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The Toronto World

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GERMANS OCCUPY SOISSONS THEM NOW HARD PRESSED

French Troops, After Fierce Street Fighting, Are Forced Out of Important Town, While Germans Now Threaten Rheims and Head Toward Marne, Where Famous Stand

Was Made by Allies in 1914---Allies Make Gallant Fight on Plateau South of Vesle River, But Are Forced Back by Over- whelming Numbers---Foch Sets Reserves in Motion at All Points Towards Battlefield---Germans Claim 25,000 Prisoners.

LONDON, May 29.—The British people have received the serious events in France with their characteristic quiet and confidence. Their morale appears not to have been affected and there is not the slightest semblance of excitement in London.

After digesting the late editions of the morning newspapers the people went quietly about business as usual. Their grave and solemn manner, however, indicated that they appreciated the seriousness of the battle situation. Wherever the latest developments were discussed the predominant view was that the allied reserves would turn the tables on the enemy at General Foch's chosen time, and that there was no reason for alarm.

In their violent attacks on the thirty-mile battle front running from Soissons eastward to the region northwest of Rheims, the German armies are continuing to drive the French and British forces before them on nearly every sector.

The fortified town of Soissons, the extreme left flank of the allied battle line, has been occupied by the enemy, although the French are still holding tenaciously to its western environs, through which emerge the railway lines leading to Paris and Compiègne.

According to the German official communication 25,000 prisoners, among them a French and British general, have been taken and numerous additional towns and vantage points all along the front have been captured.

Seemingly Rheims, like Soissons, also is doomed to fall into the hands of the enemy, as the French war office reports that the troops covering the famous cathedral town, which almost daily for several years has been the target for shells of hate from the German guns, have been withdrawn behind the Aisne Canal northwest of the town.

On the sector directly to the southeast of Soissons the Germans now are fighting relatively twelve miles from where they started their drive Monday from Vauxaillon, while further east, near Loupeigne, and in the centre in the vicinity of Savigny, wedges have been driven in to a depth of approximately 15 miles.

FRESH MEN THROWN IN.

The Germans continually are throwing fresh divisions into the battle, but the British and French troops are keeping up their tactics of giving ground only when it is impossible longer to hold positions under the tremendous pressure of the enemy. Heavy casualties are being suffered by the army of the German crown prince, while the losses of men to the allied forces are described as relatively light.

Also unofficial reports have mentioned the rushing up of reinforcements from the south, there has as yet been no official statement that Gen. Foch is sending in his reserves.

Of almost as great interest as the Aisne battle is the situation around the little town of Cantigny, where the Americans made a notable gain in their first "solo" attack against the Germans Tuesday. Numerous counter-attacks have been launched against the Americans holding Cantigny and the outlying positions, but all of them have met with the same result—failure and the loss of many men killed or wounded.

In Flanders and Picardy the Germans are heavily bombarding French and British positions on various sectors and raiding operations are being carried out by both sides. No big battle has been begun. The British transport *Leasowe Castle* has been sunk by a submarine in the Mediterranean with the loss of 101 persons drowned.

FRENCH

Soissons Occupied by Enemy

Paris, May 29.—After desperate resistance and fighting in the streets, lasting several hours, the French have evacuated Soissons, which the Germans occupied, according to the official announcement from the war office tonight.

The text of the statement reads: "The troops covering Rheims have withdrawn behind the Aisne Canal, northwest of the town."

"The battle took on particular violence on our left wing. In the region of Soissons, after stubborn resistance and fighting in the streets, which held back the enemy for several hours, our troops evacuated the town, the western outskirts of which we occupy."

"Southeast of Soissons the battle extended to the plateaux marked by Belleu, Septmonts, Ambrief and Chaerise."

"In the centre, under the pressure of the enemy, we gave ground in the region of Loupeigne, north of Fere-en-Tardenois. The Franco-British troops further to the east maintained their positions on the line of Brouillet, Savigny and Tilloy."

"On the right the troops which are covering Rheims have withdrawn behind the Aisne Canal, northwest of the town."

The German drive is not yet completely stopped, but nowhere were our lines broken. All parts of the front remain solid, and the Germans have obtained nothing to be compared with what took place in the first days of the March offensive, all critics assert. La Liberte says the high French command is absolutely convinced it can overcome the serious difficulties which it has to meet. Its confidence is founded on the power of resources and the morale of its army, which remains intact.

The Temps says that in the face of the formidable and tragic battle, France has no fear for the future, and stands erect in the confidence that the allied cause will triumph over the methods of terrorism of an enemy devoid of nobility of soul. Weariness of mourning cannot turn the nation away from its sacred duty.

Premier Clemenceau, who has just returned from the battle front, declared the morale of the allied soldiers was admirable. French and British soldiers, the premier said, went singing into battle. M. Clemenceau paid a high tribute to the allied commanders, who, he said, were worthy of all praise. During his trip, the premier, with his usual temerity, went near the front lines. A general was killed at a crossroads where the premier had passed only three minutes before.

Allies Retire With Great Precision

With the French Army in France, May 29.—The Germans advanced against the French lines again today after throwing further masses of troops into the battle. Both flanks of the battle line were the scene of very heavy fighting by inferior numbers against superior with the result that the allies were obliged again to cede ground at several points.

Besides Von Boehm's and Von Below's armies, many divisions of Von Hutier's troops were engaged. These especially trained units had participated in the first rush on March 21 and had since then been reconstituted.

An enormous number of light machine guns were employed by the Germans as well as a large fleet of tanks and much heavy and light artillery, while the German aviators were extremely active.

From the plain towards Juvincourt, Ville-aux-Bois, Pontavert and Berry-au-Bac, numerous tanks came into action. For a considerable time the thin allied line held out, but as the enemy debouched, wave after wave, the French and British, almost submerged, fell back slowly, getting across the river. Several British officers afterward sacrificed their lives in destroying the bridge.

Almost simultaneously overpowering enemy forces made their way to the top of the Chemin des Dames ridge and also to the western end of this road, in the neighborhood of Chavignon and Malmaison, and the troops holding these points were obliged to recede.

The allied movement to the rear was executed with the greatest precision; there was no disorder and all the units kept in constant liaison.

BRITISH STICK TO POSITIONS.

Further east other British divisions, amalgamated with French colonial troops, held fast and are still firmly sticking to their positions, although they have been compelled to rearrange part of their front in order to keep alignment with their retiring comrades.

In the direction of Soissons a readjustment of the front line also became necessary, in consequence of the falling back of the centre where the Germans were pushing hardest.

The fighting has been continuous for two days, thru a country composed of a series of chalky plateaux, with winding valleys, whose slopes are half clothed with trees, and containing many caverns. Along the top of one of the principal ridges runs the famous Chemin des Dames, from which valleys spread angularly towards the Aisne. The allied possession of this ridge compromised the security of the German southern flank.

The enemy's torrent of divisions, rolling forward, found only the thinnest line of allied troops facing the advance. These fell back before the irresistible pressure, retiring, but struggling valiantly. The torrent as it moved forward became even stronger, for the Germans added new forces to it. Even the Aisne did not stay its rush.

The Germans followed the allies across the river and at the same time spread along the sides, the allies having decided that it was useless to sacrifice men in efforts to hold these positions with too few defenders.

The southern slopes of the Aisne valley offered good ground to the allies to stand, had they been in sufficient force. But the Germans were in immensely superior numbers, and the allied commanders chose to retire to the plateaux beyond and thus give an opportunity for the reserves to concentrate. It is probable, before the advancing German torrent weakens, that further territory will fall into the hands of the enemy. That, however, in the opinion of French officers, will not affect the strength of the allied forces, which retain their striking power for the future.

The French and British kept in the closest touch thruout the battle, working together as a single unit. The spirit of comradeship was touching. Both in the ranks and along the roads wounded men of both nations, when able to walk, were helping each other toward

ALBANIAN HELD FOR MURDER OF C.P.R. LABORER

Some of Tucker's Property
Found Among Belongings
of Man Now in Custody.

SOME OTHERS DETAINED

All Belonged to Gang of
C.P.R. Laborers Who Had
Gone on Strike.

Following the efforts of the provincial police since May 19, Hassan Nevy, alias C. George, a man claiming to be an Albanian and giving his address as 541 West King street, was arrested on a charge of murder last night.

George is alleged to have murdered George H. Tucker of Orangeville, a member of the Canadian Pacific bridge construction gang, as he slept in his bunk in a boarding car on the siding of the Roman Stone Company's plant, near Weston, on May 19. The tragedy was discovered by William Hill, also a member of the gang, who returned to the car from a visit to Toronto about 10 o'clock on the night of the murder.

The crime from the beginning was characterized by the police as baffling. While the murderer had thoroughly ransacked the dead man's clothes and had removed all articles of value from the boarding car, the theory of robbery alone did not seem very substantial in face of the evident fury with which the murder was committed.

Witness Describes Man.
The first clue was offered the police at the coroner's inquest when one of the witnesses called was partially able to describe the man now held, as a man he had seen leaving the scene of the crime shortly after the murder is thought to have been committed.

George, the man held for murder, is said to be one of a gang of Albanians who had been working for the Canadian Pacific Railway, but had gone on strike for a higher rate of pay. The men demanded \$2.75 a day, and the company refused to accept, and the railway discharged the entire gang.

Find Tucker's Wallet.
After ascertaining where the gang was living Inspector Miller and Inspector Greer, of the provincial police, Inspector Kennedy of the city police and Detectives Mitchell, Cronin, Mulholland, Stewart and Maurer went to the house at 569 West King street about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon and entered the building armed with search warrants. When they entered there were three men in the building. After searching the personal effects of the men a pair of field glasses which were removed from the boarding car, and the dead man's wallet with an identification card issued by the Merchants' Casualty Company, bearing the number 32725, and bearing the name of George H. Tucker, Orangeville, were found in George's belongings.

George arrived at the house at 5:15 and was immediately placed under arrest on the charge of murder. Several other members of the gang giving their names as G. Assan, M. Demo, J. Ali, G. Gela, C. Sam, Bemo Assan, M. Ali, A. Gela, E. Assan, George Ali, C. Man, and Sam Ali, were also detained by the police and questioned.

George, when questioned by the police officials, flatly denied having anything to do with the murder. He also denied working at any time for the Canadian Pacific Railway. This he stoutly maintained even in the face of his endorsed checks being presented to him. Inspector Greer and Miller of the provincial police also advised him that his last check in the C.P.R. building at the corner of King and Yonge streets, when the men were finally paid off. The man even said that the club bag in which the murdered man's articles were found was not his. Some of the clothes the man was wearing when he was apprehended matched with clothing found in his suitcase by the police. An en-

PERUVIAN VISITOR MEETS WITH SURPRISE

Antonio Grana Comes North to Learn
How Canada Carries on Agri-
cultural Work.

Down in New York they told him Canada was a pretty good agricultural country, and that Ontario could show him some things he wanted to see, so he came, he saw and he is being conquered. "I had no idea you had such a wonderful country," he said yesterday. His name is Antonio Grana. He is special commissioner for the Peruvian Government, department of agriculture, and his mission to America is to study its agricultural pursuits and its live stock industry.

What he has seen has been a revelation to him. He has visited the Niagara fruit belt and expects to inspect the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph within a day or two. Yesterday he was in conference with W. B. Roadhouse, deputy minister of agriculture, when the organization of the department of agriculture was explained.

"Everything is splendid; I am surprised," he said, "but oh! your winners."

DEFENDANT RELEASED; WITNESS IS ARRESTED

Harry Cohen Tries to Shield Girl Who
Later Admitted Taking Things.

At the close of the trial of Harry Cohen yesterday afternoon in the criminal court, when he was acquitted by Judge Winchester on the charge of supplying drugs to Jean Duncan, the principal witness, and who was supposed to have been the girl to whom Cohen gave the drugs, was placed under arrest by Detective Kerr of the morality department on the charge of purchasing and supplying drugs to herself. The girl, Jean Duncan, swore that she had purchased certain pills at a down town drug store, but could not say which one.

"Why did Cohen say he had given you the pills," asked Crown Attorney Greer.

"To shield me, I suppose," answered the girl.

"You surely would not have her arrested," protested T. C. Robinette, K. C., who appeared for Cohen, but as the girl left the court Detective Kerr followed and arrested her.

NOEL MARSHALL GOES ON VISIT TO FRANCE

With Party of Four He Will Visit
Front on Behalf of the
Red Cross.

Noel Marshall received notification last evening to be ready to leave with a party of four on Monday for France to make a tour in the interests of the Red Cross. Mr. Marshall does not know as yet from what port he is to sail or who will compose the party.

A special meeting of the executive of the Canadian National Exhibition has been called for Friday afternoon when Mr. Marshall, who is the representative of the Red Cross, will be presented with a silver service in recognition of his faithful efforts.

GOLD DISCOVERY ON ALGOMA CENTRAL

Special to The Toronto World.

Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., May 29.—Gold has been found near Goudreau, 177 miles north of the Soo on the Algoma Central Railway, and indications point to large deposits in a porphyry dike five miles long and a mile wide. The property is largely owned by D. J. McCarthy of the Soo, and J. P. Cline of South Porcupine. Many have gone to the new gold find. Examinations of the claims have produced gratifying results.

RETIRE FROM KIRKUT.

British Withdraw Southward in Mesopotamia, Turks Occupying Towns.

London, May 29.—A Turkish official communication received here today says: "On the Irak front the Turkish left wing has occupied Kirkut, the British withdrawing southward."

A envelope given to George by another man in the gang was also found in the bag proving without doubt that the bag belonged to him.

OFFICIAL PAPERS NOT A NECESSITY

Certificate Signed by Two
Reputable Persons Will
Satisfy Law.

APPLICATIONS POUR IN

Thousands Apply for Official
Documents of Birth
or Marriage.

Only those who may be suspected of being in class one of the Military Service Act will be required to carry certificates of birth or marriage according to an announcement posted in the department of the registrar-general at the parliament buildings yesterday. It is also stated that a certificate signed by two reputable citizens, residing in the same community, will satisfy the law, thereby doing away with the necessity of having an official certificate.

This latter clause is the only alternative for thousands of applicants, for judging by present indications it would be impossible to meet all demands before June 1. Possibly the largest crowd that has been seen in the department was there yesterday, and the number of applications ran into the thousands. In spite of the fact that the augmented staff is kept working until midnight there is a heavy surplus, which keeps growing and which could hardly be cleared up in time.

The clauses in the regulations posted ed yesterday to which attention was drawn stated that if it be claimed that a person is not within the clause of age signed by two reputable citizens residing in the same community in which he lives and who are acquainted with the fact will suffice. The same holds good in respect to claims for exemption from class one by reason of marriage.

Farmers and Conscription.

W. F. Maclean is Not Resigning in South
York Nor Dr. Steele in
South Perth.

A constituent called on W. F. Maclean, M.P., to see the petition from farmers in Markham asking him to resign his seat if he did not oppose conscription of farmers. Mr. Maclean said he was not going to resign; that on the contrary, he told the electors, farmers included, at all his meetings in the late contest, that he was for conscription and would support its enforcement. Ninety per cent of the voters of South York, who included were for conscription; and if he had not kept his pledge these would be the people who had a right to ask him to resign, not the minority. But where undue hardship occurred in case of farmers conscripted he had done all he could to have relief afforded.

Stratford, May 28.—Replying to a letter from the Cronarty Farmers' Club in respect to supporting exemption for farmers under the Military Service Act, Dr. M. Steele, Unionist M.P. for South Perth, declared his stand in no uncertain terms. After pointing out that the decision of the government was arrived at after serious consideration and referring to the great need of men, he declares:

"My duty, as I see it, in the situation is perfectly clear. I intend to continue to do my duty and I will not be deterred from that course even by your threat that my resignation will be requested. The man who were to refuse further reinforcements to our gallant boys at this time is not worthy to represent any British constituency."

H. H. Williams Seriously Ill As Result of Train Accident

H. H. Williams is seriously ill at his home, 545 Avenue road, as the result of an accident received on the train en route to Ottawa. Mr. Williams was in the washroom of the Pullman when a slight collision occurred. The jar of the colliding cars threw him violently against the sharp edge of the basin, injuring him. The doctor is allowing no one to see him at present.