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## The War Situation

(By the Military Expert of the New York Times.)

Following closely on the heels of the French successes of the last few days comes the British attack on the entire line engaged in the battle of the Somme. This is the line from Thiepval to Comblies, where the British line ties up with that of the French. The first blow appears to have been struck against Thiepval. Here the same old obstacle which has held up the British advance since the Ancre for weeks was encountered, and the British swung to the east and north after gaining another small part of the Thiepval defenses. In this change of direction considerable progress was made. Courcellette was taken, and with this village over a mile of the Bapaume road. The British then followed, as the Germans were completely outflanked by the advance on their left and the entire line north of the Somme thrown open. Once Martinière was out of the way the last point of support for the line to the east was gone, and the German line had to fall back all the way to Comblies. Piers held the line to Comblies was also taken, and with Piers, the turning point of the German line. Piers held the same position with respect to the German line which Ginchy had filled before. The British were the point on which the Germans pivoted, and when taken weakened the line north and east of it. The British, satisfied with gaining only on the north, where their action was of but little assistance to the French in their part of the offensive, the British struck also to the east in an effort to line up with the new French positions. In this they met with considerable measure of success, although they did not accomplish all that was needed in this direction.

Comblies is, for all practical purposes, cut off completely from the country to the south. The French wedge at Bouchemmes is so far to the east that it is only by a detour of nearly ten miles that Peronne can be reached. It would not be necessary for the British to advance to any such depth as the French have to sniff out the Comblies salient. In fact the ground to be gained before this can be done is now but small. The Bouchemmes Woods really constitute the key to the Comblies position, and of these the British succeeded yesterday in taking the greater part. Directly in their front and not more than a mile distant is the village of Morval, and when this is in British hands the full of Comblies is assured. Already the town is almost enveloped, the pocket is almost complete. Another push and the work here is done. As stated yesterday, Comblies has lost its value in its relation to the rest of the front. It is of value only as a strong point of support strongly held. Once it passes from German control there is no other large town between the Allies and the Cambrai-Arras railroad.

The French in the meantime are doing their part to complete the encircling of the city. Since their advance which carried them to the Peronne-Bapaume highway, they have been attempting to extend their lines northward, working toward Fries Farm. They have indeed taken the farm and yesterday advanced their lines considerably over a quarter of a mile beyond it. This has two effects. In the first place, it draws the strings closer about Comblies, and in the second place it lengthens the French front. By this I have reference to the salient which their bulge has created. Such a salient is always more or less dangerous. Whenever the neck of a salient is so narrow that the guns of the enemy on one side can reach the other the element of danger is present. If the French can extend their line north, as they are trying to do, their line will be straightened out and all inequalities between them and the British will have been done away with.

The British advance is a conspicuous example of the comparative ease with which gains are made now as compared with a short time ago. The fact that the British were going to deliver another attack must have been apparent to the German commander. The French gain a few days before created a situation where it was absolutely necessary for the British to move out or the French could not take the full advantage of their own work. Therefore, knowing that the attack was to come, there was every opportunity to prepare for the resistance. But whatever preparations the Germans did make, if any, were not sufficient.

It is not often that we have read of the western front that this side or that has gained a couple of miles. In fact, up to the 1st of September such a thing

was thought impossible, and it was considered that in order to drive the Germans out of France it would be a question of going forward foot by foot. This theory is beginning to be questioned. The Germans have, of course, a perfect maze of trenches, dugouts, and pits about their first line positions, and even in most cases about their second line positions also. But there must of necessity come the point where the defensive fronts, the gains, with the same artillery preparation, become greater and greater. This is but natural, and we do not have to seek any mysterious strategical conception of events on other fronts for an explanation. Apparently the Germans have given their limit of defense, and their limit is not enough.

There is and always will be a constant battle between the offense and defense as to which can be made the stronger. In the construction of the forts at Liege and Namur it was thought that the scene had been reached in defensive works. They were considered absolutely indestructible. The heavy German guns, the offense which Germany had carefully built up, proved the fallacy of this. Again the battle was on. Gradually as the war has progressed, the defense has gradually been advancing until now it is a question which is in the ascendency. Modern defense is powerful, more powerful than was dreamed of two years ago. Modern offense is struggling to keep pace. It has not stood still, but the advance of defense has been more rapid. Where time is permitted, it is apparent that the defense is now ahead. But where time is

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## LOCAL NEWS

Choice new dulce. Phillips' Stores, Union St., Main St. Phone 1240 9-26

OPPORTUNITY FOR LADIES  
Owing to a lucky purchase of ladies' waists, worth \$8 to \$9, we will give you your choice at wholesale price. They are crepe de chine, georgette crepe and voile. —Andrus' Dept. Store, West End. 9-24

"Burn RADIO Chestnut, the superior kitchen hard coal—Consumers Coal Company, sole vendors." 9-22

Ladies fur collars and muffs and a large line of children's furs are arriving at Bassett's, 14-16-18 Charlotte street. 9-24

SHOE THE FAMILY AT ANDRUS  
Our stock is in great shape for supplying footwear for men, women and children. All styles and all sizes. Ask the price on any pair and see what you save. 288 King street west. 9-24

SHOP AT ANDRUS  
Men! We can supply your footwear, shirts, collars, Wolhausen hats, sweaters, etc., etc., all the known brands—Tooke's, Penman's, Stanfield's, and show you a genuine saving. Come in tonight, 288 King street west. 9-24

SOLITAIRE DIAMOND RINGS  
See our Special at \$19 to \$23—Smalley & Co., 91 Prince Wm. street. 9-21

Patch cotton at 15c. a pound at Bassett's, 14-16-18 Charlotte street. 9-24

"Burn RADIO Chestnut, the superior kitchen hard coal—Consumers Coal Company, sole vendors." 9-22

Art Sateen for quilting 36 inches wide, worth 20c. a yard, for 18c. a yard at Bassett's, 14-16-18 Charlotte street. 9-24

BOYS' SUITS  
You can buy a good strong well made suit for your boy for \$4 at Turner's, out of the high rent district, 440 Main St. 9-24

WEATHER TIME IS HERE  
Best style sweaters for the boys and girls, also men and women. The right qualities at less than you would pay elsewhere.—Andrus' Dept. Store, 288 King street west. 9-24

Game licenses for sale.—Phillips & Co., Tobacconists, 81 King street. 9-25

Soprano desires position, experience in church singing, oratorio and concert work. American and Canadian references. Terms moderate. Apply Ruth M. Blaisdell, 81 Trinity Place, Boston, Mass., care of Bureau University Travel. 9-16-20-28

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Two persons may join in renting a safe deposit box, each receiving a key. The safety of valuable documents is thus insured. Boxes are rented for \$5.00 per year and upward, according to size, by the Bank of Nova Scotia at Prince William street, Charlotte street, or North End branch. 9-24

not available for the very elaborate construction necessary, the offense can be made to smash its way through.

So it is with the British and French fronts. The Germans, driven out of their strong positions, are now not able to stem the steadily forward movement of the Allies. It is apparently irresistible.

A question in fact arises as a result of recent gains which appear a most fertile field for speculation. Can the German front be really broken? When the last of the German field works has been passed and they are forced to depend on trenches constructed on the moment can the Allies break through on a wide front and open a dike through which they can pour their infantry and cavalry, particularly the latter, in an effort to turn the flanks of the two wings and roll them up? Recent events indicate that this can eventually be done.

## The New GROCERY

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22 King Square  
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5 lbs. Packet Lantic Sugar.....41c.  
10 cakes Gold or Sunrise Soap.....25c.  
8 cakes Happy Home Soap.....25c.  
3 pkts. Cornstarch.....25c.  
3 pkts. Lard.....25c.  
3 tins Old Dutch.....25c.  
3 lbs. Mixed Starch.....25c.  
Lighting Clamps.....25c.  
Quaker Puffed Rice.....14c.  
Jersey Cream Baking Powder.....24c. lb. can  
2 pkts. Shredded Wheat.....25c.  
6 lbs. Onions.....25c.  
3 ten-cent pkgs. Coconut.....25c.  
Cakes.....10c. doz.  
Ice.....30c. lb.  
Whole Pickling Spice.....24c. lb.  
Vinegar—White Wine or Cider.....25c. gal.  
2 lbs. prunes.....25c.

C. O. D. Orders Solicited  
West End Delivery Tuesdays and Fridays

William Quinn was knocked down yesterday afternoon by a runaway horse in King Square. The horse belonged to E. McInerney.

The fire apparatus was called out twice yesterday. Besides the fire in the store of C. H. Townshend, an alarm from box 92 was sent last evening for a small place in one of the outer buildings of the York cotton mill. The damage would amount to about \$800.

That there is a splendid market in Cuba for New Brunswick fish and potatoes and a hitherto almost unexplored market for pulp and lumber, was the statement of Jose Rafeles y Nollas, a prominent commission merchant of the city of Havana, who is visiting in the city of St. John.

At a meeting of the New Brunswick Public Utilities Commission yesterday argument was heard relative to the town of Sackville having an all-night street lighting system. M. T. Ford, K.C., represented the town of Sackville and R. Trites appeared on behalf of the Eastern Light and Power Company. Judgment will be given later.

HOLLAND A HUGE BARRACKS  
British Whites Think 90 Per Cent. of Dutch are Pro-Ally.

London, Sept. 20.—A Daily Mail correspondent, recently in Holland, writes: "You cannot be on Dutch soil very long without realizing how completely war has altered the appearance of things in little Holland. At Fushing, for example, six Dutch submarines are lying in an uncommon sight at that busy port. As you cross the country by train to Amsterdam, soldiers greet the eye everywhere. I do not know exactly how many men Holland has mobilized. Some say, although the figure never has been officially stated, that there are 300,000 to 400,000. At any rate the Netherlands has been converted into one huge barracks, and is evidently prepared to do her duty to herself if the kaleidoscopic fortunes of war should embroil her too."

Dutch people are sincerely pro-Ally. The remaining 10 per cent, however, represents an influential body. In my opinion it consists roughly of church leaders, aristocrats, and military men. Important personages in both Protestant and Roman Catholic churches are undisputedly pro-German. They have been hypnotized by the Kaiser's incessant pretended religiousness. Their positions enable them to influence a good deal of popular sentiment."

A good tip for softening boots that have been wet through and dried till hard in front of a fire is to rub them well with castor oil. This oil, unlike other oils, will allow the boots to be brightly polished after using it.

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13 lbs. finest Granulated Sugar \$1.00  
10 lb. bag Lantic Sugar.....42c.  
Choice White Beans Only 15c. per qt.  
2 tins Red Cross Beans.....25c.  
Red Clover Salmon (Hats).....Only 20c.  
40c. pkgs. Lipton's Tea.....35c.  
3 pkgs. Corn Starch.....25c.  
3 pkgs. Corn Flakes.....25c.  
3 pkgs. Krumbles.....27c.  
3 lbs. Mixed Starch.....25c.  
3 bottles Ammonia.....25c.  
2 cakes Bon-Ami.....25c.  
3 pkgs. Lux.....25c.  
3 tins Old Dutch.....25c.  
6 cakes Lifebuoy or Fairy Soap.....25c.  
6 cakes Gold or Sunlight Soap.....25c.  
8 cakes Happy Home Soap.....25c.

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599 Main St.  
Phone 257.

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Horseshoe Cream.....6 bota. 25c.  
Chili Sauce.....3 bota. 25c.  
Nutmeg.....6 cans 25c.  
Favorite Baking Powder.....2 cans 25c.  
Winecream.....3 pkgs. 25c.  
Daddie's Sauce.....6 bota. 25c.  
White Swan Spices.....3 cans 25c.  
Daltop's Spices.....3 cans 25c.  
Vaseline.....3 bota. 25c.  
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Onion Salad.....3 bota. 25c.  
McLaren's Jelly.....3 pkgs. 25c.  
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Tip of Coffee.....1 can 25c.  
8 bars H. H. Soap.....25c.  
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Genuine Apple Cider Vinegar.....Only 28c. gal.  
Best Quality White or Colored.....28c. gal.  
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Pure Pickling Spices.....23c. lb.  
Pure Malt Vinegar.....19c. bottle

Best Onions.....5c. 6 lbs. for 25c.  
Canned Dairy Butter.....30c. lb.  
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Pure Lard.....19c. lb.  
Shortening.....17c. lb.  
Santa Claus Raisins.....12c. lb.  
Bee Jelly Powder, 5c. pkgs., 23c. 5 pkgs., 23c.  
White Swan Baking Powder, 25c. lb.  
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**\$1.00 Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound**  
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See Our Five-Yard Ends of Striped Flannel in Light and Dark Colors, Almost a Yard Wide and Fast Colors. Now Worth 15c. a Yard. Marked 65c. Per Yard.

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It is just as good as it looks—real, honest Maritime wool, soft, strong and durable, spun and knitted into the warmest and best wearing garments you can possibly buy.

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Steak.....20c. per lb.  
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Roasts.....From 12c. per lb.  
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**LAMB**  
Hindquarters.....17c. per lb.  
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Roasts.....18c. and 20c. per lb.  
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