

BRITISH LINE HOLDING; COUNTER-ATTACKS BEGIN WITH SUCCESS

Enemy Thrown Back All Along Front—British Reserves Regain Terrain, Including Strategic Villages.

A despatch from London says:—Wednesday night's news from the battle-front confirms the hopeful impression formed early in the day that the British now appear to be on a line they are able to hold firmly, at least on the Somme and the Ancre Rivers.

Further south in the Roye-Noyon region the situation is less well defined, but it is stated that both the French and British are bringing up reserves there. The correspondents also are showing greater confidence that the enemy will be held on this terrain.

The German official communication of Wednesday night was significantly brief and reserved. It reports the crossing of the Ancre, but only refers to Tuesday's events, while the British War Office statement shows that the Germans who had crossed that stream were thrown back today in counter-attacks.

The news from the Somme front is distinctly encouraging, the British having recaptured Morlancourt and Chipilly, and advanced to Proyart.

The infantry fighting along the major portion of the British front in the new battle zone showed a marked slowing down on Wednesday morning, indicating that the first phase of the German offensive here has been finished. From the southern sectors, however, came word that the Germans were still pressing the attack with great fury against the unwavering defence.

The enemy has paused in the northern sector, probably to reorganize and bring forward much-needed artillery before beginning the second round against the stiffening opposition of the British.

Hard local battles were, still in progress, but the first fury of the German onslaught had spent itself. Several attacks which the Germans essayed were smashed, and at Sully-Le-Sec, where the Germans gained a footing, the British on Wednesday morning delivered a smashing counter-attack, which pushed the invaders back.

The spirit of optimism is higher along the front at the present time.



BIG FRENCH SHEVLS
Huns do not have all the say when it comes to ordnance. Here are some of the latest production of the French munition shops.

239 AIRPLANES BROUGHT DOWN BY BRITISH IN SEVEN DAYS

British Aviators Dropped 30 Tons of Bombs and Work Havoc Among Enemy Troops.

A despatch from London says: The official report on aerial operations on Wednesday night says:

"Great concentrations of our airplanes were carried out on Wednesday over points threatened by the enemy, and masses of our machines attacked with machine-gun fire and bombs the enemy infantry and cavalry.

"Thirty tons of bombs were dropped by us and hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition were fired into the enemy. While this fighting was maintained throughout the day, our infantry airplanes kept watch along the front and reported changes in the

situation as they occurred. "Twenty hostile machines were brought down in air fighting and two others were shot down by anti-aircraft guns. Twelve of ours are missing. "During the night our night-flying squadrons kept up a continuous attack on the enemy's troops in Ba-paume, Cambrai and Peronne. Seventy-five thousand rounds were fired by them. Twenty-four tons of bombs were dropped on important centres of the battle front. In addition, four tons of bombs were dropped on the Valenciennes railway station, through which the enemy's troop trains were passing on the way to the front."

BRAVE PART PLAYED BY FRENCH

The Anglo-French Line Holds Through Heroic Deeds of Poilus.

A despatch from the French Armies says:—The German effort by a terrific rush to get between French and British forces, with the object of defeating each separately, has failed up to the present, and is likely to continue to fail. The fighting qualities of the allied soldiers have served to stay the impulsive advance, and today the Anglo-French line is on strong positions.

The next few days may change the situation entirely, as the allies have had time to get their "manoeuvring reserve" to take the initiative. Noyon was evacuated late Tuesday night in good order, and the French took up a position near by.

The correspondent passed on Wednesday among troops who have borne a great share in the fighting of the last five days. Everywhere cheerfulness was to be found and perfect confidence in the future. Nowhere has the correspondent seen such splendid morale among troops after long, hard fighting, more especially when those troops had to fall back. Both officers and men, whether French or British, tell narratives of wonderful heroism on the part of the individuals and units.

The gunners of a battery of French 75's, in the neighborhood of Chauny, were surrounded for three days, without food, but fought until the last round was fired; then, taking advantage of some confusion among the Germans in the course of the third night, they somehow made their way through their encircling force and escaped, carrying their wounded comrades with them. This is merely one instance among many similar daring deeds.

SEEDING SEASON EARLY IN WEST

Week of Mild Weather Sees Spring Work Under Way.

A despatch from Winnipeg says: The weather in the Prairie Provinces has been Springlike for the past fortnight, exceptionally mild for March, and there is every prospect of a very early seeding this year. In the Brandon district of southern Manitoba seeding will be general within a week if the mild weather holds.

It was 67 degrees Fahrenheit at Moose Jaw, and it is raining at this and a number of points. At practically every point on the prairies temperatures have been well above 50 degrees for a week or so. At the Pacific coast it has been about 10 degrees colder.

Women of Canada—the kitchen is your fort. Food will win or lose the war.

28 BRITISH SHIPS SUNK BY U-BOATS

Submarine War in Connection With Big German Drive.

A despatch from London says: Submarines and mines have increased their weekly toll of British shipping. The Admiralty report shows that in the last week 28 merchantmen were sunk, 16 of the vessels being 1,600 tons or over and 12 under that tonnage. One fishing vessel was lost.

Nineteen merchantmen were unsuccessfully attacked. The arrivals at ports in the United Kingdom numbered 2,471, sailings 2,488.

The Admiralty report for the previous week showed the loss of 17 British merchantmen by mine or submarine, while for several weeks preceding that the weekly loss was 18.

GERMANS WOULD DESTROY BRITISH ARMY, SAYS HAIG.

A despatch from London says: Field Marshal Haig has issued the following special order of the day, dated March 23:

"To all ranks of the British army in France and Flanders: We are again at a crisis in the war. The enemy has collected on this front every available division and is aiming at the destruction of the British army. We have already inflicted on the enemy, in the course of the last few days, a very heavy loss, and the French are sending troops as quickly as possible to our support.

"I feel that every one in the army, fully realizing how much depends on the exertions and steadfastness of each one of us, will do his utmost to prevent the enemy from attaining his object."

GERMAN LOSSES 400,000. 50 PER CENT. OF EFFECTIVES.

A despatch from British Headquarters in France says: From the average of casualties in the various German units, as given by prisoners, one arrives at the conclusion that the enemy has lost 50 per cent. of these men. The official British statement of Tuesday said it had been established that more than 70 German divisions had been engaged in the battle. The present strength of a German division is 12,000 men, so that a loss of 50 per cent. would mean casualties in excess of 400,000 for the Germans in less than a week of fighting.

ADMIT SUFFERING DURE PRIVATIONS.

A despatch from London says: The tenacity of the British resistance in the big encounter, German prisoners say, exceeded anything the Germans deemed possible. They complain of great privations, on account of lack of supplies, and extreme weariness also is telling heavily. Owing to the dense masses of supporting troops, however, the enemy is able to replenish his forward line with fresh units.

VALUE OF NORTHERN FRANCE.

Why Germany Hangs Desperately to This Rich Region.

France will never consent to a peace that does not at least restore her northern districts to her for the reason that her national industries cannot be rebuilt to their pre-war standard without the wealth that these provinces hold. At present Germany holds them at a great sacrifice of life because they contain the richest products of the soil and underground stratas.

This territory, according to Lectures pour Tour (Paris), supplied one-fourth of France's wheat crops in 1912. In 1913 it furnished 87 per cent. of the sugar beets for the distilleries and 24 per cent. of the beets used for feeding purposes.

The invaded regions gave France 90 per cent. of its iron ore and 83 per cent. of its cast-iron. Half of the iron foundries are located in this captured land.

Of 55,000 shops devoted to the weaving of wool, 45,000 are held by the Germans. Ninety-four per cent. of the spinning mills of combed wool are lost; over half of the mills spinning carded wool are found in the occupied territory. Of 550,000 looms whirring before the war only 50,000 are now turning.

In cotton the same story is true. Of 7,525,000 looms in France 4,475,000 are in the Huns' grasp, and of 140,000 mechanics in the work 81,000 were taken.

The loss in dwelling houses, factories, warehouses and shops has been enormous. Thirty-eight per cent. of French factories are in German hands; 23 per cent. of the total number of dwelling houses in France are destroyed. The total damage done to northern France is estimated at 95,225,871 francs.

Germany has, with systematic precision, destroyed everything that she could not use and used everything not worth destroying. The coal and iron mines have made possible the German offensives.

A RENOWNED SPELLER.

The World's Champion Spelled 15,000 Words Correctly.

Professor David Jones, the world's champion speller, recently retired on a well-earned pension after school teaching for fifty years in Missouri. For thirty-three years the champion issued an annual challenge to all comers to spell against him. Many tried to wrest from him his title, but none succeeded.

His record is 15,000 words correctly spelled straight off the reel at one sitting without a single mistake. Professor Jones had defeated in spelling contests heads of universities, famous teachers, scholars, authors, and professional proof readers, and his sidebar is loaded with silver cups and other similar trophies, won all over the country at the once popular "spelling bees."

With him spelling is an art, just as music or painting or sculpture is an art with others. He pounces on and treasures a rare and difficult word as eagerly as an enthusiast does on a scarce and elusive butterfly.

From Erin's Green Isle

NEWS BY MAIL FROM IRELAND'S SHORES.

Happenings in the Emerald Isle of Interest to Irish.

The late Major W. C. Hall, 19th Royal Irish Rifles, was buried with military honors in Clannallan churchyard.

Thomas Hamilton, J.P., Raphoe, has been notified that his son, Lieutenant Hamilton, has been killed in action.

Several farmers were fined various amounts at the Limerick Petty Sessions for selling straw without a permit.

Pegsboro House, a fine old Tipperary mansion, has been sold by auction to Nicholas Maher, a Tipperary solicitor.

Samuel Gedde, of Waterside, Derry, was fined ten shillings for not having a price list displayed on his potatoes.

A farm sold recently at Stranorlar, Ulster, realized the sum of £129 per acre.

The remains of the late John Douglas, a member of the Dublin City Council, were interred in Glasnevin Cemetery.

Several business people of Dublin were heavily fined for exceeding the retailers' profits allowed by the Food Controller.

W. M. C. McDonald, Limerick, has sent £100 to be spent in the cultivation of plots on the lands of Derryknockane.

Another twelve months' leave of absence has been granted to Dr. J. Russell Magee, R.A.M.C. by the Derry Guardians.

WHAT THE BOYS CAN DO.

25,000 Soldiers of the Soil Should Produce 5,000,000 Bushels of Wheat.

Previous experience has shown that there are few of the phases of farm work the older boys cannot accomplish. Their main work, perhaps, lies in the fact that by attending to the chores; looking after feeding and milking of cows, weeding and such other lighter but necessary farm work, they release the regular farm labor for the more strenuous farm tasks.

Reports of work done last year show that the Soldiers of the Soil looked after the hoeing, harrowing, lighter seeding, weeding, raking, mowing, planting, churning and delivery of cream and milk, general farm chores, feeding of all live stock, and the letters received from farmers who had these older boys assisting them told not only of the good work done but also of the desire of these same farmers to have the boys help another year.

The productive capacity of 25,000 boys on the farm, according to authority, should be equal to at least five million bushels of wheat, if we take the labor of one boy as equal to the cultivation of ten acres of wheat at twenty bushels to the acre; which calculation it would appear is conservative.

Markets of the World

Breadstuffs
Toronto, April 2—Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, \$2.23; No. 2, do., \$2.20; No. 3, do., \$2.17; No. 4, wheat, \$2.14; In store Fort William including 24c tax. Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., \$1.95; No. 3 C.W., \$1.91; extra No. 1 feed, \$1.91; No. 1 feed, \$1.89; in store Fort William. American corn—The War Board in the United States prohibit importations. Ontario oats—No. 2 white, \$2 to 2 1/2; No. 3 white, \$2 to 2 1/2, according to freights outside. Ontario wheat—No. 2 Winter, per car lot, \$2.22; basis in store Montreal. Peas—No. 2, \$3.80 to \$3.70, according to freights outside. Barley—Malt, \$1.75 to \$1.78, according to freights outside. Buckwheat—\$1.83 to \$1.85, according to freights outside. Rye—No. 2, \$2.25, according to freights outside. Manitoba flour—War quality, \$11.10, new bags, Toronto. Ontario flour—War quality, \$10.70, new bags, Toronto and Montreal freights, prompt shipment. Millfeed—Car lots—Delivered Montreal, real freights, bags included: Bran, per ton, \$35.40; shorts, per ton, \$40.40. Hay—No. 1, per ton, \$17 to \$18; No. 2, per ton, \$16 to \$17; truck Toronto. Straw—Car lots, per ton, \$8.50 to \$9, truck Toronto.

Country Produce—Wholesale
Eggs—Current receipts, cases returnable, 38 to 40c. Butter—Creamery, solids, 48 to 49c; country, prints, 49 to 50c; dairy, 34 to 38c. Live poultry—Buying price, delivered. Turkeys—Chickens, 27c; milk fed, 30c; hens, 34 lbs. un., 25c; hens, 34 to 5 lb., 25 to 28c; hens, over 5 lbs., 30c; roosters, 20c; ducklings, 25c; turkeys, 30c. Dressed poultry—Chickens, 30c; milk fed, 34 lbs. un., 25c; hens, 34 to 5 lb., 25 to 28c; spring made, large, 25 to 28c; turkeys, 25c. Cured meats—Canadian, prime, bushel, \$7.50 to \$8; foreign, hand-picked, bushel, \$6.75 to \$7. Comb honey—Choice, 16 oz., \$3.50 per dozen; \$3 per dozen; seconds and dark comb, \$2.50 to \$2.75.

Provisions—Wholesale
Smoked meats—Hams, medium, 34 to 35c; do, heavy, 28 to 30c; cooked, 45 to 47c; rolls, 30 to 31c; breakfast bacon, 40 to 42c; backs, plain, 42 to 43c; house, 45 to 46c. Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 28 to 29c; clear bellies, 27 to 28c. Lard—Pure lard, tins, 30 to 30 1/2c; tubs, 30 1/2 to 30 3/4c; rolls, 30 1/2 to 31c; compound tins, 25 to 26c; tubs, 25 1/2 to 26 1/2c; rolls, 26 to 26 1/2c.

Montreal Markets
Montreal, April 2—Oats—Canadian Western, No. 2, \$1.07; extra No. 1 feed, \$1.07; No. 2 local white, \$1.07; No. 3 local white, \$1.04; No. 4 local white, \$1.03. Flour—New standard Spring wheat, grade, \$11.10 to \$11.20. Rolled oats—Bugs, 90 lbs., \$5.60; Bran—\$35.40; Shorts, \$40.40. Middlings, \$45 to \$50. Meal, \$60 to \$62. Hay—No. 2, per ton, car lots, \$17.

Winnipeg Grain
Winnipeg, April 2—Oats—No. 2 C.W., \$1.95; No. 3 C.W., \$1.91; extra No. 1 feed, \$1.91; No. 1 feed, \$1.89; Barley—No. 3 C.W., \$1.65; No. 4, \$1.60; rye, \$2.15; feed, \$1.40. Flax—No. 1 N.W.C., \$3.94; No. 2 C.W., \$3.894; No. 3 C.W., \$3.718.

United States Markets
Minneapolis, April 2—Corn—No. 3 yellow, \$1.75 to \$1.83. Oats—No. 2 white, \$1.05 to \$1.10. Flour unchanged. Bran—\$33.14. Duluth, April 2—Linseed—\$4.21 to \$4.29; arive, \$4.21; May, \$4.24; July, \$4.32 asked; October, \$3.65 asked.

Live Stock Markets
Toronto, April 2—Choice heavy steers, \$12.25 to \$12.75; good heavy steers, \$11.75 to \$12; yearlings, \$12.50 to \$13.50; butchers' cattle, choice, \$11.50 to \$11.85; do, good, \$11 to \$11.25; do, medium, \$10.50 to \$10.75; do, common, \$9.25 to \$9.50; butchers' bulls, choice, \$10.25 to \$11; do, good, \$9.25 to \$9.50; do, medium, \$8.75 to \$8.50; do, rough, \$6.50 to \$7; butchers' cows, choice, \$10.25 to \$11; do, good, \$9.25 to \$9.50; do, medium, \$8 to \$8.50; stockers, \$8 to \$9.25; feeders, \$9.50 to \$10.50; canners and cutters, \$6 to \$7; milkers, \$8 to \$9; choice, \$9 to \$12; do, com. and med., \$6 to \$8; springers, \$9 to \$12; light cows, \$12.50 to \$15; yearlings, \$11.75 to \$12.75; lambs, \$18 to \$20.50; calves, good to choice, \$16 to \$17.50; hogs, fed and watered, \$21; do, weighed off cars, \$21.25; do, r.o.b., \$20 to \$20.25.

Montreal, April 2—Choice steers, \$11 to \$13; good steers, \$10 to \$10.50; med., \$9 to \$10; choice heifers, \$10 to \$12; good cows, \$9 to \$11; medium, \$8.50; choice butchers' bulls, \$8 to \$11; canners' cattle, \$6.50 to \$9.25; milk-fed calves, \$7 to \$14; sheep, \$11 to \$13; lambs, \$14 to \$17; choice select hogs, off cars, \$21 to \$22; sows, \$19 to \$19.50.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND

NEWS BY MAIL ABOUT JOHN BULL AND HIS PEOPLE

Occurrences in the Land That Reigns Supreme in the Commerce of the World.

The Halstead Workhouse, Essex, will be closed owing to the decline of pauperism.

Tiverton has a fund to buy War Bonds for its townsman, Private T. H. Page, V.C.

Edwin Jeffrey, a local milkman, was fined £50 at Lincoln for selling adulterated milk.

Although 104 years of age, Mrs. "Granny" Lambert, of Gloucester road, Edmonton, is still hale and hearty.

Private Arthur Hutt, V.C., of Coventry, has been given £250 in War Bonds by his employers and £500 by the city.

The Aldershot Town Council have opened a communal kitchen for women workers and children, at a cost of £250.

A bill has been introduced in the Manx House of Keys to provide for local option in the Isle of Man.

Owing to ill-health, Sir George Buchanan, the British Ambassador to Russia, is returning to his home.

Berkshire school children have collected 50 tons of horse chestnuts for munitions, 19,000 eggs and invested £5,000 in war savings.

Peter Maddox, who claimed to be the oldest Freemason in England, died recently at his home in Bootles.

The steamer Wandale, while making her 500th trip from the Tyne, ran aground off Flamborough Head during a fog.

The proceeds of Prize Court sales on ships and cargoes by the Admiralty since the beginning of the war amount to over £11,000,000.

Major D. Watts Morgan, D.S.O., has been nominated by the miners as candidate for the new Parliamentary division of East Rhondda.

A fire at Layham's farm, West Wickham, Kent, destroyed about three hundred tons of unthreshed wheat, oats and barley.

Phillip Gordzinsky, a Russian baker at Mile End, was fined £100 at the London Sessions for selling bread less than four hours old.

A wild goose, which was shot on the Thurne at Martham, was found to contain five roach, one of which was six and one-half inches long.

What Maple Trees Have You?

Every average maple tree will produce about five pounds of sugar in a season.

If 200,000 farmers in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were to each tap 100 trees, we would have this year 20,000,000 trees producing.

20,000,000 trees at five pounds per tree will produce 100,000,000 pounds of sugar.

This will provide the entire supply of sugar for Canada for about three months, and would be worth approximately \$15,000,000.

Isn't it worth while as an investment, aside from the fact that every pound produced is helping the food situation?

A recent patent covers a piano or organ keyboard that can be moved laterally for transposing a musical composition written in one key to another.

The Doings of the Duffs.

