

MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION OF ALLIES

DEFEATED IN FLANDERS TONS PREPARING BLOW IN PICARDY

Germans Turn to Southern Side of Angle in Allied Lines in Northern France, Their Artillery on Thursday Night and Yesterday Concentrating Heavy Fire on Line Between Givenchy and Nippe Forest—Tremendous Cannonade in Lys Region, but No Heavy Infantry Fighting Anywhere on the Western Front—Patrols of Allies Capture Hill 82, North of Castel.

Having met with a reverse in their operations on the northern side of the Flanders salient, where the French and British have stood shoulder to shoulder in defence, of Ypres and the high ground which forms a bulwark in front of the channel ports, the Germans have, as indicated by the most recent reports, turned to the southern side of the angle in the allied lines in northern France. On Thursday night and Friday the German artillery had seemingly centered its fire on the line between Givenchy and the Nippe Forest, and it may be that the enemy soon will launch an attack against this vital section of the British line.

Despatches from the British headquarters tell of a tremendous cannonade in the Lys region, which may be taken to mean the part of the Flanders battlefield at or near Merville, where the Germans made their greatest advance after the fall of Armentieres.

Articles appearing in German newspapers would seem to indicate efforts to prepare the German people for an announcement that there will be no immediate attempt to take Ypres. Experts, writing what may be considered inspired reviews of the situation, say that nothing would be gained by the capture of the ruined city. This may mean that the Germans will turn their attention to some other part of the front for a new effort and the bombardment of the lines near Merville and further east may be the first step in an attempt to either bore straight through the allied armies, or cut through toward the south and force a British retirement from the Arras-Lens sector. So far as known no infantry fighting has occurred in this sector in the past day.

While waiting for the Germans to make the next move, the allies have not been idle. All along the line, their patrols have been active and at Handgard and Villers-Bretonneux, before

THE QUEBEC, MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIAN MEN BUSY

Ottawa, May 3.—Major-General S. C. Mewburn, minister of militia, today received from Sir Edward Kemp, minister of overseas forces, a cable regarding operations of the Canadian corps in France. The cable states: "During April 27th and 28th there were three raids on the enemy, resulting in the capture of one officer, fifty-five other ranks, five machine guns, one grenadier, probably (probably grenade thrower), and, in addition, heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy. "British Columbia troops raided the enemy north of Lens at 11.15 p. m., April 27th. The enemy was frisky, stubborn and refused to surrender. Eleven Germans were seen killed. No prisoners were captured, but shoulder straps furnished important identification. "A raiding party from a Manitoba battalion entered the enemy trenches north of Lens, inflicting heavy casualties. It is estimated that twenty Germans were killed. Two prisoners were taken, and one machine gun captured. Our casualties were slight. "Manitoba and Quebec troops carried out a successful operation on April 28th. They penetrated the enemy's defences to a depth of five hundred yards, inflicting heavy casualties and captured one officer, fifty-two other ranks, four machine guns and one grenadier. Our casualties were slight."

PARLIAMENT WILL RUSH BUSINESS SAYS PREMIER

Ottawa, May 3.—The house begins morning sittings on Tuesday. It will also sit on Saturdays, beginning Saturday, May 11, till the end of the session. In presenting a motion to this effect this afternoon, Sir Robert Borden said that certain reasons made it highly desirable that ministers should be relieved of their duties in parliament at no very distant date. There were two alternatives. One was to work a little harder and get through in

LOCAL FIGHTING ONLY STATES MARSHAL HAIG

Enemy Artillery Display Much Activity North of Albert in Morning.

BIG PEACE OFFENSIVE EXPECTED BY CECIL

New Offer Not Likely to Contain Any Terms Allies Can Look At.

London, May 3.—"In local fighting last night south of Villers-Bretonneux," says Field Marshal Haig's communication issued tonight, "our troops co-operated with the French and secured a few prisoners. "The enemy artillery showed considerable activity this morning north of Albert, in the Beasmont-Hamel sector. Apart from artillery activities, on both sides on the other parts of the front, there is nothing to report."

"The personal opinion of Lord Robert Cecil, minister of munitions, the failure of Germany's 'knockout offensive' on the western front will result in a big peace offensive, directed mainly against Great Britain, and possibly made in an attractive form, but which will not afford any terms the allies can look at. "In this opinion, made in a statement to The Associated Press, Lord Robert expressed the further belief that the new peace offensive would be largely for German consumption, because the rulers of Germany know if they have to rely on their own resources they cannot hold out much longer. "Eight German ships were brought down on May 2 and twelve others, gravely damaged, fell behind their lines during a series of combats with our aviators. Effectual aerial bombardment was carried out during the day and night of May 2. 27,000 kilograms of projectiles being dropped on the railway stations at Ham, Neufch, Royes, Chaulnes and Quentin, and upon the bivouacs and cantonments in these regions. Seven thousand kilograms of bombs were thrown on enemy establishments in the region of Bethel and upon the railroad station at Asfeld-La-Ville."

LaPointe, the minister of militia stated that men subject to the call for military service who have married since July 6th, 1917, when the military service act was passed, are still regarded as single men. "The house then took under consideration Hon. A. K. McLean's resolution upon which a bill is based, giving the Dominion government power to renew or extend loans of the C. N. R. system maturing during the present year. Mr. McLean explained that this power had not been taken in the legislation last session. As a great many of the C. N. R. issues bear a low rate of interest it is a difficult matter, he said, to secure their renewal without increasing the rate of interest. The legislation, the minister explained, would not increase the obligation of the Dominion government. This step was desirable from the standpoint of national interest. He expressed the hope that renewals could be obtained for three years, which would probably be beyond the war period.

U. S. WHEAT PRICES. Washington, May 3.—The senate again today formally recorded itself in favor of increasing the government minimum guaranteed price for wheat from \$2 to \$2.50 a bushel despite rejection of the proposal by the house. It insisted upon the wheat clause in the agricultural appropriation bill, returning the measure to conference, but it generally was expected the proposal would die there.

Call For German Boys Of Eighteen Indicates Frightful Casualties

Special Cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard. (By Hilarie Bellec).

London, May 3.—By far the most striking news of the week is the Reuter telegram from French official sources saying the higher command had information of the appearance at an early stage of a full company of the class of 1920, already in the field after only eight weeks' training.

It is much the earliest call of men yet made since the war began. These boys, not quite, or just, eighteen, are an index to the drain of the present battle. The action of last Monday, April 29, is of great importance also as an index of the stage the battle had reached after a lull of three days. Thirteen enemy divisions, of which eleven are identified, attacked the French and British along a front of 1,600 yards southwest of Ypres with the object of carrying the remainder of the line of hills of which Kemmel is the first. It is significant that this attack was met by the concentration for the first time since the northern battle began of more than half as many men on the defensive side as there were on the offensive. The order was Australians on the right in low ground south of the hills, French in the hills, joining the English near La Clytte, then English divisions on the plain beyond as far as the region of Ypres itself. The German attack was pressed all day and completely broken; its lines were nowhere advanced at the close and in places were re-tired. The loss and disorganization were so heavy that three full days were allowed to pass without any further movement. An action of this type conducted on so large a scale breaking down in the seventh week of the offensive is of significance. There is evidence of the concentration of fresh divisions on the front before Amiens.

A high English authority is quoted by the Graphic as estimating the German losses in killed, wounded and captured since March 21, as at least 900,000.

YOUNG FARMERS MUST JOIN ARMY

Government After Giving Serious Consideration to Matter Decides Necessity for Reinforcements Greater than Need for Increased Production—Leave of Absence Granted.

Ottawa, May 3.—With great deliberation Sir Robert Borden told about 300 farmers at the House today that, after giving serious consideration to the question of drafting farmers between the ages of twenty and twenty-two, for service overseas, the government had decided that the necessity for reinforcements was more pressing than the need for increased production.

The farmers, who came from all sections of Ontario, were headed by C. J. Thornton, ex-M. P. for Durham, and after an organization meeting this morning, waited upon the prime minister, Hon. N. W. Rowell, Major-General Mewburn, Hon. J. A. Crerar and Hon. Hugh Guthrie. Five of their number presented arguments against the conscription of young farmers, stating that their appeal was prompted in no sense by disloyalty but rather by a desire to serve the country and the men at the front in what they considered the best way.

Must Join Men. The prime minister did not mince matters, but told them firmly that reinforcements must be obtained, and that the government had decided on the only plan possible under the circumstances. He appreciated the difficulties the farmers would be placed in, but called their attention to the fact that hardships suffered by the people of Canada were not to be compared to those endured by the people of Great Britain and France. Sir Robert appealed to them to reflect on the onerous duties which developed on the government and to facilitate in every way the drafting of the farmers called out under the order-in-council. In concluding his remarks he referred to the registration of man and woman power, stating that industries would be given all possible assistance.

The minister of militia stated, that in order to solve the problem of seedling, he had issued instructions to commanders in the various military districts to grant leave of absence to all farmers consistently following their occupation.

GERMANS ARE IN A BAD PREDICAMENT

By Henri Bedou—Military Critic, Journal Des Debats, Paris. (Special Cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard).

Paris, May 3.—The Germans are in an awkward predicament in the west. The dominating fact is that the enemy, whose principal interest is in Picardy finds himself probably in spite of himself in a position where he is obliged to throw in considerable forces without the success he obtains bringing him nearer a solution. Having commenced April 9th south of Armentieres and Lys an engagement which was no more than a simple diversion he curved his line forward and the next day had to extend his action to the north. In this way he has dug out a vast pouch where in a few days he spent 21 divisions, but this pouch being barred on both flanks he had to disengage his right flank by an operation in the Ypres sector which led to the capture of Kemmel.

But this capture in turn makes necessary an assault on other hills and a general operation against Ypres which up to the present has been a complete check, so since April 27 the Germans have thrown into the Flanders fighting more than forty divisions. Moreover since March 21 they have engaged more than 100 divisions in Picardy of which many have fought twice and some three times. The Germans resemble at this moment a man who has eaten too big a dinner and tries to correct it by drinking more than usual. The headache is still to come.

P. E. I. MAN KILLED IN MASSACHUSETTS

Frank Hughes of Fort Augustus Falls from Barn Loft.

Boston, May 2.—Frank Hughes, a milkman employed at Lynn, has been killed by falling from the loft of the barn of his employer. Hughes belonged to Fort Augustus, P. E. I. Hughes was 24 years of age and leaves three brothers and one sister.

TEUTONS CLAIM GREAT VICTORY ON FINN SOIL

Berlin States that German Troops Win an Overwhelming Victory During 5 Days Battle, Capturing Twenty Thousand Prisoners—Results of Past Week on Whole in Flanders Satisfactory to the Allies, 150,000 Germans Being Put Out of Business—Enemy May Attack Next South of Somme.

Berlin, via London, May 3—"In southwestern Finland we have overwhelmingly defeated the enemy during a five day's battle near Lakhiti and Tavasthus, capturing 20,000 prisoners," says the German official communication issued this evening.

"Partial attacks by the enemy followed strong preparatory fire south of Villers-Bretonneux and on the western bank of the Avre. We took some prisoners in a counter-attack."

Heavy Hun Losses.

London, May 3.—A representative of General Radcliffe, director of military operations at the war office, today summed up the military situation on the western front as follows: "In the north while the Germans failed in their main objective, they made their right flank secure by the capture of Kemmel, but we must regard the operation from the viewpoint of economy of men and they used up five divisions from the general reserve besides seven or eight divisions previously employed." "The results of the past week on the whole were satisfactory, because the enemy used up a larger number of fresh divisions than the allies without strategic result. In all he used on the north front thirty-five fresh divisions, besides the nine divisions already there. "The effect of the operations in the north will be to reduce materially the number of fresh divisions the Germans have available. "As to the future the Germans have large numbers of divisions recovering which can be used shortly. It is difficult to make an exact comparison of the staying powers of the two armies, but the facts shown are in our favor. If the enemy continues his offensive in the north he must impair his chances of success in the south. "The main aim is to separate the Anglo-French armies in the south, and if the enemy continues the campaign in the north without important results he is using up his forces to no purpose."

PERSIA REPUDIATES TREATIES IMPOSED UPON HER RECENTLY

The Hague, May 3.—Persia has informed Holland that it regards as null and void all treaties, imposed on Persia in recent years, and especially the Russo-British treaty of 1907 regarding the spheres of influence in that country. The other treaties may be revised later, the communication from the Persian government states, but that of 1907, with its appendices, is definitely annulled.

In 1907, Great Britain and Russia agreed between themselves to limit the spheres of their respective interests in Persia to the provinces adjoining the Russian frontier on the one hand and the British frontier on the other. The two powers agreed to respect the integrity and independence of Persia, but at the same time contemplated the possible necessity of financial control in conformity with the principles of the agreement.

Between the Russian and British spheres a neutral sphere of about 188,000 square miles was delineated. The Russian sphere was approximately 305,000 square miles and the British about 137,000. Last January Persia asked Russia to withdraw its troops from the Russian sphere. The Bolshevik foreign minister, M. Troitzky, denounced the Russian-British agreement, in a letter to the Persian minister to Russia, as having been directed against the independence of the Persian people and as null and void.

In March it was reported a Persian delegation was on the way to Berlin to arrange a permanent Persian-German alliance.

OVER TWO BILLION DOLLARS FOR BRITISH LIQUOR TRADE

London, May 3.—The English, Scotch and Irish committees appointed to investigate the purchase and control by the state of the liquor traffic have reported in favor of the feasibility of the scheme. The cost is estimated at more than £400,000,000, but less than £500,000,000.

The Scottish and Irish committees favor the inclusion of wholesalers to make the purchase of the stocks of liquor a separate transaction from that of the other assets, thus solving the difficulty concerning their inflation of whiskey prices which has taken place since the war by application of the principle of the excess profits duty. The English committee, dealing with a smaller liquor business, declares the bulk of the stock may be regarded as working capital required to earn a profit, and that their value should be included in the sum arrived at by capitalizing the net profits of the concerns owning them. This committee maintains the trade should be bought out on the basis of the profit it was capable of earning before the war.

The Scottish and Irish committees favor the same principle of purchase on the basis of pre-war profits. All three committees agree as to the interest which must be included in the scheme. All include the export trade as subject to acquisition and all propose to exclude allied trades, such as a major portion of the hotels, clubs, railroad refreshment rooms, theatre bars, passenger vessels and dining cars. The cost of the purchase of the breweries, distilleries and public houses, with the means of supply, is estimated at £350,000,000 in England and Wales and £21,000,000 in Scotland. The Irish supplies only certain data for an estimate.

IS A S. O. S. Harold A. Swim, for 10 months employed at this office, resigned last evening and signed up in the S. O. S. movement. He is going with Mr. Leonard this summer. At Long Point, who has a large farm there, Harold has set a good example and his friends wish him success.