

BITTER BATTLE RAGES ROUND FRESNOY

Germans Hold Recaptured Town Only With Greatest Difficulty || Terrible Losses Inflicted Upon Foe; Fall of Fresnoy Imminent || Fury of Battle Equal to That of Douamont and Vimy Ridge

Tide of Fighting Sweeps About Small Storm Centre

Recapture of Fresnoy by British Forces Seems Imminent, and Will Signify Extension of Entire Drocourt Line

The battle for Fresnoy continues to rage with a fury which recalls the bloody struggles for Forts Douamont and Vaux in the days of the battle of Verdun. Thousands of lives are being poured out for the mastery of the little heap of ruins that was once a village and the blackened, blasted stumps that were once a wood until Fresnoy threatens to rank with Vimy in the price paid for its possession.

The great importance of the position is due to the fact that it forms the last important defence to the northern end of the Drocourt-Queant line and also covers the only remaining railroad to Lens, connecting the coal city with the main German line to the south. The Drocourt-Queant line traverses one side of a railroad triangle which has Lens, Arras and Vitry at its respective angles. All of one side of this roughly equilateral triangle is in the hands of the British and about one half of its base. Fresnoy must be held if the whole triangle is not to be evacuated and the fall of Lens rendered certain.

The enormous concentration of German divisions on the British front and the marked increase in German power give added significance to the reports that Field Marshal von Hindenburg is withdrawing both men and artillery from the eastern area. The disorganization of the Russian army has apparently had a very serious effect on the whole allied situation and has materially increased the burdens imposed on the British and French.

The news from Russia is far from reassuring in any respect and apparently, the provisional government is still in a precarious position.

ARGENTINE SAILING SHIP SUNK BY GERMAN U-BOAT

Positive Information That Submarine Was Responsible For Torpedoing of Oriana; Action is Demanded

Courier Leased Wire. Buenos Aires, May 10.—Buenos Aires newspapers declare that the government has positive information that the Argentine sailing ship Oriana has been sunk by a German submarine. The papers say that the incident is graver than the sinking of the Monte Protegido and demand that the government act.

On April 11 that the Oriana had been sunk by a German submarine off the coast of Brazil. A later report placed the scene of the loss of the ship in the Mediterranean. The Monte Protegido was sunk early in April in European waters. The incident caused great excitement in Buenos Aires, where popular demonstrations against Germany took place. In response to a note demanding satisfaction, the German Government offered reparation and the incident was declared closed.

As To Antwerp. Amsterdam, via London, May 10.—Hamburg merchants indulge in no hopes that Antwerp will pass under German control, according to the Hamburg papers. At a meeting of the leading business men of the port, called for the discussion of canal projects, a resolution was adopted condemning the proposition to build a canal from the Main to the Danube. Herr Mathies, president of the Hamburg chamber of commerce, said that such a canal would merely profit Rotterdam and Antwerp whose harbors were not German and never would be German.

Weather Bulletin

Toronto, May 10.—The disturbance which was off the Nova Scotia coast yesterday morning, has moved north eastward to Prince Edward Island with increased intensity accompanied by strong winds and gales with rain throughout the Maritime provinces. The weather has continued fair and warm in the Western Provinces. Fresh northwest and north winds, fair to-day and on Friday, not much change in temperature.

AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK IN BRITAIN IS DISCOURAGING

Late Sowing, Poor Yield, Wet Autumn and Severe Winter Followed by an Unfavorable Spring; State of Fields is Serious and Requires Much Attention

London, April 30.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—Reports of the agricultural outlook in Great Britain are almost uniformly discouraging. Not even the oldest farmer recalls a more trying time than that through which he has just been passing. A late sowing, a poor yield, a wet autumn and severe winter, have been followed by a spring with all the marked characteristics of December.

The state of the fields is called in all the agricultural reports "serious" although it is still possible that a period of warm weather might change the situation considerably by the end of May. The history of many of the best of the British crops this year is a story sowing in November and re-sowing in April. In many cases the autumn sowing was destroyed completely and some fresh sowing had to be hastily devised. The wheat area, it is stated, cannot be large this year. Oats cannot yet be estimated, and barley for some reason is in disfavor, although on good barley lands there is yet a sound crop to grow.

In the middle of April potato farmers were still awaiting a favorable moment to push ahead their planting. Everything is late. The farmers' calendar is out of gear, for the farmer must wait upon the weather. Potato planting in normal years is completed in England by mid-April, and the same may be said of barley and oats. Moreover there is a scarcity of seed, owing to the wide destruction of autumn sown crops, and there are appeals for economy in seed stocks.



The Sultan—"Bring me all my wives called Maude."

GERMANY CHARGES TREACHERY

German Americans Betrayed Mother Country, Declares Teuton Journal

Amsterdam, via London, May 10.—Bitter condemnation of German-Americans is the feature of an article in the Kreuz Zeitung on mobilization in the United States. The writer first seeks comfort in expressing utter disdain for the present American Army, comments on the costliness of volunteer recruiting and the obstacles to conscription such as a lack of lists of men capable of bearing arms. Referring to the loyal resolutions passed at meetings of German-Americans he says:

"German-Americans could not betray their old mother country more shamefully, seeing that nobody will, assert that the existence of the United States is endangered by Germany. The more pitiful is the cowardly zeal with which the two million German-Americans in their national associations disown their race in time of distress. "The term German faithfulness is hereby forever dishonored. Nothing any longer binds us to these 'German' Americans. We only cherish one wish, that, as speedily as possible, they erase the word German from the name of their organizations, its use being as insulting to the German people as to themselves."

LEGION OF HONOR AWARDED TO CAPT. A. BISHOP

Awarded by French Government to Capt. A. Bishop

Had Already Been Decorated by the Serbian King

Mr. Frank Bishop received a cablegram from his son, Capt. Arthur Bishop, stating that he had been awarded the French Legion of Honor for brave work at Neuve Chapelle in 1915.

Capt. Bishop had already been given the Order of Saba from the Serbian King for his work in connection with the British expedition to the refugee Serbians. He is the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bishop, 21 years of age, and a graduate of the Royal Military College. He lost one eye immediately after the battle of Neuve Chapelle, and was invalided for a long time. After a furlough at home he returned and is now stationed at Chatham with the Middlesex regiment.

SHORTAGE OF PAPER IN BERLIN

Newspapers May Be Forced to Suspend Publication This Week

Copenhagen, via London, May 10.—The Berlin newspaper publishers have informed Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg that they are in pressing danger of being forced to suspend publication at the end of this week or the beginning of next, owing to the paper shortage. They ask the chancellor to take steps to increase the supply and particularly to furnish fuel to paper factories.

The situation was recently emphasized by the newspapers in refusing to publish a speech before the reichstag by Vice-Chancellor Helfferich. Amsterdam, via London, May 10.—In the course of a discussion of the colonial budget before the reichstag committee, the Socialist deputy, Gustav Noske, said that the Socialist demands for peace without annexation naturally included the maintenance of German colonial possessions and compensation for any alterations of the frontier or abandonment of parts of the colonies. Dr. Solf, colonial secretary, heartily commended Deputy Noske's statement. He added that the entire reichstag, with the exception of the Independent Socialists, stood for colonial reconstruction, "which," he concluded, "I foresee with positive certainty."

German Losses Incredibly Heavy in Holding Their Gains; Canadian Troops and Men From the South of England in Battle

By Courier Leased Wire

London, May 10.—Correspondents at British headquarters in France referring to the situation at Fresnoy say the village had been difficult to hold ever since the Canadians captured it last Thursday. As the British were not in possession of the villages of Acheville and Oppy, respectively to the north and south, Fresnoy was greatly exposed. Standing out from the line like a bastion, the Germans made strong attacks daily on each side of the village to prevent the British from getting forward to strengthen their position. In their final assault the Germans employed vastly more men than the British had used in taking the village. Their losses are declared to have been so severe that if we had used up every man we had on the field we should not have approached them in numbers, and if the operation cost us some ground we have a large credit in manpower to balance it.

The Canadians apparently were not the main defenders of the position, the brunt of the attack falling on South England troops, whose stubborn resistance is highly praised. It is said that they were worn out and compelled to give way before overwhelming strength. Nevertheless it was the same men who, after an hour's breathing spell, reattacked and recovered a large part of the ground. The correspondents describe the setback as being on a small scale and such as is bound to occur from time to time, provided the enemy is willing to stand the losses such assaults entail.

Bulletin, Paris, May 10.—Noon—A fortified position on the Vaulerc plateau was captured last night by the French, it is officially announced. Heavy artillery fighting continues in this region, where the Germans made a counter-attack with a division of fresh troops. Several German counter-attacks along the Chemin-des-Dames were repulsed.

London, May 10.—Progress was made by the British last night in the neighborhood of Bullecourt, east of Gricourt and south of the Souchez River, says to-day's official announcement.

NO HOPE OF IMMEDIATE PEACE IS ENTERTAINED

German Socialists, While Urging Conference of Various Nations, Expect Only to Keep Torch of Peace Flickering

Copenhagen, via London, May 10.—The peace mission of M. Borbjerg, the Danish Socialist leader and editor of the Social Demokrat, which has been made known to the committee of the Soldiers and Workmen's delegates of Russia, apparently is taking more seriously in radical Socialist circles in Petrograd than either here or in Berlin. M. Borbjerg's own paper here tends to weaken the positive announcements of the Petrograd news agency by a denial that M. Borbjerg has any official mission beyond inviting the Russian Socialists to the Stockholm conference and the declaration that the peace conditions he described may be regarded as part of the peace programme which the Danish Socialists, after a conference with Philipp Scheidemann, leader of the majority Socialists in Germany, made as the possible basis for a settlement.

No comment has yet been received from Berlin concerning this situation, but the latest advice received by the Associated Press here were that Herr Scheidemann and his associates now entertained little expectation of any immediate peace, and that the utmost they expected from the Stockholm conference was to keep burning the flickering torch of peace. The German Government through Dr. Helfferich, the vice-chancellor and The Cologne Gazette has disassociated itself from the Socialist programme and there is reason to believe it is now placing its hopes in (Continued on Page five)

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