

SITUATION REGARDED AS SATISFACTORY BY THE MILITARY EXPERTS

There is Much Speculation Owing to Absence of News but There is Distinct Feeling of Confidence in Result of Present Battle.

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Oct. 1.—Although speculations, rife in both Paris and London yesterday of decisive news from the French battle front are not yet fulfilled, the official bulletin is still regarded as satisfactory. The German army, which crossed the Meuse between Verdun and Toul, seems to have made no progress and the uneasiness which was at one time felt over this apparent piercing of the allied line has now disappeared in the belief that the allies have strongly corks up the enemy at St. Mihiel.

German manoeuvres. The Daily Chronicle says: "They may have been to some extent prepared, but they must possess an admirably organized and capably administered system of supply enable their army corps to face around, to be heavily reinforced from distant parts of the line and to be supplied with all requirements to sustain a great contest. In Belgium the German operations against Antwerp are absolutely necessitated, primarily by the fact that the place is a standing danger to their line of communications. After the reduction of Namur and Maubege, the hope that the Antwerp forts can resist the big German howitzers is small, and one fort is already reported destroyed. But the Belgian field army may cause the invaders trouble by fighting from entrenchments."

RUSSIAN ARTILLERY ADMITTED BY GERMANS TO BE VERY EFFECTIVE

[By Special Wire to the Courier] AMSTERDAM, Oct. 1.—The Lokal Anzeiger, one of the leading newspapers of Berlin, says: "The Russian field artillery merits the universal recognition of German troops. The first volley of a Russian battery misses the mark. The second is inadequate, the third hits straight at the target, and woe unto those who are aimed at, and who have not time to change their position. Their annihilating in such a case is absolutely inevitable."

The specialty of the Russian field artillery consists in striking at the staffs of the enemy's army. All ordinary positions occupied by leaders of hostile forces are immediately subjected by the Russians to the deadliest conceivable fire. This circumstance necessitates a constant change of position on the part of the German commanders.

WANTON DESTRUCTION OF AN UNFORTIFIED TOWN BY THE GERMAN ARTILLERY

Following a Severe Repulse Guns Were Deliberately Trained Upon Innocent People—Every House Destroyed.

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Oct. 1.—Telegraphing from Paris, under date of Wednesday, the correspondent of the Daily Mail describes the complete destruction by the German heavy artillery of the open and unfortified town of Albert, 18 miles from Amiens, which has been the scene during the past few days of a prolonged and terribly murderous artillery battle. He says: "The struggle on the part of the Germans to prevent their right wing being turned, compelled them continually to push their front further north and to the west, while the allies continually replied by extending their front to overlap the enemy, both sides bringing up large reinforcements. This necessitated long marches of twenty to twenty-five miles a day and the Germans were repeatedly called upon to make a desperate effort in order to avoid being outflanked, whereby they suffered very heavy losses. On Saturday they began to realize that their efforts were in vain. They therefore changed their tactics and tried to drive a wedge into the allies front. The point of that wedge was the town of Albert. The attempt almost succeeded. They threw up and massed their artillery, and the French infantry suffered considerably. They kept up a fire so rapid in character that at night the whole sky was lit up by bursting shells. On Sunday they gained perceptibly, and on Monday they still pressed, but by that time the French had brought up large numbers of their famous quick firing batteries and their deadly fire checked the German advance. Yesterday the enemy kept up his efforts gamely, but by late afternoon it had clearly failed of its aim. There were French batteries at various points around Albert, but none within a mile of the town. At ten minutes past five, German shells from their heavy guns began to fall. Here is one account of the scene from an eyewitness who was on a hill overlooking Albert. "We were warned along the road to be careful and saw a vast column of people coming away from the town, but nothing happened until at ten minutes past five when we heard a deep boom, quite unlike the noise made by an ordinary field gun, and a shell, evidently of much greater force and size, fell in the town. We thought it must be an accident of mis-direction, and then to our intense surprise the shells began to fall rapidly. They came in bunches. There were several batteries at work and their aim was excellent. I only saw three shells burst outside the town. The place collapsed literally like a pack of cards that had been built up into houses, as every moment something fresh went. Now it was the town hall, now a group of cottages and then a high wall. It reminded one of a scene in a Drury Lane melodrama. One could not believe without an effort, that one was seeing a real town shelled. It was just as if some inventor had made a new kind of explosive and he had invited his friends to see him demolish a model of a town. I stayed there an hour fascinated. "That brings the story up to 6.15 when the witness left with some wounded who had been brought out of the town. The road towards Amiens was that time was packed with refugees of all ages, and old men and women, too feeble to walk, were being wheeled in barrows. "At half past six a number of fires lighting up the whole countryside, were visible. Looking toward Albert they appeared to be hay racks which had been set alight by shells. The largest of these red glares, however, was Albert on fire. Against the flaming background the tall spire of a church stood out uninjured up to eight o'clock, but it was impossible to enter the town, as the heat was too great and the streets too unsafe."

FOOD QUESTION IS SAID TO BE VERY GRAVE ONE FOR AUSTRIANS

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Oct. 1.—The food question is a grave one in Austria, according to a despatch to the Daily Mail from Chasso, Switzerland. The Austrian Emperor has issued an edict empowering the government to take all measures necessary to alleviate the situation. The price of corn is double that of normal times, and is increasing at the rate of three per cent daily. German and Austrian dealers are travelling in neutral countries, the despatch says, trying to

buy corn and announcing at the same time that it is intended for other countries. Italy has demanded that the fullest guarantees be given that corn purchased there is not to go to Austria. Rumania's embargo on the export of corn has caused consternation in Austria, according to the despatch, and it is said that Austria is now making desperate efforts to get wheat from the United States, but the blockade of the Adriatic makes relief from this quarter doubtful. The shortage of food is also felt in the German army, the despatch declares.

L. E. & N. Makes Fine Donation

The following communication has been received with great enthusiasm among Brantford patriotic workers: Hayey T. Watt, Esq., Sec. Brantford Patriotic and War Relief Fund, City: Dear Sir,—I have very great pleasure, on behalf of the Lake Erie & Northern Railway Company, in stating that I have been authorized to subscribe the sum of \$2,000.00 for the Patriotic Fund of this city. We trust this contribution will be a decided boost toward making the \$100,000, which we understand has been your objective. Yours sincerely, W. P. BELLETT, Gen. Mgr. Lake Erie & Northern Ry. Co.

POLISH PEASANTS GOT REVENGE WHEN THEY ALSO HANGED GERMAN SOLDIERS

Some Incidents of the Campaign in the East—Russians are Enjoying Life on the Game Estate of Kaiser William.

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Oct. 1.—The correspondent of the Telegraph at Petrograd, telegraphing regarding the operations in Russian Poland near the East Prussian border, says: "The triangle formed by joining St. Shutzlin, Augustown and Osowaz, is little more than a vast swamp, making military operations difficult, even in the best weather. Rain has been falling heavily for the past two days, but the Russians nevertheless are pushing on determinedly. "The recent fighting has been sanguinary, two German divisions having been destroyed in the battle of Druskenki. In the west of Russian Poland the brushes between the advance guards continues. "The Polish peasants are extremely bitter against the Germans, and this feeling has been increased by contact with German humor. As an instance, the Germans everywhere pretended to pay for supplies with documents written in German, which the

peasants do not understand. When translated, the peasants found that these papers had inscribed thereon, 'Whoever presents this at the end of the war will be hanged.' "There has probably been sniping by the civilian population, as the bodies of six peasants were found hanging to a tree in a Polish town a few days ago. Their fellow townsmen had revenge, and two days later a German scouting party found the bodies of twenty-two German soldiers hanging from the same tree. "A letter received here from a Russian officer who is camping on the estate of Emperor William at Romiaten, East Prussia, says: 'William's estate is magnificently equipped, and we have everything at our disposal that we could wish. We are enjoying particularly delicious dinners prepared by his fine cooks. "His park swarms with rare animals and birds. We are teaching his parrots the Russian language and they are learning to address their imperial master with compliments I should blush to repeat in company.' "

HELD ON AND WON A GREAT FIGHT

French General Gives a Remarkable Example of Courage.

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Oct. 1.—The correspondent of the Daily Mail at Amiens, under date of Sunday, in describing the heavy fighting around Peronne, which has been taken and retaken at various times, says it is impossible to hear of the dogged courage of the French troops without a thrill of warm admiration. "At eleven o'clock one morning," he says, "the French advance was subjected to a terrible concentrated fire, and it seemed impossible for the troops to hold their ground. The French artillery had to abandon position after position. "At twelve o'clock the shells began to fall around the cross roads where the staff was located, and the general in command was urged to quit. 'No!' he said, 'as long as I stay here we cannot retreat, and we have simply got to hold on.' "He said the same thing when three farms close by were in flames. He said it and he meant it and saved the day. His men held their own. At four o'clock the German fire slackened a little and an infantry attack was pushed forward. "That evening the French guns were occupying the position which the German guns had held all day. The general had held on."

SCREEN OF SECRECY IS PENETRABLE IN SOME SPOTS ONLY

All Leads to the Belief That Great Victory is Near if Not Already Won—German Losses Will Stagger the World.

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Oct. 1.—The screen of secrecy erected by the censorship, almost entirely across northern France and behind which military craftsmen for the past three weeks have been, figuratively speaking, fashioning the rough outlines of a new map of the eastern hemisphere, stands to-day almost unimpaired. It has, however, judging from indications in London, been pierced here and there with the holes which permit some inkling of the events happening on the stage behind it. From what can be deduced from these glimpses there would appear to be justification, in the opinion of British observers, for the confident, even seemingly insouciant optimism on the part of the allies. This describes events as shaping themselves for a repetition of history as it was written on the river Marne, when the allied forces sent the Germans back on their tracks. All the brilliant skillful tactics employed by General Von Kluck the commander of the German right wing, to counter or break through the band of bayonets constantly reaching northward beyond his extreme right, has thus far failed. These efforts, however, have by no means ceased, and the German general staff, it is felt in London, probably will risk something else wherein order to

reinforce this wing before the end of the chapter is written. Heretofore reinforcements have been met by reinforcements in this critical quarter of the battlefield. The Germans nearly got through the allied ring near Albert, to the north of Amiens, but after two days of fierce struggle for the mastery they failed. These incessant assaults on the part of the Germans, have, according to the allied commanders whose reports are augmented by statements from independent sources, cost the assailants such appalling losses in men that, even allowing for reinforcement, their ranks must have been materially weakened. The announcement from France of the recreation of the post of Marshal of France, coming simultaneously with the report of General Joffre, commander-in-chief of the French action along the entire battle line, has been hailed by the allies as peculiarly significant. In the eastern field the German navy is showing increased activity on the Baltic coast. It is in readiness to support German land forces if they succeed in forcing the passage of the river Niemen. In the meantime there has come to London news that within a week a new Russian army a million strong will join the present armies in Poland and Galicia, for Russia's principal attack on Germany."

GERMAN "TRUTH"

An Official Statement at Berlin Given Out Last Night.

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Oct. 1.—An official statement issued from German general headquarters under date of the evening of Sept. 30, is given in a despatch to Reuters' Telegram Company from Berlin, via

Amsterdam. It says: "The hostile forces advanced to the north and south of Albert (a town of France 18 miles north east of Amiens) have been repulsed. The front battle line is without change. "In Argonne our attack is progressing steadily though slowly. At the outer forts on the Meuse the line is without change. "Yesterday, the army advanced in Alsace and Lorraine, in the Central Vosges. His attacks were energetically repulsed. The eastern theatre is without news. "The allies' flank movement against the Germans in France is developing rapidly."

POPULATION OF THE CITY SHOWS ONLY A VERY SLIGHT DECREASE

Annual Report of Assessors is Submitted To-day—An Increase is Shown in the Assessment Values—Recommendations Made by the Department.

Table with 5 columns: Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 3, Ward 4, Ward 5. Rows include: Value of assessable property, Value of business, Value of income, Total value of assessable property, business and income, Value of exemptions, Number of persons, Number of dogs, Increase of assessable property, Increase of business, Increase of income, Decrease of income, Increase of exemptions, Increase of population, Decrease of population, Total increase in taxable property, Total increase in taxable business, Total increase in taxable income, Total increase in taxable exemptions, Total taxable assessment, Total exempt assessment, Total decrease in population, Total increase in dogs, Total population, Total number of dogs.

WAR SUMMARY

[By Special Wire to the Courier] Slight advances by both wings of the allied armies are indicated in an official statement issued by the French war office at 2.30 o'clock this afternoon. At the same time the general situation is described as unchanged. "We have," nevertheless," says the statement, "made progress on our left to the north of Somme, and on our right in the southern Woivre district."

land state that Austria is confronted with a serious shortage of food supplies. "A correspondent at Paris, referring to the events of yesterday, says that the Germans continue a fierce attack on the Allies on the angle formed by the rivers Oise and Aisne in the direction of Tracy-Le-Mont. Yesterday's statement by the French War Office said that the Germans were repulsed at Tracy Le Mont.

The brief announcement from Paris affords the only light from official sources thrown on the great struggle in northern France to-day. London and Berlin were still silent in the late afternoon and what official reports reached this country by way of the capitals of the belligerents, contained little to indicate the course of events on the different battlefields.

A French national committee is appealing for winter clothing for the troops, declaring that a long campaign in cold weather is a possibility. France has revived the office of Marshal of France. British revenues for the first half of the fiscal year ending yesterday fell off \$13,500,000, while expenditures were increased by nearly \$20,000,000.

The latest Berlin announcement made last night, said that the allies had been repulsed at Albert, 18 miles northeast of Amiens, and that the German attack in Argonne was progressing steadily although slow. The most recent word from the Belgian war office, also given out last night, stated that the Belgians were successful in repulsing the attack of the Germans on Antwerp.

Fighting in the Far East has begun in earnest with an attack by the German warships on the land positions of the Japanese, who are besieging Tsing-Tau. The refusal of Germany to withdraw from this leased possession caused Japan to declare war. An official statement issued at Tokyo to-day says that Japanese siege guns sunk a German torpedo boat destroyed, while a Japanese mine sweeper was sunk off the harbor and a Japanese supply ship damaged. The somewhat vague Japanese statement gives the impression that the battle continues without definite result thus far.

Nothing is made known of the progress of the fighting in the eastern theatre of the war to-day. A despatch from Petrograd, under yesterday's date, says that a German squadron bombarded Windau, a Russian seaport in the Baltic, on September 24. The forts replied to the fire of the ships, which, after destroying the lighthouse, withdrew. General Von Auffenburg, commander of the first Austrian army, is reported ill with cholera at Vienna.

The thirty-eighth German casualty list published to-day contains the names of 8,000 officers and men killed, wounded or missing.

A BUSY CRUISER

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Oct. 1.—The admiralty announces that the British cruiser Cumberland has captured off the Cameron river in West Africa, the Hamburg-American liner Arnfried and the following merchant steamers: The Max Brock, Kenapa, Amisack, Paul Woermann, Ernst Woermann, Henrietta Woermann, Aline Woermann, Hans Woermann and the Jeanette Woermann. All are in good order.

The full \$600,000 securities for the construction of the Toronto-Hamilton concrete roadway has been subscribed.

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