

# TO-DAY'S Messages.

10.30 A. M.

## WAR SUMMARY.

**LONDON, To-day.**  
A violent snow storm has served for the moment to hold in leash the British forces which since early on Sunday have been hammering the Germans hard along the Arras-Lens front. Low lying clouds and thickly falling snow have greatly impeded the movement of troops. On Wednesday in the early hours of the morning the village and heights of Monchy-le-Preux, east of Arras, fell into the hands of the British and were held despite two counter attacks delivered by the Germans, according to London. To the north of this position, Berlin reports the repulse with heavy losses of British infantry and cavalry attacks near Fampoux and Ronex. A London communication says that in the neighborhood of Bullecourt, west of Cambrai, Field Marshal Haig's men penetrated a German position, but later were counter-attacked by superior forces and compelled to return to their former positions. Of this fighting also and a battle near Hardecourt, northwest of St. Quentin, Berlin says that a thousand British prisoners and 25 machine guns were taken near St. Quentin. From Soissons and Rheims eastward to Champagne violent artillery duels are being fought between the French and Germans, and the American flag is flying over a Corps composed mainly of American airmen. It is to adopt the American uniform and carry the Stars and Stripes during their incursions into the enemy territory available in the air to German aviators. There has been several engagements between the Russian and Teutons on the Russian front but no important change of positions resulted. North of Rostov the Germans occupied the Russian first line of trenches but were later expelled from them. Likewise near Terechov the Teutons invaded the Russian trenches but later were unable to maintain their gains. Herbert C. Hoover, Chairman of the American Commission for the relief of Belgium, has accepted the chairmanship of a new food board in the United States. Hoover considers the foremost duty of the States toward her Allies is to see that they are provided with food.

## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL AT WASHINGTON.

**WASHINGTON, To-day.**  
The assembly at Washington within a few weeks of a great international war council was foreshadowed by an announcement from the State Department to-day that a British Commission headed by Arthur J. Balfour, Minister for Foreign Affairs, was expected to arrive within 10 days to discuss with the Government here questions connected with the conduct of the war.

## U. S. SHIPBUILDING PROGRAMME.

**WASHINGTON, To-day.**  
Major-General George W. Goethals, builder of the Panama Canal, was formally requested by President Wilson to-day to take charge of the building of one thousand wooden ships for foreign commerce. The increase of overseas tonnage is regarded as an imperative need to defeat the German submarine campaign and keep up the flow of supplies to the Entente Allies. Consequently the greatest importance is attached to the plans of the Shipping Board for building wooden ships, which have been approved by the President and Council for National Defence. The entire resources available to the ship building yards are to be used for the purpose of the Shipping Board, \$50,000,000 are at its disposal for the construction and purchase of vessels. It is estimated that beginning with the early fall ships at the rate of 200,000 tons a month will be turned out. In 1916 the United States had 500,000 tons of ships in the transatlantic trade. The use of the German merchant ships now in American harbors will add approximately 500,000 tons to the supply of the United States and the estimates now being made include the repairing of damaged machinery of those ships.

## FINE WORK BY CAVALRY AND TANK.

**BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, To-day.**  
(Via London April 12th). Under the most extraordinary weather conditions recorded in France in a score of years, the British offensive about Arras continues successfully. This morning cavalry went into action and contributed to the taking of Monchy-le-Preux and other important positions. The taking of Monchy-le-Preux was aided by a tank. The British infantry reached the village late on Tuesday, but the German guns posted there needed special attention before an attack, so digging

themselves in they watched by their arms through the night. Early to-day the British turned their artillery against the suspected machine gun emplacements, while a tank circled the town, scattering terror and death as it went. When it had completed its circuit the infantry sprang forward from their shallow trenches and charged in a sort of encircling movement meeting with little opposition, so well had the artillery and the tank done their work. A number of prisoners were taken as well as machine guns. The remainder of the garrison fled in the direction of a wood whence later in the day, reinforced, they attempted to counter attack. The British have taken a copse three quarters of a mile northeast of Monchy-le-Preux and also shelves on the bank of the Scarpe. Roux on the north bank of this vagabond stream, misnamed a river, is now in British hands. Some of the hottest fighting along the battle front is taking place at Vincy, where the Canadians are slowly but surely pressing forward down the eastern slopes, their patrols scouring the forests which screen that side of the ridges. All efforts on the part of the Germans to shell them out the crest or out of the woods have failed.

2.15 P. M.

## ARGENTINA AND COSTA RICA SUPPORT U. S. A.

**WASHINGTON, To-day.**  
Without formally announcing the abandonment of their neutrality, two more Latin American republics, Argentina and Costa Rica, have given assurances of their moral support for the United States in the war against Germany. Argentina's position was defined in a note reaching the State Department to-day. The communication was regarded here as defining a status just short of an open break. Costa Rica's announcement was unexpected, for the new Government set up by Federico Tinoco and perfected to-day by a Legislative declaration of his election as President, has not been recognized by the United States.

## FINE SUBSCRIPTION FROM AUSTRALIA.

**LONDON, To-day.**  
A Melbourne despatch says the total subscriptions to the recent Australian war loan were £22,400,000. The loan was launched in January for £18,000,000 at 4½ per cent.

## NEW AUSTRIAN WAR MINISTER.

**LONDON, To-day.**  
Field-Marshal Von Schleyer, chief of the war central department, has been appointed temporary Minister of War for Austria-Hungary, according to a Vienna despatch to the Central News by way of Amsterdam. Field-Marshal Von Schleyer succeeds General Von Krobattin, who recently resigned.

## LIFE WORK WELL CROWNED.

**LONDON, To-day.**  
Telegraphing from Petrograd, Reuters correspondent says: Mme. Catherine Breshkovskaya, grandmother of the Russian revolution, arrived here to-day. She was welcomed by enormous and enthusiastic crowds. Mme. Breshkovskaya was released recently from Siberia after having spent 44 of her seventy-three years as a convict prisoner and exile in Northern Asia.

## SWEDISH MINISTER REPRESENTS AUSTRIA.

**LONDON, To-day.**  
Austro-Hungarian interests in Great Britain have been taken over by the Swedish Minister.

## GERMANY WATCHING BRITISH FOOD SITUATION.

**LONDON, To-day.**  
The London food situation is dominating all other considerations in Germany, according to Berlin. The Berlin Vorwaerts, in a quoted in an Amsterdam despatch, says: Notwithstanding all the big events the new food regulations which are to be introduced on April 15 form the exclusive subject of discussion in the most considerable circles of the people. The nearer the fatal day approaches the greater becomes the tension. A diminution in bread rations forms a serious difficulty for the entire population and causes greater pre-occupation.

## WHAT ABOUT THE CONTEMPIBLE LITTLE ARMY?

**AMSTERDAM, To-day.**  
The Aerian Army is held up to ridicule by Major Morant, writing in the Deutsche Tages Zeitung, who jeers at the idea that the United States can give any effect to the military aid to the Allies. Major Morant says, "The American army is no danger to Germany. The Civil War cost half a million lives because neither side had a trained army. Now Wilson, forgetful of history, is trying the same thing, but it will be shown once more that the

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braggadocho of his countrymen in an inverse ratio to their fighting value." Major Morant concludes with sneers at the shoddy American war material, concluding which the Russians could tell a tale.

## BRITISH OFFICIAL.

**LONDON, To-day.**  
German counter attacks on Vimy Ridge were broken up last night with heavy losses to the attackers. The statement follows: The weather continues stormy. Early this morning we attacked and captured two important positions in the enemy's lines north of Vimy Ridge and astride the River Souches. A number of prisoners were taken by us. During the night hostile attacks upon our new positions on the northern end of Vimy Ridge were driven off by our machine gun fire with heavy German losses. Some progress has been made south of the River Scarpe.

## FRENCH SCORE VICTORY.

**PARIS, To-day.**  
In an attack last night on the new front below St. Quentin between Coucy and Quincy Basse the French drove back the Germans to the southern edge of upper Coucy forest, capturing several important positions, the war office announces. In the Champagne the Germans were ejected from their trenches east of Sapienval.

## OPTIMISTIC SIGNS.

**LONDON, To-day.**  
The feeling in some quarters that the war may end before the last of the year is indicated by the fact that in underswilling circles business was done yesterday to pay a total loss, if peace is not declared before December 31, at 45 guineas per cent. Some time ago business was done at the rate of 45 per cent. against the declaration of peace within eighteen months.

## Potatoes: Cost & Price

(Worcester Telegram.)  
A dealer in Presque Isle (Me.), one of the settlement centres of the Aroostook potato-producing region, has paid by one check \$87,386 for a stock of automobiles of one make this spring. Profits on potato fields in the last year are to pay for these machines and many hundred more of the luxury dealers. There are many other auto dealers in that section close up under the shadow of the great Maine forests. It is told of one young man who desired to become a potato farmer that he borrowed a year ago \$7,500 to buy a farm in Aroostook county and then \$2,500 more to stock the place. And late in the fall, after selling the potatoes he raised, he paid the lender the entire \$10,000 of the debt and showed him \$10,000 more he was taking to a bank to save, all made in one season on his new potato farm. And there are one hundred thousand able young men in New England who would rather go to war or work in a factory for \$10 a week than farm it anywhere among the hills of this rich section, even if farms were given to them and stock-potatoes come so high for the family table this season. It is not so much personal greed of the potato farmers and the middlemen, as the shiftlessness of human beings who should have ambition to till the soil and feed the other millions at reasonable profits.

## What the Retreat Means

From July 1, 1916, to March 16, 1917, French and British forces wrested about 125 square miles from the enemy on the Somme front.

In three days, since Saturday morning, they have won with scarcely a fight at least 600 square miles.

This is a sensation of some magnitude. What does it mean?

It proves that the foe finds himself mastered by superior forces. He finds that lines which for nearly three years he had labored to make impregnable are no longer tenable or, at least, no longer expedient.

This confirms our hopes and beliefs of recent months. We have at last a military machine superior to the Germans'.

But the retreat may delay final decision. For the moment the enemy escapes decisive action. That is the object of any prudent military force that finds itself outclassed.

How long can he escape decision? Can he find any line short of the Meuse River line on which he will be any better able to stand than on the one he has abandoned? Most military critics believe that he cannot attempt any large retirement, such as to the Meuse River line, without disaster. But can he, by a series of small retirements, evade disaster and postpone decision? He may for a period, but it is only a question of time.

Meanwhile there remains some 20,000 square miles of France and Belgium to be redeemed—Toronto Star.

## Fads and Fashions.

Coats are all lengths. Chemise frocks are all belted. Brown is a smart street shade. Parasols will be made of cretonne. The tridrone hat will be in good style. Russian blouse frocks remain in favor. Paris has surely lengthened the skirts.

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## Our Volunteers.

### YESTERDAY'S ENLISTMENTS.

Yesterday was a busy day at the Recruiting Station, Water Street and at Headquarters where ninety-eight young men offered for King and Country. For the Army, 39; Navy, 7; Forestry Battalion, 52.

At Headquarters seventeen recruits offered for active service and are as follows:—  
Alex. McKinley, Glasgow.  
Ferd. Snow, St. John's.  
A. A. Syme, St. John's.  
Hugh Moran, Portugal Cove.  
John Picco, St. John's.  
Harold Pierpont, Kent, England.  
Ronald Chafe, St. John's.  
Clinton Thorburn, St. John's.  
Edgar Ewing, St. John's.  
Alex. Lush, St. John's.  
Chas. Simmonds, St. John's.  
James Newton, Bell Island.  
Wm. Tremlett, Colinet, St. Mary's.

For the Navy,  
Edwin Crowther, St. John's.  
Max Mitchell, St. John's.  
Thos. Crossman, St. John's.  
Richard O'Reilly, St. John's.

At the Water Street Recruiting Station yesterday 7 signed the roll for the Navy and 22 for the Army.  
For the Navy,  
Geo. Childs, Lark Harbor.  
Cecil C. Williams, St. John's.  
H. Crocker, St. John's.  
Gilbert N. Crocker, Petty Harbour.  
A. T. Ethridge, Green's Harbor, T.B.  
Hayward Spencer, Green Bay.  
Harry Earle, St. John's.

For the Army,  
Percy Brett, Bishop's Falls.  
William McAllister, St. John's.  
Arthur Lock, St. John's.  
Henry Worsley, St. John's.  
Wm. Evans, St. John's.  
John P. Kelly, St. John's.  
Maurice Shea, St. John's.  
Robt. Sawyer, St. John's.  
Edward T. Hawkins, St. John's.  
Max Mitchell, St. John's.  
Frank Boland, St. John's.  
Henry Morris, St. John's.  
Gust Stodie, St. John's.  
Arthur LeDrew, St. John's.  
William Ellis, St. John's.  
Harry Hoare, Major's Path, St. John's East.  
James Murphy, St. John's.  
Frank W. Harvey, St. John's.  
Thomas Keefe, St. John's.  
James Auckenleck, St. John's.  
Michael O'Toole, St. John's.  
Thomas Nash, St. John's.

In the afternoon there was a continuous stream of applicants for the Forestry Battalion at the down town Recruiting Station. Those who signed the roll were:—  
From St. John's,  
Hubert Moore, Geo. C. Snow, James Stone, Michael Ebs, Joseph Percy, George White, Wm. Ammison, Charles Samuelson, Absolom Vaters, Michael Walsh, Wm. J. Nottall, Fred. D. Rose, James Butler, Fred Roberts, John Walsh, James Murphy, Alic. Howard, James Moakler, James Richardson, Harry Willar, John O'Brien, Cecil A. Bayly, Geo. S. Hutchings, Kenneth Pittman, Matthew Molloy, Jas. Johnson, Frank Dick, Frank Maney, Chas. Feaver, Harvey B. Pike, Robert Lundrigan, Walter Goble, Ed. L. Hawkins, Solomon Chafe, Peter F. Maher, John Canning, Wm. Hackett, Wm. Fifield, Herbert Ivany, John Vinnicombe, Wm. Lash, Harry Lawrence, Hugh Hickey, Harry Molloy, Wm. McAllister, Arch. Locke, Harry Dewling, Peter Ledingham, Lawrence Hynes, John Picco.

Recruiting Station. Those who signed the roll were:—

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Brigus,  
Joseph Anthony.  
St. Mary's,  
Michael Vall.

## The Voyage of the Northern Fleet.

Eleven steamers prosecuted the northern sealing voyage this season. The Bloodhound, which was the last to arrive, finished landing her seals at Hr. Grace yesterday. Her total was 10,156. The aggregate catch of the northern ships is 185,952 seals, made up as follows:—  
Sable I. . . . . 25,110  
Seal . . . . . 16,024  
Terra Nova . . . . . 23,213  
Erik . . . . . 21,643  
Thebis . . . . . 22,538  
Diana . . . . . 8,737  
Eagle . . . . . 18,180  
Njord . . . . . 14,797  
Ranger . . . . . 9,503  
Neptune . . . . . 15,951  
Bloodhound . . . . . 10,156

Total . . . . . 185,952  
In point of number the average is good, but the average weight of the seals was the smallest on record. However, the almost unprecedented high price for fat made it a paying spring for the men engaged. The Viking will soon be home from the Gulf. She has ten thousand pelts, making a total voyage of close on 196,000.

**PATRIOTIC ASSOCIATION MEETS**  
—The Patriotic Association meets Saturday night next, when the main business for discussion will be the Forestry Battalion.

## 5c. The Crescent Picture Palace. 5c.

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Gallery, 50 cents; Pit, 20 cents.

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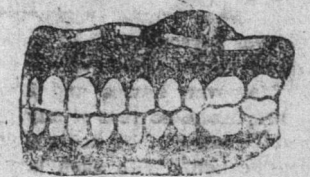
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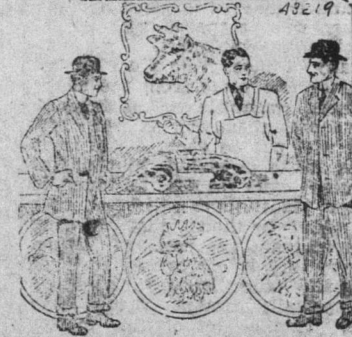
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