

BELGIANS CROSS YSER AND ARE MARCHING ON OSTEND

Circulation Last Week
275,850
Daily Average, 45 975

The London Advertiser

LONDON, CANADA—THE HOME OF UNBROKEN PROSPERITY.

HOME
EDITION

THE WEATHER—FAIR AND COOL.

55TH YEAR. No. 22217

THE LONDON ADVERTISER, LONDON, CANADA. THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 17, 1918. 96 COLUMNS

PRICE TWO CENTS.

VON ARNIM'S ENTIRE ARMY IS IN FULL FLIGHT FROM THE NORTH SEA TO LILLE

LILLE IS CAPTURED BY BRITISH FORCES

GERMAN ARMY UNDER GEN. VON ARNIM IS RETREATING FROM NORTH SEA TO LILLE

Seventeen Divisions of Teutons Are in Disorderly Flight Following Allied Attacks—Enemy General Has Placed His Troops in a Trap.

Paris, Oct. 17.—The whole of the German army of Gen. von Arnim is in retreat from the North Sea to the region of Lille, having been beaten back and overthrown by the Allied attacks today. The retreat is assuming the proportions of a rout. Seventeen divisions comprise the army of von Arnim.

Military observers here believe that Gen. von Arnim will have extreme difficulty in extricating himself from the position. It is held that he remained too long against all strategic and military laws when he was outflanked and virtually surrounded.

Resistance by the Germans is crumbling all along the battle-front, except in the region of the Argonne and Northern Champagne. There American troops under Gens. Liggett, Cameron and Bullard, and French troops under Gen. Gouraud, are engaged in desperate fighting.

The Prussian Guards, giving ground inch by inch, are fighting, but not surrendering, in an effort to save their right wing.

FOE'S DEFENCES ALONG THE BELGIAN FRONT ARE BEING TORN FROM TEUTON'S GRASP

Enemy Line From Sea to Swiss Frontier Can in Future Be Outflanked Instead of Being Attacked Frontally—Rapidly of Allied Attacks in Flanders Carried the Huns Off Their Feet.

Paris, Oct. 17.—The fate of the German defences along the Belgian coast, and in the great Lille industrial area, has been sealed by the continued advance of the Allied armies, under King Albert, on the 30-mile front in Flanders. The significance of the evacuation of the Belgian coast line is far greater than the gain of Flanders territory, with its many airbases and submarine bases.

The extreme right wing of the German defences in the west has been wrenched away from the protecting sea. Henceforth the immense line which has been buttressed by the sea on one end and by the Swiss frontier on the other, forcing the Allies always to attack frontally, can be outflanked.

It is believed here that the Allied attack in Flanders did not surprise the Germans, but the rapidity of the advance did. The enemy was powerless to retrieve the situation.

The Allied rush was swift, so quick that the hope is expressed here that Lille, Tournai and Roubaix will be found almost intact.

The operations in Flanders are bound to have a vital effect on the whole western line. While the British attack across the Yse has been about the evacuation of the Lille salient, the march of the Belgians on Ghent will have a marked influence on the general retreat in the west, to which the Germans are irrevocably condemned by the Flanders advance.

Gen. Ludendorff will be obliged to seek to re-establish his front crumpling operations. The Lille-Mezieres line will be out of the question, as it will be outflanked, and Ludendorff probably will have to defend the German front on the line, Antwerp-Namur-Metz. To reach this line, however, he will have to retreat swiftly on a wide front. Such a manoeuvre, it is believed here, would be most perilous, with Marshal Foch hammering relentlessly on the retreating armies. In any case, the German command here is to preserve at all costs the Ardennes pivot. That is why the Germans are offering such determined resistance to the French north

EPIDEMIC IS STILL RAGING IN PROVINCE

Reports Indicate That Conditions Have Improved in the East.

DEATH RATE UNCHANGED

Doctors Believe Precautionary Measures Now in Effect Will Help Situation.

Toronto, Oct. 17.—While dispatches from Quebec and the Maritime Provinces continue to show some improvement in the Spanish influenza situation in the east reports from different sections of Ontario indicate that the epidemic continues unchecked. Medical health officials find reason for encouragement in the fact that there is no appreciable increase in the number of deaths reported, and they believe that the precautionary measures adopted by the authorities have been responsible for this.

The local board of health has finally decided to prohibit performances at all theatres in the city. Other places of assembly, such as billiard parlors, also come under the ban. Churches are requested to refrain from holding more than one service a week, and it is expected that the distribution of books from public libraries will be discontinued.

The situation in Eastern and Western Ontario centers is still serious, but the death rate remains about the same.

PEAK IS PASSED IN NEW YORK.

New York, Oct. 17.—Health officials expressed hope today that the peak of the Spanish influenza epidemic here had been reached and passed. Reports received from physicians up to 10 a.m. showed a decrease of 380 in new cases during the past 24 hours, the number being 4,733. Deaths from influenza and pneumonia, 625, were fewer than yesterday.

SIX SOLDIERS DIE.

Montreal, Oct. 17.—The deaths of six soldiers were reported from the Military Hospital here this morning.

THIRTY MORE AT WINDSOR.

Windsor, Oct. 17.—Thirty cases of Spanish influenza have been reported here within the last two days. Medical health officials here have requested physicians to co-operate with him in stemming the spread of the disease. A special meeting of the Windsor health board has been called to take action.

FOUR DIE AT HAMILTON.

Hamilton, Oct. 17.—Four deaths and 20 new cases reported at the city hall. That is Hamilton's Spanish influenza record for the last 48 hours. The health authorities admit that many physicians are not reporting cases. There are 24 patients in the two city hospitals, 35 in St. Joseph's Hospital, and something like 200 cases in the military hospitals.

The proclamation banning all public gatherings from Monday and until further notice will be published tomorrow. Street cars must be operated with wide-open windows, and if necessary the service will be restricted to compel people to walk.

Daylight Saving

Time in Canada

May Be Continued

[Special to The Advertiser.] Ottawa, Oct. 17.—The Government is awaiting with interest to learn the fate of the United States bill calling for a daylight saving act. The bill, for whatever action is taken by the United States in the matter will be adopted by Canada. In both countries under the existing laws the clocks go forward to mean solar time on the 27th of the present month. But a bill was recently introduced in the United States Senate providing for the continuation of the present condition, in order to save coal and light. This bill has not yet, however, passed Congress, and in official circles here it is not expected that it will.

Should it succeed in doing so, then Canada will immediately pass an order-in-council providing for the continuation of daylight saving.

A BOGUS NOTE



Advertiser Illustration
Wilson: "That signature is worthless. I have the lady sign it."—New York Times.

KAISER'S ABDICATION AND GERMANY'S UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER IS BELIEVED TO BE ENEMY'S NEXT MOVE

Rumors Have Been Widely Circulated That the German Emperor Had Quit the Throne and Was Removing Valuables to Holland—Diplomats in Allied Countries Await Confirmation.

London, Oct. 17.—Rumors relative to the course Germany may take toward replying to the note of President Wilson form the main feature of this morning's papers. Some are convinced that Germany's unconditional surrender is coming.

Although the statement issued at the foreign office last night shows that yesterday's rumors were premature, extraordinary reports concerning internal conditions in Germany are printed. Some newspapers take it for granted that Emperor William will abdicate. The Express says that the time has been sending his valuables to Holland.

Must Alter Constitution. Some editorials express the view that the disappearance of the emperor is imminent. "He is a mere symbol and a figurehead of what we are pledged to destroy," says the Telegraph. "It is what will be substituted for his insane and disastrous rule that matters."

Alteration of the German constitution, by which civil power would be admitted to a share in the control of matters pertaining to the war, is a subject of utmost importance. By this alteration the emperor would cease to be the supreme war lord.

"This step," says the Daily News, "means broadly that the Kaiser has surrendered to President Wilson, and is equivalent to an admission that all is lost."

The Express claims to have trustworthy information to the effect that the German's surrender is imminent, adding: "A semi-official information of an astonishing kind has reached England, indicating a desperate political situation in Germany. This is even more serious than the military situation, and is responsible for the coming debacle. A great civil upheaval is beginning. The Socialists of Germany, fearing anarchy is about to set in, and desiring to save the country from Russia's experience with the Bolsheviks, have prepared a scheme of government to take the reins if, or when, the Kaiser abdicates, in order that it may exercise an immediate steadying influence."

NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION.

London, Oct. 16.—When London's population was going home from work tonight, the newspapers were shouting the news of the abdication of Emperor William and Germany's unconditional surrender. Papers sold like wildfire, the rumor causing intense excitement and speculation, but there were no unusual demonstrations. The public is becoming

BRITISH CAPTURE LILLE; HAIG OPENS AN ATTACK ON AN EXTENDED FRONT ALONG THE SELLE RIVER

GERMAN SUBS ARE REMOVED FROM OSTEND

Enemy Rapidly Withdrawing U-Boats Along the Belgian Coast.

CIVILIANS ARE FORCED OUT

Germans Removing Military Supplies from Bruges, Tournai and Roubaix.

With the Allied Armies in Belgium, Wednesday, Oct. 16.—Bruges, Tournai and Roubaix have been emptied of all civilians and the Germans have removed their military establishments from those cities.

All submarines have been hastily removed from the U-boat base at Ostend, and it would appear from information that German naval bases all along the Belgian coast are either being moved or are being made ready for instant removal, probably in the rear of the German line in the North Sea.

Four new, big, German divisions have appeared in the Flanders battle. All the prisoners captured completely bitterly that they are being compelled to continue fighting steadily without rest. Many of them have been continuously retreating or fighting since August 8.

A large number recently captured admitted that they had packed their kits ready to surrender when they believed they were to be attacked.

WAR'S END A SAD ONE FOR THE HUNS

Berlin Newspaper Predicts a Gloomy Finish for Germany.

Amsterdam, Oct. 16.—"The war is coming to an end, and in such a manner as no man in Germany desires," said the Vorwaerts yesterday. "Let us say it candidly," the newspaper continues. "During all these terrible four years of war, our efforts and sacrifices were to prevent such an end."

THE WEATHER

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night: Highest, 66; lowest, 42.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 52; lowest, 40.

TOMORROW—FAIR AND COOL.

Toronto, Oct. 17—8 a.m.

Forecast.

Today—Moderate to fresh east to south winds; some scattered showers, but mostly fair.

Friday—Fresh northwest to north winds; a few scattered showers at first, but generally fair and cool.

Temperatures.

The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

Stations. High. Low. Weather.

Victoria 54 46 Clear

Calgary 76 32 Clear

Winnipeg 50 38 Cloudy

Port Arthur 42 32 Cloudy

Perry Sound 44 38 Cloudy

Port Stanley 52 40 Cloudy

Buffalo 62 42 Cloudy

Toronto 52 40 Cloudy

Kingston 58 40 Fair

Ottawa 58 38 Cloudy

Montreal 50 40 Cloudy

Quebec 48 30 Cloudy

Father Point 42 34 Cloudy

Weather Notes.

A shallow depression now covers Wisconsin, while pressure is high over Manitoba.

Showers have occurred locally in Manitoba and over Lake Superior. Elsewhere in Canada fair weather has prevailed.

Serbian Troops Capture the Town of Alex- inatze--The Americans Drive Huns From Strong Positions Along the Meuse--Bel- gian Forces Cross the Yser River and Are Marching on Ostend.

London, Oct. 17.—(Canadian Press Dispatch, via Reuter's).—The British have captured Lille.

HUNS DID NOT FIRE CITY.
British Headquarters in Flanders, Oct. 17.—The Germans on leaving Lille, which was captured today by British forces, did not set fire to the buildings in the city or cause any explosions.

HAIG ATTACKS ALONG SELLE.
London, Oct. 17.—Field Marshal Haig's forces this morning began an attack on the Bohain-Leclercq front, along the Selle River, southeast of Cambrai. Satisfactory progress was reported by the British commander in his official statement.

The Germans have been counter-attacking to the north of here, and in a strong local thrust at Haussy, in the region south of Valenciennes, pressed the British back in the western edge of the village.

During the night the British gained ground southwest of Lille, capturing a few prisoners.

The statement reads:
"At noon yesterday, the enemy delivered a strong local counter-attack at Haussy. It was accompanied by heavy shelling. We were pressed back to the western edge of the village, where fighting is still taking place."

"We progressed during the night southwest of Lille. A few prisoners were taken."

"At 5:20 o'clock this morning we attacked on the Bohain-Leclercq front. Our troops are reported to be making satisfactory progress."

BELGIAN FORCES CROSS THE YSER, MARCHING ON OSTEND

London, Oct. 17.—Belgian forces, under command of King Albert, which crossed the Yser River, are marching on Ostend, a report on the English Channel.

The Belgians also made progress in the region north of Thionville, and advanced in the direction of Thiel.

ENEMY EVACUATES DIAKOVA.

Paris, Oct. 16.—(Delayed).—Austro-German forces in Western Serbia have retired into Montenegro and have evacuated the town of Diakova, on the Serbo-Montenegrin frontier, according to an official statement from the war office tonight.

AMERICANS DRIVE HUNS BACK DESPITE THE STIFFEST RESISTANCE

With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Wednesday, Oct. 16.—Having captured Grandpre, the Americans today advanced their lines to the eastward and occupied Moulin-Pas. They surged forward until they had taken control of Loges Wood, one and a half miles north of Chevieres.

The advance was everywhere desperately contested, especially during the crossing of the Aire River, but the Americans pressed on.

A part of today's work consisted in the consolidation of positions on Hill 182, just north of St. Juvin. The American artillery was active all day, and the German guns responded freely. Infantry fighting, however, was limited to the left flank of this sector.

SERBIAN TROOPS CAPTURE THE TOWN OF ALEXINATZ, NEAR NISH

London, Oct. 17.—Serbian troops, continuing their energetic campaign for driving out the Austro-German forces remaining on Serbian soil, have captured the town of Alexinatze, on the Morava River, 15 miles northwest of Nish, says a Serbian official statement received here today. Thirty-two guns have been taken in the fighting beyond Nish.

The text of the statement reads:
"We are continuing to pursue the enemy. On Tuesday we occupied Kressibaba Mountain, the town of Alexinatze, Iastrebatz Mountain and the village of Zlataree. Thirty-two guns were captured in these operations."

"German airplanes are bombing Nish."

"French cavalry has captured Pirot."

Continued on Page Two.

"Germany Is Bending, More Pressure and She Will Break," Urges Lansing

Washington, Oct. 17.—"Germany is bending; more pressure and she will break," says Secretary of State Lansing in a statement today warning the nation that the war is not over and that the fourth Liberty Loan must be a success at a time when every dollar as well as every man and every gun counts more than ever before.