

FRENCH NORTHERN FRONT SCENE OF HEAVY FIGHTING

Circulation Last Week

279,165

Daily Average, 46,528

55TH YEAR. No. 22061

LONDON, CANADA—THE HOME OF UNBROKEN PROSPERITY.

THE LONDON ADVERTISER, LONDON, CANADA. THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 18, 1918. 96 COLUMNS

HOME
EDITION

PRICE, TWO CENTS.

THE FRONT REMAINS UNCHANGED

CANADIANS HAMMER GERMAN POSITIONS CONTINUOUSLY

CANADIAN ARTILLERY POUNDS ENEMY POSITIONS NIGHT AND DAY WITH GREAT EFFECT

Constant Duels Fought Between Batteries for Many Days.

WONDERFUL SUCCESSES

In Earlier Gas Bombardment 22 German Batteries Put Out of Action.

BY W. A. WILLSON.
(Canadian Press Correspondent.)
Canadian Army Headquarters, April 18.—All night long Canadian guns, both heavy and light, have been active against the enemy positions, shelling hostile batteries, routes, railways and dumps, while time after time hostile infantry positions, assembly areas, and communications have been swept with a harassing fire. The line of the last cable, artillery activity has been the main feature on the Canadian front. There have been constant duels between our own and enemy batteries. A considerable amount of gas has been used.

Wonderful Success.
Early this morning we carried out a small projector gas bombardment against the enemy positions, to which the Germans replied with gas shelling, but neither operation approached the magnitude of our heavy gas-shell bombardment reported in my cable of April 8, in which over 2,000 shells were fired on hostile artillery positions. That gas bombardment was as successful as this was extensive. 22 out of 23 batteries engaged having been out of action ever since.

While our guns have been active, our infantry have had a comparatively quiet time, save for constant sniping and trench patrols. In one vicious encounter with a hostile raiding party, 20 strong, one of our patrol men was killed, capturing two, and wounding ten at least. We suffered only three slight casualties.

AMERICANS REFUSE TO DEAL WITH ANY GERMAN DELEGATES

Only Divergence of Opinion at Labor Meeting.

London, April 18.—The American labor mission held its first informal sitting with representatives of the British Labor party at the House of Commons yesterday, and discussed the war aims program adopted by the inter-allied labor congress. The only divergence of opinion which developed was over the clause demanding a meeting with the labor delegates from the central powers similar to that provided at the Stockholm conference. The American delegates stood out staunchly against any meeting with the representatives of the enemy. Further discussion was postponed until April 23.

RECRUITING OFFICES "SNOWED UNDER" BY RUSH OF WELSHMEN

Miners Coming To Enlist In Great Numbers.

London, April 18.—The flow of recruits from the mining districts of Wales to Cardiff continues freely and to relieve the congestion at the recruiting depot a general appeal has been made for persons to assist the recruiting officers. President Callaghan of the Cardiff Chamber of Commerce, at the Coal and Shipping Exchange there yesterday, called for volunteers to assist in the work. He said the recruiting officers were virtually "snowed under" and were working all day and until late at night without being able to deal with all the men who had come forward.

VARSITY WILL HONOR READING AND ROOT

Toronto, April 17.—The senate of the University of Toronto will confer at the convocation on May 17 the honor of a degree of honor on the Right Honorable the Earl of Reading, Lord Chief Justice of England and ambassador of Great Britain to the United States, and upon Hon. Elihu Root of New York, formerly secretary of state in the United States Government, and chairman of the United States commission to Russia.

WASHINGTON IS URGED TO LEND GENEROUSLY TO CANADA IN WAR

New York Sun Sets Forth the Dominion's Claims for Help.

WOULD BE GOOD POLICY

Neighbor Ought To Be Treated Even Better Than Others.

New York, April 18.—The Sun this morning in a long editorial says: "While Canada is preparing for her new war credit we here in the United States can do nothing better for that heroic member of the Allies, and nothing better for ourselves, than to play a large part in the financing of her war effort. We need to do this to sustain one of the stoutest armies raining blows upon the advancing Germans in France. We need to do it to preserve a foreign trade which, peace or war, is worth more to us, with the single exception of the United Kingdom, than that of any other domain on earth."

What Canada Has Done.
"Consider Canada's population, her quick cash assets, her distance from the fighting zone, and what she has done on the battlefield in thus far the war. With a population of only about 7,000,000 in round numbers, she has done more than any other country in the world. She has fought a war of a billion and a half of fused treasure. And now she is to begin the second year of another \$200,000,000 or two billions within four years."

Why Not Finance Canada.
"Our work for Canada is cut out for us both as a war measure and as a foreign trade measure. Why not finance Canada, her heroic fighter and her heroic defender? Why not finance her in this country? Why not finance her above any other country? We lend Great Britain credits to spend in this country. We lend France, Italy, Belgium for the same purpose. We even lend Russia credits to spend in this country. Why not finance Canada? Canada, trusted as a good debtor, esteemed as a near neighbor, honored as a noble ally? Certainly we can do no less for Canada than we do for the others. Undoubtedly we ought to do more. For her war-making as an ally, for her industry, for her loyalty, for her courage, for her blood, we must lend Canada willingly, generously, as long as we can lend a cent to any other power."

Star British Airman Has Every Possible Honor For Valor

Capt. J. B. McCudden Has Brought Down 54 Enemies.

London, April 18.—Correspondence of the Associated Press.—Every honor for valor that a British officer can gain has been accounted for by Capt. McCudden. Of these 42 have been awarded the Victoria Cross, the star British airman, who has just been awarded the Distinguished Service Order, a bar to the D. S. O., the Croix de Guerre, the Military Cross, Bar to the Military Cross and the Military Medal.

McCudden, who is now 23 years old, entered the British army as a bugler in the 1st Buffs, and was later promoted to an observer at Mons, and gave valuable information of enemy movements. He was promoted to an observer, and quickly won fame for his handling of a machine gun in aerial fighting. Since he has had more than one hundred flights without ever having sustained a wound.

Has 54 Notches.
Fifty-four German airplanes have been accounted for by Capt. McCudden. Of these 42 have been destroyed, 12 of them on the British side of the lines. On two occasions the British star has totally destroyed four two-seater enemy airplanes on the same day, and on the last occasion all four machines were destroyed in the space of one hour and thirty minutes. With his squadron he has been successful in attacking the enemy at least thirty other occasions he has crossed the enemy lines alone, either in pursuit of or in quest of enemy airplanes.

GERMAN SOCIALIST WOULD STOP AIR RAIDS

London, April 17.—A Reuter dispatch from Amsterdam says that, according to advices from Berlin, during yesterday's sitting of the Reichstag, Herr Geck, socialist, suggested making an agreement with the Allies to cease aerial attacks on open towns outside the war zone. A Government representative replied that no official request has hitherto come from the enemy, but that should it be received it would be examined by the military authorities.



THEY BOTH MEAN LIBERTY

FRENCH HEAVILY ENGAGED IN NORTHERN AREA; FOE ATTACKS ALONG AISNE FRONT STOPPED

Allies Take Prisoners Among Assaulting Troops and Others in Raids Into the German Lines, Which Were Successful.

London, April 18.—Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.—The French are heavily in action on the northern battle area.

Paris, April 18.—After a preliminary bombardment a strong German detachment attempted to advance last night near Corbeny, on the Aisne front. Today's official statement says the attack was broken up by the French.

The statement follows: "In the region of Corbeny the French caught under their fire and dispersed a strong German detachment, which attempted to approach the French lines after artillery preparation."

"The Germans undertook several raids in the Champagne and on the right bank of the Meuse, especially to the east of Courville Wood, and near Dampierre. All the enemy's efforts were repulsed and prisoners remained in our hands."

"In the region of Reims, we succeeded in several incursions into the German lines, and took a certain number of prisoners."

BRITISH ARMY GLAD PASSCHENDAELE HAS NOW BEEN EVACUATED

Lessens Danger From Enemy's Present Drive.

GREATLY SHORTENS LINE

Retirement Planned and the Advancing Foe Swept by Artillery.

With the British Army in France, April 18.—(By Associated Press.)—Had anyone said a month ago that there would be rejoicing to see the British withdraw and abandon the Passchendaele Ridge, which was won with such difficulty last summer, it would have excited derision. But the whole British army is glad at this move. It not only lessens the danger from the enemy drive about Passchendaele and Bailleul, but it greatly shortens the defensive line. It seems hard in a way to give up ridges over which the British battled forward in such a spectacular fashion last summer, but it is decidedly for the best, and will help defeat Prussianism.

The retirement was a result of mature judgment, and was no snapshotted affair, for it was known it was a matter of time before the British would be forced to give up the ridge. The new lines had been prepared and artillery had been placed in position before the infantry quickly began to pull back under cover of darkness. If the Germans anticipated any such move they did not look for it at the time it happened. They began to push forward in the morning, but they found that nothing unusual had happened. They found the forward positions empty, and they found the British line in a new position. Then the British artillery opened at an opportune moment, and the whole territory was an inferno of fire, which worked havoc among the advancing Germans.

BOHEMIANS STARVING BY THE THOUSANDS

Washington, April 17.—Thousands of families in Bohemia and especially at Prague and the immediate vicinity are starving, according to an official dispatch from Prague today, which quoted the Leipzig Volks Zeitung. Last week it was estimated that there was a deficit of 100,000 loaves of bread in Prague.

ENEMY FAILS TO DENT BRITISH LINE IN NIGHT; HIS ATTACKS SMASHED

MILNER IS NEW WAR SECRETARY; EARL OF DERBY GOES TO PARIS

J. Austen Chamberlain Becomes Member of the War Cabinet.

London, April 18.—Official announcement was made today that the Earl of Derby has been appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary on a special mission to France, in succession to Lord Bertie.

Viscount Milner becomes secretary for war, and J. Austen Chamberlain a member of the war cabinet.

Paris, April 18.—Premier Clemenceau had a long conference last night with Lord Milner, Britain's new secretary for war.

Alfred Milner, first Viscount Milner, has been a member of the British war cabinet without portfolio since December 10, 1916. The Earl of Derby has been at the head of the war office since the Lloyd George cabinet took office in December, 1916. Previously he had been director of army recruiting and air minister.

Announcement was made some time ago that Lord Bertie was about to leave his post in Paris, where he has been ambassador since 1906. Lord Bertie entered the foreign office in 1883, and was formerly British ambassador to Italy. He is 74 years old.

Viscount Milner has had a prominent career in British politics, and has been a member of the House of Commons since 1906. He was secretary for India, which he resigned last July after being censured for his handling of the Indian famine.

REICHSTAG TOLD OF TERRIBLE DEBT FOR GERMANY IN FUTURE

Will Be Wailing and Gnashing of Teeth.

New York, April 18.—Germany will have to observe the greatest economy for her national debt is now 121,000,000,000 marks, and the hour of reckoning will come when there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth on the part of the taxpayers.

The Reichstag was told yesterday that the German financial situation was made in the Reichstag on March 1 by Count Arthur von Posadowsky-Wehner, former vice-chancellor, according to the Cologne Gazette received here.

The count, who is not a member of any political party, said that when he was at the head of the imperial treasury department, the national debt was then 1,150,000,000 marks, and he had considered that amount as terribly high. Schemes to decrease the debt through new taxes were not approved at the time, and the Government continued to increase the debt instead of taking in the battle for new taxes.

Talk of depriving the wealthy classes of part of their possessions was deprecated by the count. The burdens of the empire would be tremendous, heavy, and he did not think that imperial loans should be redeemed by the burdens of the wealthy classes, "who desired to uphold the economic life of the nation."

THE NEW TAXES.

Amsterdam, April 18.—Germany's proposed new taxes, according to a telegram from Berlin, are expected to yield a total of 3,152,000,000 marks. Of this sum 1,000,000,000 marks will be obtained by an extension of the tax on business turnover, while 850,000,000 marks will be derived from the spirits monopoly.

Germans Completely Repulsed Three Times In the Bailleul Sector Wednesday Forenoon.

LOCON-ROBECQ FRONT BUSY

Severe Losses Inflicted On Foe Yesterday as He Attacked in Three Waves at Forest of Nieppe-Wytschaete.

London, April 18.—Southeast of Kemmel Hill, on the northern battlefield, the Germans pressed back the British line slightly, but the situation was restored by a counter-attack, the war office announces. During the night there was no change in the British front.

In the Bailleul sector the Germans made three attacks before noon yesterday, and in each case suffered a complete repulse.

The Germans opened a heavy bombardment of the British positions on the southwestern part of the Lys battlefield, between Locon and Robecq, during the night. The bombardment was still in progress at dawn today.

TEXT OF STATEMENT.

"There has been no change on the British front during the night."

"The hostile artillery has shown great activity on the southern portion of the Lys battlefield from Ginchy to east of Robecq. A heavy bombardment of our positions between Locon and Robecq was still continuing at dawn. Local attacks were repulsed by our troops yesterday evening in the Marris sector."

LINE INTACT.

"More detailed accounts of the fighting of yesterday on the forest of Nieppe-Wytschaete front establishes the severity of the enemy's losses. Southeast of Kemmel Hill the German infantry attacked in three waves, and at one point pressed back our line slightly. In this locality the situation was restored by a counter-attack, and shortly after mid-day the attack had been repulsed at all points. In the Bailleul sector the enemy attacked three times before mid-day, and in each case suffered repulse."

"Our line yesterday evening was reported intact on the whole front."

BEAT OFF ENEMY.
With the British Army in France, April 18.—(By the Associated Press.)—The Germans brought up fresh divisions for the hard thrusts which they made yesterday. Although the British were unable to hold Wytschaete and Metere, which they had held for a brilliant time, they did not allow the enemy to advance elsewhere. The British maintained their line throughout the night.

A renewed heavy bombardment of the British front between La Bassée Canal, at Ginchy and the Nieppe Forest, suggests the Germans contemplate another heavy drive in this region, in the hope of taking Bethune and creating a new salient.

All the areas back of this section of the front were sprinkled with gas shells throughout last night. At 6 o'clock this morning the bombardment was nearly of drumfire intensity between Locon and Robecq, where the enemy has tried repeatedly to advance his line to the east.

An effort made by the fourth German army, which holds the enemy right flank to the sea, to drive in the front of the Allies from the coast was extended yesterday to the Yser region held by the Belgians. At half-past 8 o'clock in the morning, after an all-night bombardment, the Germans attacked on a front of four miles between Langemark and Kippe.

The Germans gained a footing in the Belgian advance position, but they were thrown out after a fight lasting nearly all day. The Belgians took 600 prisoners, and the German attack was repulsed to seven different regiments, which represented one Bavarian, two Prussian and one marine infantry divisions.

British Headquarters in France, April 18.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.)—Yesterday was a strenuous time for our infantry in co-operation with the French, who are now engaged in the northern battle area.

The day was satisfactory, the record being heavily in our favor. The German waves dashed against our line in half a dozen places, but only at Hever Hill did they cause us to yield ground, which was counter-attacked and regained.

The heaviest onslaught occurred southeast of Kemmel Hill, and was repulsed. When the German infantry advanced over the dreary waste the great cry in the air was of Europe's soldiers another ghastly toll.

The German attack against the Belgians, which was repulsed, was especially noteworthy. In this stage of the campaign the enemy employed four divisions, 1,000,000 men, and one of marine infantry on one Bavarian and two Prussian. An intense night-long bombardment was probably counted upon to forestall all resistance, but the Germans speedily found that they were mistaken, for the Belgians put up a fight ranking as one of the epic of their splendid war story, finally driving back the Germans in confusion and taking over 600 prisoners. This brilliant victory was on a stretch of six kilometers between Langemark and Kippe.

THREATEN TO STRIKE.

Ottawa, April 18.—Freight handlers in the local Canadian Northern Railway are threatening to strike on May 1 if the company refuses to grant them an increase in wages.