

Progress of the War.

The operations of the contending armies on the western side of the great conflict, up to Tuesday night 20th, is fairly summarized as follows: The troops of Emperor William had tried a surprise attack on the marines Sunday, but they had held the field works against superior numbers. The fight lasted all day and then the Germans contented themselves with cannonading the position of the marines. A thick fog covered the entire region Monday, and the marines, accustomed of such weather conditions, crept toward the German trenches. "No shooting" was the order; "use the bayonet." The marines got within thirty feet of the trenches before they were seen. It was too late for the defenders, who were bayoneted in the trenches and beyond the trenches, as they ran. Four hundred German prisoners were taken. One of the places where the French had been most harassed is near the elbow of the western line. The important position there had been taken and re-taken frequently during the last three weeks. Every time the Germans had been obliged to abandon the position they returned in greater force and pushed back the French by weight of numbers. The French took the position for the twelfth time and held it for ten hours. Then came a shock of the human battering ram and the French gradually gave away. The Germans began fortifying the place, but while they were engaged in this task, the earth heaved and a deafening explosion occurred. The ten hours the French had held the point had been sufficient to mine every rod of the ground. It is estimated that three German battalions were annihilated. The strength of the German positions north of Roye, which facilitated their movements towards Lille is explained by the fact that they were occupying an unfinished canal extending as far as Roisel. The Germans found in the deep broad cutting of the canal magnificent entrenchments, in which they had only to install batteries of artillery. Officers of the allies say that they have noted that only about forty per cent of the shells from these guns exploded. They say also that the prodigality of the fire from them apparently has depleted the German ammunition, as the intensity of the fire lately has diminished. The French artillerymen are so careful in getting their ranges that they waste few shells. In an artillery duel near Armentieres the Germans fired for half a day into thickets that had been abandoned some time before. When the French three-inch guns finally got the range twelve shells from them silenced the German battery.

The news from the front on the 21st shows that the contest still continued along the Belgian coast. Both French and British pay tribute to the valor of the Belgians, who, with the allies, are holding back the German advance along the North sea coast. In cessant fighting has been in progress from the coast line as far south as La Bessee, a distance of about fifty miles, but this line is divided into several fronts, on which separate engagements are being fought. It is this line that the Germans are endeavoring to break in their attempt to reach Dunkirk and other French seaports. Three British flotillas, the Severn, Humber and Mersey, with six-inch and other heavy guns, are shelling the Germans in the vicinity of Ostend, where it is said, terrible execution has been done, and machine gun detachments have been landed from these vessels and are assisting in the defence of Newport. The British Admiralty which for a day or two withheld the news that the British fleet was participating in the coast operations, now takes occasion to compliment the monitors and bluejackets for their meritorious service. There has been hard fighting in the Lille region, where the British are in action. The important French town of Lille, is still in the hands of the Germans, and the encounters in this neighborhood have been of a hand-to-hand character, evidently with little advantage to either side. Optimistic reports from the Russian viewpoint came from Petrograd, where it is officially announced that the German troops have been driven from the roads leading to Warsaw

and are in full retreat, having left their wounded on the field of battle. Similarly the Russians report that the advances of the Austrians in Galicia have been stayed. Sasebo, the naval port of Japan, reports that the Japanese have destroyed the military equipment and seized large quantities of gold and munitions of war on the German Islands recently captured in the North Sea. The Japanese embassy in Rome announced that the Japanese have captured an auxiliary cruiser of the German squadron and that another cruiser sank.

The war intelligence of the 22nd, may fairly be summarized as follows: There has been no cessation of the battle in Belgium and Northern France. All the official communications declare that the fighting is of the fiercest character and that the British warships continue to aid the allies on land with heavy shelling from their guns. One report has it that the British fleet is being assisted by a French squadron. The British Admiralty praises the work of the warships and reports great damage to the Germans from their fire. It adds that the naval losses have been small and that the German artillery is having difficulty in finding the range. The operations of the British warships are under the direction of Rear Admiral Hood. On the other hand Germany officially reports that a British torpedo boat destroyer off the Belgian coast has been put out of action by the German shells, and refers optimistically to the progress of the battle along the whole front. Evidently the Germans are taking a strong offensive, because the French official communication, in referring to the violent engagement which has been going on for several days, says that the Germans have not been able to force back either the Belgian army or the Franco-British troops. From Petrograd comes a reiteration of the official report that the Germans are continuing their hasty retreat from Warsaw, and that desperate engagements are being fought in Galicia. Emperor William and the German headquarters staff have retreated from Czenstochowa, Russian Poland, into Silesia, according to the London Daily News despatch from the Russian capital. The Prussian Diet has passed war bills carrying an appropriation aggregating \$375,000,000. In an address before the Prussian Diet, Herr Del Brueck, the Imperial Vice Chancellor, after declaring that Germany had been felled into the war by the hatred and envy of her neighbors, said that "Germany will not lay aside her arms until she has gained a victory that will guarantee lasting peace." Large numbers of Germans and Austrians have been taken from London and interned in the detention camps, and an echo of the threatened invasion of the British Isles by Zeppelin balloons is found in the fact that Westminster Abbey has been insured against damage from airship attacks. A private letter received in Amsterdam says that Lt. General Von Moltke, chief of the German general staff, is dying.

The following covers the war news for the 23rd: After days of incessant fighting a change at last has been worked in that part of the line battle of which has run virtually straight north and south from Ypres, in Belgium, to the bend in the elbow in the vicinity of the forest of Aigue in France. Just a short distance above its centre this line now curves like an inverted letter "S" the Allies having pushed back the Germans at the east of Armentieres in an endeavor to press on to Lille and the Germans having forced the Allies to give ground around La Bassee, probably hoping to obtain control of Bethune, an important railroad centre about seven miles due west from La Bassee. That ground has been won and lost in this district is admitted in the latest French official report, but that neither of the engagements was decisive seems probable, as the report declares that the actions near La Bassee and Armentieres near Arras on the same line a short distance south of La Bassee, continue with great violence. In fact, the report says that, generally speaking, the situation on this part of the war front remains the same. The British Admiralty has issued a statement saying that the necessity to use its warships for convoy duty having passed, British

cruisers, aided by like vessels of the Australian, Japanese, French and Russian navies, will now search the seas in an endeavor to run down the eight or nine German cruisers, including the Emden and the Karlsruhe, which have been playing havoc with the shipping of the Allied countries. Great Britain has prohibited the importation of sugar in order to keep out the German and Austrian product being shipped in from neutral countries. President Wilson has approved the demands of the State Department on Great Britain for the release of the steamers Platania and Brindilla. The president took the position that every right of American shipping must be protected. Of the fighting near the coast where the British and French naval vessels are endeavoring to aid the allied troops in holding back the German attempt at an advance, nothing was vouchsafed in the report. Altkirch, in Upper Alsace, a short distance from the Swiss front, has been taken by the French at the point of the bayonet. Since the outbreak of the war this town has been the scene of much fighting and several times has changed hands. Petrograd claims that the Germans continue to retreat and that the forces of Emperor Nicholas have crossed the Vistula without resistance. The Austrians are given credit in the Russian report for continuing to fight stubbornly on the Vistula, on the San and south of Przemysl. No reports were received from Germany or Austria, and Serbia likewise was silent regarding the operations in the south.

London, Oct. 25.—The Sunday Observer prints a despatch sent by a correspondent in the Department of Pas De Calais, France, saying that through the cutting of the dykes in the low country southeast of Dixmude a large German force has been flooded out. Some estimates place the German losses there at five thousand drowned, besides thirty thousand killed and wounded. This may give some hint, the despatch adds, as to what is meant when it is declared that the fighting in this region is the most desperate of the entire war thus far. A large number of wooden spies have been captured and promptly shot in the vicinity of Dixmude. In some cases the women declared they had been terrorized into practicing espionage. Almost without exception they had no idea of the risk they were running, or the penalty for their offence. The Belgian field army is doing staunch work around Dixmude. Four times on Tuesday afternoon the Germans charged the Belgian trenches with the bayonet along the whole front. Each time they were repulsed with heavy losses. Regarding its local aspect the German retreat toward Thiel after the repulse at Dixmude may be described as a rout, for although the retreat was covered by German artillery the French took more than 1,900 prisoners, including 700 wounded. Some of the prisoners, believed they were within twenty miles of Paris.

The latest war news of any importance is thus summarized: The battle of the Straits of Dover, one of the most sanguinary of the war, is continuing with unabated fury, but thus far without either side gaining any decided advantage. The Germans who, at terrible cost in life, succeeded last Sunday, in crossing the Yser Canal between Newport and Dixmude have not been able to make any further progress as the Allies, according to the report of the General Headquarters are obstinately defending their position. It is the same further south, around Armentieres, Lille, La Bassée and Arras. The opposing armies are delivering fierce attacks, gaining or losing a few miles or less of ground with sacrifices in life that are appalling. The whole country-side is fairly reeking with blood of thousands of killed or wounded.

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Local And Other Items

It is reported that the Belgian flag is flying above Eschen, 20 miles North of Antwerp. All the German soldiers have withdrawn.

A German submarine has been rammed and sunk by the British destroyer "Badger." The latter's bow was somewhat damaged.

The Premier and Mrs. Mathieson returned home Saturday night from a visit to Ottawa and the Western Provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Berlin reports a new type of submarine being built at Eiling and Hamburg to be used only for transporting troops. The object is to reach a shore unnoticed and land soldiers.

The Swedish steamer Albe, homeward bound from London, has been blown up by a mine in the North Sea. She sank in three minutes. All the members of her crew were saved.

Hon. Sam Hughes, Canada's Minister of Militia, now in London, has been promoted from the rank of Colonel to that of Major General. This is a distinguished honor, not only to General Hughes but to Canada as well.

Sir Robert Borden accompanied by Lady Borden left Ottawa Saturday afternoon for New York on his way to Virginia. The Premier seemed much in need of a rest but may only be able to remain away from Ottawa for a week.

The London Daily Mail correspondent says the French have gained possession of the village of Meziocourt in the middle of Argonne and so long as they hold this the German Crown Prince's army is separated by a different route from the rest of the German lines.

A Renter despatch to London from Archangel Russia, says the ice-breaker Earl Grey, acquired from the Canadian government has arrived and that the Russian government hopes the vessel will be able to keep the port of Archangel open until the beginning of December or later.

A cablegram was received at Government House Ottawa on the 25th announcing that Major T. Rivers Bulkeley, comptroller for the Duke of Connaught, was killed in action at the front. Rivers Bulkeley was married a year ago to Miss Pelly, lady-in-waiting to H. R. H. the Duchess of Connaught.

German warships on the 25th captured four Swedish steamers in the timber trade bound to British ports, the German commander considering all the wood cargoes for Britain contraband. A Swedish despatch says one Norwegian and six Swedish steamers have been seized and detained off Falsterbo, a small Swedish port on the Baltic.

The Dominion Department of Customs has prohibited the further importation into Canada of two English weeklies, "Illustrated Bits" and "Ally Sloper's Half Holiday," and a New York bi-weekly, "The Vital Issue." The English publications are regarded by the department as immoral and the American publication as untruthful and unfair in its anti-Britishism.

The Paris correspondent of the London Express says that five German aeroplanes were destroyed on Saturday. Two were brought down by a single French aviator at Rheims, who flew alone there and fired with a revolver. Two others were hit by the guns of Meharicourt forts near Mont Didier, and the fifth German Aviator was wounded by a rifle shot at Gravelines.

The London Morning Post protests against the British Government's action in declining to arrest the enemy's belligerents in neutral ships. It estimates that there are 100,000 reservists of the enemy in the United States alone. The Post says even if the United States and other neutral countries should be offended by such arrests that it is not sufficient reason for the government's attitude.

DIED.

McDONALD—A Tryon, Oct. 19th Mrs Angus McDonald, aged 34 years.

MATHESON—In this city Friday the 23rd inst, Emily M. Clowser, wife of J. A. Matheson.

FRASER—At Montague Saturday at 2 p. m., Dr. D. Roy Fraser.

McDONALD—At the residence of his sister, Mrs. White, Portland Oregon, Augustine C. McDonald formerly of Tracadie parish in this Province, aged 74 years, leaving three sons to mourn. R. I. P.

ESSERY—At Union Road, Lot 33, Oct. 25th, Isaac Essery, in the 66th year of his age.

CARR—In the P. E. Island Hospital, on Oct 22nd, George Carr, age 69 years, after a protracted illness.

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