

CANADIANS GAIN

A LARGE ENEMY OFFENSIVE NOT A PROBABILITY

Another Deep Withdrawal From the Armentieres Pocket By the Germans Is Reported and There Are Signs That the Enemy Intends To Retire By Easy Stages Until He Gets Back To His Original Ground — Ludendorff Between the Devil and the Deep Sea, Fearing Surprise Attacks and the Moral Effect of His Retreat.

Special cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard. (By Arthur S. Draper).

London, Aug. 16—Any large German offensive at this time seems out of the question. In fact, everything points to a definite policy. Another deep withdrawal about the Armentieres pocket is reported, and there are signs that the enemy intends to retire by easy stages until he gets back to his original ground.

Ludendorff is between the devil and the deep sea. He fears surprise attacks on his present positions, and also the moral effect of withdrawals at this stage. Foch has the complete initiative, and can strike or wait, as he pleases. The rapidity with which the American army is being organized means that the Allied chiefs do not intend to let Ludendorff dig himself in.

Few Fresh Divisions. Between the Oise and the Ancre the enemy has employed thirty-five divisions, fifteen of which were reserves. Along the whole front Ludendorff has only sixteen fresh divisions, eleven of which are Crown Prince Rupprecht's army. The Germans are worried about the Albert and Arras sector. This is shown by their new withdrawals in the region of Habuerne. Roughly, the German hold positions which they occupied on July 1st, 1918, before Haig began the great attack which resulted in Hindenburg's withdrawal.

There is no explanation of this retreat, except that Ludendorff believes Foch intends to strike on this front, and so desired to get behind the Ancre. It will be recalled that Ludendorff's retirement behind the Ancre took place just prior to Haig's blow a week ago. The river though narrow affords the best defence against tank attacks, and the tanks played an important part in all of Haig's previous surprise assaults.

The Enemy's Line. From Beaumont and Hamel southward the enemy's line runs through Albert and Meuleux west to Bray and Fouchcourt, which is just west of his 1918 position. The enemy holds high positions north of the Somme which will remain unbroken. Humbert has succeeded in bringing up many guns to assist the infantry working around Lesigny Masif and through Thiescourt Wood. Attention is called to the substitution of Boehn for Rupprecht as commander of the enemy's Somme army.

Canadian Troops And French Penetrate The Enemy Lines Deeply

Paris, Aug. 16—French and Canadian troops have made progress against the Germans over a front of more than three miles between Goyencourt and Laucourt, west of Roye, according to the French official communication issued this evening. The Bois Des Loges, five miles south of Roye also has been penetrated deeply by the French.

The text of the communication follows: "During the day our troops by a series of local attacks have repulsed the enemy, in spite of his resistance, in the region west of Roye.

"North of the Avre, in conjunction with Canadians, we have advanced our lines on the front of Goyencourt, St. Mar-Les-Triot and Laucourt. South of the Avre we penetrated far into the Loges Wood.

"Army of the East, August 15—In Albania, east of Porogans, the enemy renewed for the third time attacks which our troops repulsed. In the region of Gramsi the enemy suffered severe losses in the course of fruitless reconnoitering.

"In spite of bad weather, British aviators have bombed enemy organizations and concentration points in the Strunia Valley.

"Aviation—On Aug. 15 our crews downed or put out of action twenty-three enemy airships. Thursday night our bombing squadrons made several expeditions behind the battle zone and dropped more than fourteen tons of explosives on railroad stations at Neale and St. Quentin, and on bivouacs at Champion and Guiscard, where several fires were observed.

"Other expeditions flew over the valley of the Aisne and the region east of it, and obtained excellent results. Four tons of explosives were dropped on the railroad station at Thionville and on the region of Mezieres and Charleville. A total of twenty-five and a half tons was used.

"Yesterday we shot down twenty-four enemy airships."

ATTEMPT BEGUN TO BREAK WILL MADE ON DEATH BED

St. John Counsel Appears in Case of James and Evans Powell Who Were Cut Off Under Second Will of Their Father, Charles S. Powell.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, Aug. 16—A probate matter in which there is much interest was before Judge of Probate R. W. Hewson today. The case has to do with the estate of the late Charles S. Powell of Moncton in which a caveat was filed by James and Evans Powell, sons of the deceased, contesting the validity of the will. In the hearing today the evidence of Austin A. Allen, the solicitor, who drew the will, Grace E. Miles, a nurse, a witness to the will and others was taken. After hearing the evidence the judge decided that a prima facie case had been established in favor of the validity of the will, but time was granted until September 7th for the caveat's counsel to file the allegation. A. A. Allen, proctor and Hon. J. B. M. Baxter, St. John as counsel for widow and executrix, George A. Hatchinson, Richibucto and H. A. Powell, St. John appeared for the caveators.

In his first will after his second marriage the deceased, it is alleged, divided the property equally between two sons and the widow. In the last will made a few hours before his death he gave everything to his widow. The sons contesting the will claim the estate was much more valuable than the amount for which it was probated and consequently are contesting their rights to a share, and also contest the validity of a will made such a short time before their father's death. Further proceeding on part of the contestants will be awaited with interest.

NEW HUN GUARD

Special to The Standard. Moncton, Aug. 16—Lieut. Col. J. L. McAvity, of St. John, was here today effecting a change of guard for the German prisoners employed by the C. G. R. in the Moncton yard. The guard, composed of men from the depot battalion, is being sent back to Sussex and replaced by three "G" men.

A similar changed guard for German prisoners is being made at Sackville.

MOVE TO INCREASE THE PRICE OF GAS

Conference Held At Moncton To Consider Situation—Much Opposition To An Advance.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, Aug. 16—With the primary object of increasing natural gas rates in Moncton, E. B. Beeson, of Pittsburg, vice-president and general manager of the M. T. E. & G. Co., had a conference with the city council this afternoon when the situation was discussed. The gas company's proposition is made in order to conserve gas. Larger consumers such as industries, it claims should be cut out and a readjustment of rate made for householders.

There is strong opposition to the proposed increase, and the prospects are there will be a vigorous protest from the citizens to the company's proposal. The council appointed a committee composed of Ald. A. C. Chapman, F. C. Robinson, W. H. Price, city fuel controller; Geo. A. Stone, J. E. Blackwood, the latter being the labor representatives, to meet the gas company officials tomorrow afternoon to discuss the situation.

ASK GOVERNOR OF VT. TO RESIGN

Burlington, Vermont, Aug. 16—Governor Graham was asked today to resign in resolutions adopted by the Republican State Committee. Discrepancies of \$20,000 were found in his accounts.

STEAMER AFIRE

Beaufort, N. C., Aug. 16—A large oil tank steamer is afire about 25 miles off Cape Hatteras. A submarine is lying close by.

U. S. REGISTRATION

Washington, Au. 16—Machinery for the registration of the 13,000,000 men estimated as coming under the provisions of the new man-power bill with the extension of draft ages to include men between 18 and 45 years already has been set in motion.

The Town of Roye, a German Keystone Position of Great Importance, About To Fall

GOVERNMENT OF NORTH RUSSIA IS ORGANIZED

One of Objects Is To Expel German Invaders From Country.

BRITISH REPULSE A STRONG ATTACK

Germans Suffer Severe Losses in Clash Near Damery.

London, Aug. 16—(British wireless service)—"The government of Northern Russia" has been formed with M. T. Chalkovsky as president, minister of foreign affairs. The other members of the government include Socialists of various parties. The political programme of the new government, which has just been issued, contains the following clauses: First—The restoration of Russian democratic power; second, the re-establishment of local government on a basis of universal suffrage; third, the recreation of the Russian national army and a renewal of the war on the eastern front; fourth, the expulsion of the German invaders and other enemies of Russia, to be carried out with the aid of and in co-operation with the Entente Allies.

British War Statement.

London, Aug. 16—The British Thursday evening repulsed a strong German counter-attack at Damery and today in co-operation with the French made substantial progress in the direction of Fresnoy-Les-Roye and Frenart, according to the official report from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters in France, issued tonight.

"Today our advanced troops in this locality have pushed forward in co-operation with the French and have made substantial progress in the direction of Fresnoy-Les-Roye and Frenart. We have taken a few prisoners and a number of machine guns in our hands.

CANADIAN ATHLETES KILLED IN ACTION

Lieut. Albert Cadotte Was Well Known Hockey and Lacrosse Player — Was Member of Wanderers Team.

Montreal, Aug. 16—Word has been received here that Lieut. Albert Cadotte, well known as a hockey and lacrosse player, was killed in action on Friday last. Cadotte was a member of the 22nd French-Canadian Battalion and went overseas about two years ago. When in Montreal Cadotte played hockey for the Wanderers, having played in goal for the former club as a member of the N. H. A. Previous to playing with the Wanderers and entering the ranks of professional hockey, Cadotte played with the Hochelaga team in this city where his exhibition in goal was usually a feature of the Montreal City League games at the Jubilee rink. He received his education at Mount St. Louis College where he was also a good athlete.

THREE LITTLE GIRLS.

On Thursday afternoon, three little girls of West St. John, Muriel King,

Canadians and French Troops Are Virtually Knocking At the Door of the Stronghold—Germans Again Forced To Give Ground and Will Be Forced To Retreat Further, Allies Planning To Keep Going—Latter in Greatly Improved Positions.

Flanking Movement By British on the Northwest Adds Materially To Danger German Line Is In — French Make Successful Advance Five Miles To the South—Allies Plan To Capture Noyon Later.

(Undated War Summary by The Associated Press).

Evidently it is not in the plans of the Entente Allies to leave the Germans secure in their possession of the line they are now holding in the region between the Somme and the Oise. Although the front from the south of the Somme past Chaulnes and running through Roye to Noyon has been studded with fresh reinforcements and innumerable guns in order to keep back the Allied troops, the Germans nevertheless again have been forced to give ground and at points where seemingly their defence soon must crumble and the retreat eastward be resumed.

French and Canadian troops Friday night between Goyencourt and Laucourt, on a front of about three miles, had fought their way west of Roye until they were virtually knocking at the door of the town, which is one of the keystone positions of the German defence in Picardy, while to the immediate north British troops fighting alone were still in possession of Damery and Parvillers following heavy counter-attacks made by the Germans to dislodge them. West of Roye the Allied line is now only a scant mile and a quarter distant.

French Gain Advance.

Adding materially to the danger of Roye by direct assault on the part of the French and Canadians at its western gates and from a flanking manoeuvre by the British on the northwest, the French have carried out successfully an advance five miles to the south which seemingly lays the town open to a turning movement from the Loges Wood, which has been penetrated deeply. Not alone, however, is Roye menaced by this latter advance, but debouching from the woods southeastward the French are in a position to outflank Lesigny and, with the French troops in the Oise Valley near Ribecourt also strategically placed, to begin a rolling-up process, which, if successful, would obliterate the hill and wooded country now standing as a barrier to the capture of Noyon.

Taken altogether, the position of the Allied troops on the Somme-Oise salient is materially better than it has been for several days past.

Hun Retirement Continues.

The retirement of the Germans on parts of the northern front continues, but these manoeuvres as yet lack definite explanation. Following closely upon the evacuation of front line positions north of Albert, which were taken over by the British, has come another voluntary relinquishment of trenches in the Lys sector. The village of Vieux Berquin has been given up and ground over a front of about nine miles to a depth of from one to two miles has been ceded without fighting. All the way between La Bassée Canal and Ypres the Germans still are exhibiting signs of nervousness, daily are bombarding the British front heavily with shells and gas projectiles.

Along the Vesle river front the Germans are similarly deluging the British with shells, gas projectiles and bombs from airplanes, but have gone for aught so far as a relinquishment of territory is concerned.

Muriel Purdy and Lillian Cox, held a bazaar on the lawn of Mr. Ring's residence, St. George street. They realized the sum of \$16, which they handed to Mrs. Young of the Field Comforts Association, with the request that it be used to send Christmas gifts to the boys at the front.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The 24th of AUGUST is the LAST DAY upon which PARDON IS GRANTED to those who are deserters or who have failed to report to the Military authorities.

THE EXTREME PENALTY OF THE LAW will be visited upon defaulters AFTER THAT DATE.