

GREAT BATTLE NOW RAGING ON A 70 MILE FRONT

GENERAL FEELING IS GERMANY HAS VIRTUALLY LOST BATTLE

Real Telling Work of Allies Just Beginning—German Object Not to Take Paris, But to Get Amiens and Sea Coast Town—British Maintain Positions on the Somme, Gaining Ground in Places and Retiring Slightly at Others—Gen. Foch in Supreme Command on Western Front.

Paris, Mar. 29.—The great battle is now raging over a front of more than seventy miles. This extension of the line has increased the number of German reserves engaged. Although this far no decisive success has been obtained anywhere there is increased confidence. The impression in semi-official circles is that the Allies have not only held off the Germans, but are now no longer compelled to permit the enemy by his manoeuvres to shape the course which the battle shall take.

The general feeling is that for Germany the battle is virtually lost, that for the Allies the battle is about to win.

The operations thus far accepted as confirming the theory that Paris was not the main objective of the German offensive, but that the plan of the enemy was to break the connection between the French and British armies, in which he has failed. His main direct attack was westward toward the sea. The Germans seek Amiens because this town is an important railway centre of communications with England. The loss of Amiens would be inconvenient but not vital.

British Do Well.

London, Mar. 29 (noon).—On the Somme the British have maintained their positions and gained ground in places by successful counter-attacks. The war office announces:

After holding their line all day, in the face of repeated assaults by numerically superior enemy forces, the British retired a short distance from their advanced positions at some points. The Germans again suffered exceedingly heavy losses. The British took prisoners.

The statement follows: "Further strong attacks were made by the enemy yesterday afternoon and evening at several points along the battle front. North of the Somme our troops have maintained their positions and have gained ground in places by successful counter-attacks. A number of prisoners and machine guns were captured by us in this fighting."

The enemy again suffered exceedingly heavy casualties. His frequent attacks which were pressed with great determination throughout the day, gained only our outpost lines, after several hours of hand-to-hand fighting. His reserves were then sent forward against our battle positions and were everywhere thrown back with great loss. Our machine gun, artillery and

new hole in the already pierced enemy ring," the Vossische Zeitung of Berlin declares.

Paris, Mar. 29.—The Germans are employing a new method of attack, the most striking feature of which is smokecloud camouflage, under cover of which successive waves of attacking forces advance in echelons. After a short and intense artillery preparation, the first wave, armed with automatic rifles, machine guns and new cannon mounted on low carriages for short range fire, is sent forward, firing with a range of 2,000 yards. It is ordered to fire on the reserves, regardless of the opposing forces right at hand, which the succeeding waves must account for. The task of the leading troops is to increase the advantage of surprise by preventing paralyzing counter-attacks on the part of the reserves.

The result of these tactics usually is that the first wave is almost wiped out. The second wave then passes ahead, to be followed by the third, and so on. Thus the oncoming waves have succeeded one another during the eight days of the great conflict.

There have been several reports recently that General Foch, one of the most brilliant strategists of the day, who was largely responsible for the French victory in the battle of the Marne, would be placed in supreme command on the western front. The Daily Chronicle of London, yesterday said an announcement bearing of the co-ordination of British and French military exertions might be expected almost immediately, and that an influential role might be assigned to General Foch.

NEWCASTLE

Newcastle, March 29.—Mr. and Mrs. Peter Gohan are receiving congratulations upon the arrival of twin boys in their home last week.

George Spibbs spent Wednesday in Fredericton.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Lewis were called to Salisbury last week by the illness of Mr. Lewis' mother, which proved fatal. Mr. Lewis returned on Friday and Mrs. Lewis on Monday.

Misses Helen Macmichael of Newcastle, and Bernice Crocker, of Millerton, are home for the holiday from Mount Allison.

Driver Russell MacDonald, the 17-year-old son of Captain and Mrs. Lawrence MacDonald, came home from France on Saturday. He enlisted nearly two years ago, when only

fifteen in the 12th Field Battery, and has been ten months in France. He is home on furlough. His brother, Alex. has also been in France some time.

The death of George Howe a well known and respected resident of Boom Road, occurred of old age, on Saturday. Deceased had been ailing for almost eight years and was found dead in his bed. The funeral took place Monday, services at the house and grave by Rev. J. F. McCurdy, Interment in Redbank Presbyterian cemetery.

The death of Mrs. Susan Brennan, of The Forks, Blackville, occurred on Sunday at the age of 64 years. Deceased was the widow of the late Daniel Brennan of The Forks. She is survived by eleven children, all of whom are married. The funeral took

place on Tuesday at Holy Trinity church, Blackville, interment in the cemetery there. Services were conducted by Rev. W. J. Bate, of Newcastle.

The death of William Johnston a respected resident of Douglastown, took place at the home of his aunt, Mrs. Hugh Alexander, with whom he lived, on Saturday morning. Deceased who had been ill about three weeks, was 67 years of age. He was a native of Douglastown and unmarried.

ST. STEPHEN

St. Stephen, Mar. 28.—Mrs. Everett Nesbitt and her two children left on Monday night for her home in Alberta, after an extended visit with Mr. and Mrs. J. Nesbitt and Mr. and Mrs. D. last.

A. Nesbitt. Miss Sadie Wilson has returned from attending the millinery openings in New York and Boston.

Mrs. Fred Dorey has returned from an extended visit with friends in Woodstock.

Miss Mary Robertson has returned from a visit with her sister, Mrs. Alcorn, in Andover.

Miss Isabel Hawley left on Monday morning for Halifax, where she has accepted a position in the Bank of Montreal.

Mrs. H. Godfrey is the guest of her mother, Mrs. John Hawley.

Miss Kathleen Hill is confined to the house by an injury to her knee sustained while coasting with a party of young people on Monday evening last.

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