forces, and 1,409 prisoners captured. By their new successes the Italians have brought their line almost to the bridgehead of the Chiapovano River, near Podlana and Madoni, which also gives them possession of almost all of the south-eastern portion of the plateau.

The report from Field Marshal Haig on Thursday night refers only briefly to the operations of Thursday in Flanders. On the previous day seven powerful hostile counter-attacks, it says, were repulsed with heavy losses, and 1,614 Germans were taken prisoner.

During Wednesday's fighting large numbers of British aeroplanes aided the infantrymen, attacking the Germans from low altitudes with great effect. The German airmen put up strong opposition and as a result the casualties among the flyers were high. Fifteen German machines were accounted for, but thirteen of the British planes failed to return to their base.

On the northern front of the new offensive, in the region east of St. Julien, some interesting German prisoners were to be found on Thursday. A number of the prisoner cages were filled with a nondescript lot of middle-aged men, who looked far from men of the warrior type. They said the Germans had used up all of their 1918 class, and that as the 1919 class were not ready they were calling up old men.

BIG SHIPPING PLAN UNDER WAY IN U.S.

Year's Programme Involves the Construction of Tonnage Aggregating 6,000,000.

A despatch from Washington says: The magnitude of the American Government's shipbuilding programme was revealed in a statement by the shipping board, showing that nearly 1,200 merchant vessels of about 6,000,000 tonnage will be completed within a little more than a year.

Completion of ships commandeered in shipyards and of vessels actually or about to be contracted for will give the country a fleet of more than 9,000,000. In addition to this, the board will complete in 1919 vessels already contracted for, and under negotiation of about 4,000,000 tons. A billion dollars has just been asked of Congress to complete the programme.

The United States now is leading the world in shipbuilding, and if the present rate of construction were kept up, would become the leading shipping nation of the world in a few years.

BLOCKADE OF GERMANY TO BE MORE VIGOROUS.

London, Sept. 30.—A still more vigorous blockade of Germany is to be enforced by the Entente allies as a result of the conference of Lord Robert Cecil, British Minister of Blockade, with the French Minister of Blockade. Yesterday the King signed a proclamation prohibiting the exportation of certain articles to Sweden and Holland. The King's approval also was given to other measures to make it more difficult for the enemy to obtain supplies through neutral countries.

EAST AFRICAN SUPPLY BASE CAPTURED BY BRITISH TROOPS

London, Sept. 30.—The War Office last night announced a further success against the German forces in German East Africa. The text of the announcement follows: "Our troops yesterday occupied Nahungu, an important German supply base 83 miles southwest of Kilwa, after considerable resistance. Our advances in the Lukuledi Valley and the forward movement of the Belgians on Mahenge are continuing steadily."

SOUTH AMERICA ONE AGAINST HUN

A despatch from La Paz, Bolivia, says:—El Diario and El Tiempo, commenting on the measures being taken by Argentina and Peru to obtain satisfaction from Germany, say the moment is approaching for the complete solidarity of South America. Discussion of new treaties is in progress in Parliament.

Markets of the World Foe Repulsed ALONG AISNE

Heavy German Attack North of Berry-au-Bac Checked by French.

Paris, Sept. 30.—A heavy artillery action has been in progress on both sides of the Meuse, Verdun sector, while on the Aisne front the German infantry attacked the French trenches, but were repulsed with considerable losses. The official communication issued by the War Office to-night also reports air raids around Dunkirk, while several civilians were killed.

"On the Aisne front, after artillery preparation, three enemy detachments attempted this morning to reach our trenches north of Berry-au-Bac. One German group which succeeded in entering an advanced element of our lines was driven out immediately. At other points our fire arrested the advance of the enemy, who suffered considerable losses."

"A very spirited artillery action was maintained all day on both banks of the Meuse, particularly north of Hill 344 and near the Bois le Chaume."

30 PEOPLE HIT BY ONE BOMB

12 of Them Were Killed in Air Raid on London.

A despatch from London says:—The inquest on Thursday elicited that thirty people had been hit by one bomb which fell outside a hotel on Monday evening, twelve of whom were killed. All were either in the street or doorways, having gone outside to see the raid. Tuesday night a bomb fell in the street adjoining some small houses. For a distance of one hundred yards the interiors were badly smashed by concussion, although the houses did not collapse. In one room a man and his wife were killed. Next door a woman and baby were blown into the street, and both critically hurt. A little further down the street a man entering his home was killed.

FIVE RAIDS IN SEVEN DAYS

London Again Bombed by the Enemy Airmen—11 Killed and 82 Injured.

London, Sept. 30.—German aeroplanes again raided London on Saturday and Sunday evenings, a total of five raids in seven days. Eleven persons were killed and 82 injured in Saturday's raid. The material damage was not great. On Saturday night four groups of hostile machines attempted to reach the metropolis, but the majority of the machines were driven off. Bombs were dropped in the south-eastern and north-eastern districts of London and at various places in Kent and Essex.

BRITISH CASUALTIES DURING SEPTEMBER

London, Sept. 30.—British casualties reported during the month of September total 104,598, divided as follows: Officers killed or died of wounds, 636; men, 18,302. Officers wounded or missing, 2,151; men, 83,509.

The severity of the fighting in which the British have been engaged during September is indicated not only by the total casualties of more than 104,000, but by comparison with the August figures, which were 59,811. Casualties in some of the late August fighting in Flanders are naturally included in the September total, but this may well be offset by late September casualties not reported in time to be covered in the figures announced to-day. The total compares favorably, however, with the figures for September, 1916, the third month of the battle of the Somme, when the casualties were 119,549.

SITUATION AS TO COAL BETTER THAN YEAR AGO.

A despatch from Ottawa says: Cities and larger towns are better supplied with anthracite coal at present than they were at the same period of last year, according to reports received by the Cost of Living Commissioner. In smaller centres throughout Canada, however, there is a grave shortage of hard coal. This statement of the fuel situation is based on the reports of 2,500 coal dealers in various parts of the Dominion. The Cost of Living Commissioner's office is now simply investigating organization which discloses conditions and should action be required reports to the Fuel or Food Controller.

GUYNEMER'S DEATH REPORTED BY GERMANS

A despatch from Amsterdam says:—The correspondent of the Cologne Gazette, on the German front, sends confirmation to his newspaper that Captain George Guynemer, the famous French aviator, was killed early in September near Poelkapelle.

SPLendid BRITISH VICTORY IN MESOPOTAMIA, NEAR BAGDAD

Whole Turkish Army Captured by Gen. Maude, Including Commander and His Staff.

London, Sept. 30.—A British official report concerning the operations in Mesopotamia announces the capture Friday of Mushaid ridge, in the region of Bagdad. The British attacked the Turkish advanced positions in the region of Ramadi from the south-east and west, which they occupied with little difficulty. They continued the attack Saturday after surrounding Ramadi, and captured practically the whole garrison, the enemy everywhere surrendering.

The captures by the British include guns, ammunition and several thousands of prisoners, including Ahmed Bey and his staff.

"The enemy was taken entirely by surprise, and practically the whole garrison of Ramadi fell into our hands, says Gen. Maude. Our troops displayed great gallantry, determination and endurance under the most difficult conditions."

"During Thursday night another column moved out north-east of Bagdad after a sharp skirmish with a Turkish cavalry detachment, inflicting casualties and capturing four prisoners and three hundred Turkish supply camels."

ALLIES PLAN DRIVE ON SOFIA

Thus Prevent Germany Getting Supplies From Turkey—Entente Equipping Greek Army.

A despatch from Washington says: The delay in the mobilization of the Greek army for use on the Entente side of the war has been due to lack of equipment, which is to be furnished by France, Britain and the United States. This explanation of the delay was communicated to the Greek Legation on Friday by the Foreign Office at Athens. When the necessary equipment has been obtained, Greece will be able to furnish 300,000 men for use in the war.

The plan of the Allies in the Balkans as partially disclosed on Friday, is to advance upon Sofia. Capital of Bulgaria, and thus to cut off communications between Germany and Turkey. Germany was said to be drawing great quantities of supplies, especially oil and wheat, from Turkey, and this traffic cannot be interrupted until the line is cut by the international army now operating in Macedonia.

ANTHRACITE COAL IN NEW BRUNSWICK

A despatch from Fredericton, N.B., says:—Anthracite coal has been discovered fifty miles from this city. Captain Russell Bellamy, of New York City, a student and geologist, secured a license from the New Brunswick Government to explore for silver, which he believed was to be found in the Salmon River district of Queen's County. His investigations brought him to a strata which proved to be very closely resembling the anthracite of the Pennsylvania fields. Tests made showed it to produce an intense heat and to be almost odorless and clinkerless. It ignites quickly and burns slowly. It is estimated conservatively that there is at least a half-million tons in sight.

MANY BARN FIRES THROUGHOUT ONTARIO.

A despatch from Toronto says: The crop of barn fires throughout Ontario is far too abundant, according to reports which are being filed with the Provincial Fire Marshal. Mr. Heat-on stated that the barn fires reported during August represented a loss of a quarter of a million dollars and during the last few weeks the money losses have been considerably increased by reason of the fact that in many cases the entire storable portion of the year's crops have gone up in flames, owing to spontaneous combustion in the mows, where insufficiently dried crops have heated to the point of ignition during the frequent warm spells which have occurred since harvesting.

DEFENCE AGAINST HEAVIEST TORPEDO

A despatch from Montreal says:—Major Douglas Hamilton, is perfecting a device designed to make it impossible for Germany to sink ships at sea. The details of the invention are in the hands of the British Government, also of the allied Governments. A ship equipped with the device will be tested by torpedo fire in the near future, and Major Hamilton says he is so confident of the success of his invention that he is willing to take a chance on the ship experimented upon. The resisting power of the device with which the ships are to be protected is said to be one thousand times heavier than the heaviest torpedo or other projectiles made by the enemy.

150,000 SQUARE MILES OF CHINA UNDER WATER

A despatch from Peking says:—The water is still rising in the flooded city of Tien Tsin, according to advices reaching here. The electrical services and the water supply have been completely disarranged, and the steamer service discontinued between Tien Tsin and Shanghai. Small boats are inadequate for the rescue work owing to the turbulent waters and the great number of homeless.

It is estimated that 150,000 square miles in the Province of Chi-Li have been flooded, with a heavy loss of life. The railways between Peking and Nan-king and connecting Peking with Hsiao-king have been washed out in many places.

FROM SUNSET COAST WHAT THE WESTERN PEOPLE ARE DOING.

Progress of the Great West Told in a Few Pointed Paragraphs.

Capt. W. B. Macdonald, R.N., a native of Victoria, has been invested by the Khedive of Egypt and made a Commander of the Order of the Nile. Lieut. Harry N. Wootton, who won the Military Cross overseas, is home in Victoria on six months' sick leave. Halibut has reached the highest price ever on record at Prince Rupert, carload lots selling for 16 1/2 cents per pound.

The first Good Roads Convention of British Columbia, held at Penticton, was very successful, the lower mainland and interior being well represented.

Propaganda by the Food Controller to bring about the consumption of less white bread is resulting in Nelson in some increase in the public demand for brown bread.

The offices of the Municipal Hall at Kerrisdale were overrun with flowers and vegetables when the annual horticultural fair was successfully opened by Reeve Fletcher.

During last month, the driest of the year, and the driest August in several years, the fire loss for Vancouver was \$2,183, of which \$1,598 was covered by insurance.

Mr. J. K. L. Ross, naval lieutenant and chairman of the Dominion Pension Board, and Lieut.-Col. R. H. LaBlatt, a commissioner, have arrived in Vancouver for the purpose of coming into personal contact with pension conditions in British Columbia.

Badly battered and bearing unmistakable marks of her submersion in the waters off Privett Island, the Union Steamship Company's well-known coasting steamer, Cassiar, arrived in port at Vancouver in tow of the B.C. Salvage Company's steamer, the Salvor.

Lieut. Geoffrey Murray Downton, who for some years was engaged as a land surveyor in Vancouver, has won the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

The first appointments to the local tribunals under the Military Service Act have been completed by Judge McInnis for the Vancouver Judicial district, and they include a woman.

The formal opening of the new military annex for sick and wounded soldiers, attached to the Vancouver General Hospital, has been celebrated, Lieut.-Gov. F. S. Barnard opening the doors.

A report has reached Vancouver that the Federal Government proposes to take over the evaporators handling vegetable and that the control will be exercised before many weeks have passed.

An urgent call for women helpers has come from the fruit canners of Kelowna, B.C. Fruit picking in this district has now passed over the peak of the crop and the packers are now entering the tomato season.

A giant cabbage, weighing something over twenty-four pounds, was a fair criterion of the kind of garden produce to be found at the second annual flower show held by the Garden City Women's Institute, Victoria.

COMPELLED TO WEAR CHAINS ON HIS FEET.

A despatch from Petrograd says: The result of the trial of General Soukhomlinoff proved to be a surprise to the general public, who foresaw the acquittal of Madame Soukhomlinoff and expected that the former War Minister would be found not guilty. The Procurer-General declares that the verdict cannot be quashed on a technicality, as no higher court exists. Soukhomlinoff's sentence, life imprisonment, carries with it the severest form of incarceration, called "Katorga." The first ten years the convict passes through different stages of punishment, including chains on the feet, sometimes on the hands, also, and he may be chained to a wheelbarrow. The next several years, "on reformation," are spent in prison without chains. Next, "on probation," until finally the stage is reached where the convict is set at liberty in a village, from which he must not depart. The several stages are shortened by good conduct, and the convict finally has the chance to become a free Siberian settler.

Let There Be Light.

In the summer of 1916, the Commission of Conservation conducted a detailed survey of 400 representative farms in Dundas county. Of these, less than one per cent, practised systematic selection of their seed grain, similar to that followed by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. Three per cent. treated their seed grain for smut. Only nine per cent. grew wheat, but practically all grew oats. Of the latter, slightly more than half knew the name of the variety grown. Forty-three per cent. did not know the varieties of any of the grain sown on their farms.

Brooms should always hang when not in use. Have a hole bored through the handle four inches from the end and large enough to slip over an ordinary nail. When left on the floor a broom soon loses its shape and will not do good work.