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MONDAY MORNING MAY 7 1917—FOURTEEN PAGES

VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,326

FRENCH MAKE BIG GAINS

Canadians Take Trenches South of Souchez British Repulse Furious Counter-Attacks

BRITISH REPEL FOE ATTEMPTS AGAINST LINES

Germans Fail to Regain Lost Positions East of Bullecourt.

AIRMEN BEAT ENEMY

Six Machines Drive Off Attack By Fifteen of Kaiser's Aircraft.

London, May 6.—The British official communication issued this evening reports the repulse of German counter-attacks on the sector east of Bullecourt. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the Germans. Attacks south of the Souchez River and near Acheville also were put down. The communication says:

"Later reports show that the hostile attacks delivered against our troops in the Hindenburg line east of Bullecourt have been particularly severe. Considerable forces of the enemy have been thrown into the fight in this neighborhood, but after fierce and close fighting they have on each occasion been repulsed with heavy losses.

"The enemy delivered two determined counter-attacks early this morning in an endeavor to recover the section of his front line south of the Souchez River, captured by us yesterday night. He was completely repulsed in each case.

"Today, a party of the enemy attempted to approach one of our posts south of Acheville but was driven off. Another hostile party which succeeded in reaching our trenches west of Hulluch during the night was driven out with losses. We suffered no casualties."

"We carried out a successful raid last night southeast of Loos. There has been considerable artillery activity on both sides during the day north of the Scarpe.

Win Aerial Fight.

"An encounter took place in the air yesterday between six British aeroplanes and from fifteen to twenty German machines. Attacking in different parties, the enemy suc-

(Concluded on Page 7, Column 4).

CANADIANS CAPTURE IMPORTANT TRENCHES

Surprise Attack Early Sunday Morning Results in Gain of Ground and Improvement of Position.

By Stewart Lyon.

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, May 6.—By a surprise attack early this (Sunday) morning the battalion holding that part of our front immediately south of the Souchez River captured an important sector of the enemy front line and support trench some distance to the east. The whole region southwest of Lens, where the ground was gained, is dotted over with ruins of mining villages and almost every house has been transformed into a miniature fortress by the introduction of machine guns, operated from the shelter of strong emplacements. The gunners who hold these posts do not surrender—they die at their places beside their guns, fighting to the end. Germany still has men of that type, and they sell their lives for the utmost price they can exact.

It was to avoid, as much as possible, the concentration of machine gun fire on our attacking forces that the enemy's trench was rushed. The assault was completely successful. Our men went in with bombs and bayonets and cleared the trenches, after a sharp fight. The occupants, one officer and thirty-three men, were captured. Possession of this ground was regarded by the enemy as so important that twice during the night he counter-attacked. Both efforts failed and the German losses are known to be heavy.

The ground won improves our position.

The systematic burning of everything of value in and around Lens continues from day to day. The enemy seems likely to stay long enough to make good his boast that nothing of France's most prosperous mining region will be left but a smoking waste when he goes.

FULL ACCORD REACHED AT PARIS CONFERENCE

Britain, France, Italy and Russia Represented in Thoro Discussion of War Situation.

Paris, May 5, 9 p.m.—At a conference of the allies held in Paris a full discussion of the war situation took place and a complete accord was reached, according to a semi-official communication issued tonight. David Lloyd George, the British prime minister, M. Ribot and other members of the French Cabinet, Gen. Petain and Gen. Nivelle, Vice-Admiral De Bon, chief of the naval general staff, and the Italian ambassador, Marquis Raggi, and A. P. Iswolski, the Russian ambassador, were present.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, commander of the British forces in France, also attended the conference.

HOLD ENTIRE CHEMIN-DES-DAMES; ALL GROUND GAINED IS ORGANIZED AND 6100 PRISONERS COUNTED

Selected Soldiers From the Prussian Guard Are Unable to Stem French Advance, Being Caught by Heavy Artillery Fire, Surrounded and Added to Bag of Prisoners---Gain is Made on Front of Eighteen Miles.

Grand Headquarters of the French Armies in France, May 6.—Afternoon—(From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press).—Not only have the last two days of fighting along the Chemin-des-Dames delivered more than 6,000 prisoners to the French, but they have given them positions whence they can operate on the principal German defensive line occupying the crest on the northern side of the Ailette Valley.

From Laffaux Mill to Craonne, the entire Chemin-des-Dames, with the exception of a small section, is held firmly by the French, who have organized their gains in defiance of all efforts to oust them. Counter-attacks were tried by the Germans last night at many points with great masses of men who displayed the ferocity of despair, but they were beaten back again and again. The verve of the French troops of all kinds, each one of whom emulates its neighbor in bravery, was too much for the Germans, who surrendered in large bodies, unable to withstand the French impetuosity.

The French troops advanced so rapidly that some of the German heavy artillery could not be removed and was captured, together with some of their field artillery. Even the selected soldiers of the Prussian Guard were unable to stem the advance. They were brought up in motor lorries when the other Germans had wavered and fallen back, but all they accomplished was to increase the bag of prisoners, which is continuously growing in size. The guards were alighting from the lorries and were caught under a heavy fire of the French artillery and suffered terribly. Men returning from the lines assert that the number of German dead lying on the battlefield is greater than ever seen on one spot during the fighting in France.

The correspondent of the Associated Press watched the battle from the position whence the French went over to the attack north of Nanteuil-la-Fosse and Sancy. To the northwest was Laffaux Mill, while to the northeast Fort Malmaison, dismantled before the war, stood out like a square block on the horizon. In the centre was L'Ange Gardien, where the Chemin-des-Dames breaks off from the Soissons-Brussels road.

Hottest at Laffaux Mill.

The battle hereabouts was most interesting, as the possession of Laffaux Mill gives the occupant an enfilading position along the Chemin-des-Dames and the Ailette. The German resistance here reached its highest point, but could not prevail against the powerful blows of the French attack. The Germans countered after the French had taken their front line, but were given blow for blow, the French eventually wearing odwn their opponents. Several ruined farmhouses, such as those of Mennsjean, Golombo, Royere, and Epinne de Chevregny, the latter directly on the Chemin-des-Dames, were scenes of fierce engagements with hand grenades and bayonets. In these the French came out victors.

This morning nearly 30 kilometres of the Chemin-des-Dames were in French hands.

The correspondent, while on his way to the battlefield, visited the abandoned Fort Conde, from which Soissons was bombarded almost daily by the Germans. Before they were forced out the Germans exploded 40 tons of powder in an effort to destroy the structure, and laid mines as traps for the French. One electric fuse was found, but German prisoners informed the French that it was only a dummy and indicated the position where another was connected with a powerful mine intended to blow up anyone entering the fort.

The official communication issued Sunday night by the war office reads:

"Northeast of Soissons we made complete our success of yesterday and enlarged the captured territory by isolated operations. We occupied several important points of support north of Moulin de Laffaux and north of Braye-en-Laonnois.

"The artillery fighting was violent in the whole region of the Chemin-des-Dames, where the Germans launched anew today strong counter-attacks against our positions at the Froidmont Farm, the Vauclerc Plateau and in the Craonne sector. We everywhere maintained our gains and repulsed the enemy with heavy losses.

"In the course of one of these attacks a German battalion, caught under our fire, retreated in disorder, leaving on the field the greater part of its effectives.

"The number of prisoners counted up to the present is 6100. One of our army corps operating north of Braye-en-Laonnois took 1800 prisoners and captured a front of four kilometres almost in its entirety on the Siegfried line.

"There were intermittent artillery actions on the rest of the front.

"Belgian communication: 'Artillery fighting took place at various points on the Belgian front.'"

A brilliant success for the French arms is recorded in the official communication issued by the war office last night. An important French advance has been made against powerful opposition along the road from Soissons to Laon, over an extent of nearly four miles. French troops have captured all the plateau in the neighborhood of Cerny and Craonne and the hills dominating the valley of the Ailette River. The number of prisoners captured today was 4300, in addition to the 1000 taken yesterday.

The text of the statement reads:

"Our operations continued to develop today in conjunction with those of the British armies in the region northeast of Soissons and the Chemin-des-Dames. Notwithstanding the desperate resistance of the Germans, who have thrown without number into the struggle important contingents, our troops gained a very brilliant success.

"Southeast of Vauxaillon we attacked a salient in the Hindenburg line and carried German positions on a front of about six kilometres, one part on the line extending from the Moisy Farm to Moulin de Laffaux, and the other east of Moulin, where we advanced our lines as far as the immediate vicinity of the road from Soissons to Laon, north of Nanteuil-la-Fosse and Sancy.

"The enemy suffered exceptionally heavy losses in the course of his counter-attacks, which he has multiplied in this region, and which have broken down under our artillery and machine gun fire.

"German columns observed on the march near Chermizy and Chamouill were caught by the fire of our heavy batteries and dispersed.

"In the region of the Chemin-des-Dames our infantry occupied the entire plateau from east of Cerny-en-Laonnois to east of Craonne despite the resistance and counter-attacks of the enemy, and have reached the hills which dominate the Ailette valley, south of Ailles and the Vauclerc forest.

"The number of prisoners counted during the course of the day exceeds

(Concluded on Page 7, Column 4).

GERMANS, OF COURSE, DENY IT

Berlin, via London, May 6.—The official communication issued this evening, says:

"After their sanguinary defeat of yesterday on the Aisne the French have not repeated their attack. Only at the Winterburg, west of Craonne, is there fresh fighting in progress.

"Contrary to the report of today, Chevreux was not taken by the French, but is still in our hands.

"A tremendous thrust by the French on a front of nearly 22 miles in an effort to break thru the German line on the Ailette-Craonne front yesterday proved entirely futile."

RUSSIAN CRISIS OVER DUMA TO BE CALLED

Government Satisfies Masses By Declaring for Policy of War Without Annexations or Contributions, Says Prince Tseretelli---Duma to Meet Immediately.

Petrograd, Friday, May 4, (via London, May 6.)—(Delayed)—The controversy between the Council of Workmen and Soldiers and the provisional government, which for the last twenty hours has threatened such serious consequences, in which, in fact, the fate of the nation, and possibly of the war, was involved has been settled.

The duma, it is announced, will be convoked in extraordinary session immediately. This will be the first time the duma has met since the revolution which overthrew the Romanoff dynasty.

Prince Tseretelli, speaking before a tremendous gathering of soldiers and workingmen who crowded the naval cadet building, where the council held a special meeting to receive the report of the executive council, declared that the government had prepared a new declaration concerning its foreign policy, which in definite language corresponded to the proclamation of April 9, and embodied the views of the proletariat. When the speaker declared that the temporary government had acquitted itself of the charge brought against it by explaining in concise terms the objectionable phrase in the original declaration of its war aims, he apparently voiced the relief which all present felt at the solution of the most serious difficulty which had confronted the council and country since the revolution. Prince Tseretelli then read the new declaration sent to the council by the government, and explained that the trouble was over and that the provisional government would remain in power. Democracy, he said, had won a great victory. He went on to explain

(Concluded on Page 7, Column 5).

PETROGRAD FEELS GERMAN MENACE

Enemy Is Concentrating for Heavy Drive By Way of Libau.

CALL OUT RESERVES

Gen. Korniloff Warns That Foe May Land Close to Capital.

Petrograd, via London, May 6.—Petrograd is again warned of an impending German attack upon it by way of Libau, in an army order which directs the disposition of forces to resist such an attack. The warning was given by General Korniloff, commanding the troops in the Petrograd district, who, in his order of the day, says:

"We have received reports that the enemy is concentrating large forces against our northern front. German merchantmen are at Libau, ready as soon as the ice has melted, to embark troops, and under cover of the German fleet, to carry out a landing which may possibly be made quite close to Petrograd.

"In order to create a new army capable of stubbornly defending our capital against the assaults of an enemy from abroad, and of consolidating the freedom won by Russia, I order the reorganization of the reserve elements of the district in accordance with the orders I have already issued to the first line troops. These reorganized elements must remain in Petrograd in conformity with the declaration of the provisional government, and must be ready to defend civil liberty, and in the event of an enemy movement against Petrograd, oppose and defeat the enemy on the outskirts of the capital."

DINEEN'S DURING ALTERATIONS.

Business will continue during alterations at Dineen's, with especial emphasis on price attractiveness. All the new spring goods, millinery and men's hats that were ordered for the regular seasonable display are featured at prices less than cost. This is necessary owing to the disordered condition of the premises during building alterations and repairs. Take your share of the bargains. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

TROOPS FIRE ON GERMAN RIOTERS

Bloodshed and Five Hundred Arrests Follow Outbreak at Mainz.

RAID ON FOOD SHOPS

German Papers Publish Absurd Fabrication to Rouse National Spirit.

London, May 6.—Grave rioting has occurred in Mainz, Germany, according to a report received by The Telegraaf, says an Amsterdam despatch. Sixteen hundred people took part in a demonstration because of the scarcity of food, and a number of shops were looted. Troops fired on the demonstrators, the report adds, and eight persons were killed. Later the troops arrested 500 persons.

A Copenhagen despatch says: As the latest means of keeping the German people aroused, the German newspapers have described a secret Anglo-American treaty, whereby Germany in the future is to be allowed no colonies whatever, Germany's plus population to be directed to the Anglo-Saxon controlled regions, where "they are to be absorbed as the Germans have been in the United States."

The Hamburg Fremdenblatt prints the story "from an absolutely accurate source," and draws attention to the necessity of a complete victory.

Trench Near Gorizia Taken With Garrison, Says Vienna

Vienna, May 6, via London.—The Austrian official communication issued today says:

"Italian front—Our patrols last night, near Gorizia, penetrated an enemy trench and captured its garrison, consisting of an officer and forty men."

Col. Symons of Halifax Killed in Action in France

Halifax, N.S., May 6.—Col. Frank A. Symons, of Halifax, of the R.A.M.C., has been killed in action in France, according to a cable received here today. He had a long service in the imperial army, and served in the Boer war. He was a graduate of Edinburgh University.

ENEMY TRIES, BY WEIGHT OF MEN, TO MEET ARTILLERY SUPERIORITY

But Germans Who Form Living Walls Are Fighting Behind Great Barriers of Their Dead, Smothered Under Sheets of Leaden Rain.

By R. T. Small, Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.

With the British Armies in France, via London, May 6.—While the fighting for the past fortnight has made little change in the geography along the British front, it has been, as a matter of fact, as important as any during the war. Comparatively few of the fifty or more fresh divisions assigned to the western front this year by Von Hindenburg have remained unscorched by the British and French offensives. In view of this, it is small wonder that the press reports from Petrograd assert that German divisions have been removed from the Russian front and started for France.

There is no denying that since the British Easter Monday offensive took them by surprise and drove them from some of their most formidable positions, the Germans have fought with great tenacity and stubbornness, but at what cost they alone can correctly reckon. They have endeavored to meet the allied superiority in artillery by sheer weight of men, which has meant a material deepening of their fortified zone. Thus when one line of men has been swept away there is another and yet another. How long the Germans can endure the withering blast of artillery which ever plays upon them, is purely a matter of conjecture. German military writers have been referring of late to the Hindenburg line as a living, mobile wall, which by means of its various switch-lines can bend backward and forward as if moving on so many hinges. Now, however, the men of the living wall are fighting behind great barriers of their dead.

Believe in Mass Fighting

The Germans, in fact, seem to be

(Concluded on Page 2, Column 4).

General Alexieff Opposes "No Annexation" Program

It Would Be Construed by Army as Advocacy of Surrender, Says Russian Commander-in-Chief.

London, May 7.—According to The Times' Petrograd correspondent, General Alexieff, commander-in-chief of the Russian forces, who witnessed some of the critical scenes last week in Petrograd, where he had arrived from a visit of inspection on the northern front, spoke strongly against the propaganda for "no annexation and no indemnity."

General Alexieff is quoted as having said that this propaganda would be interpreted by the army at the front as an advocacy of surrender. The correspondent adds that General Alexieff predicted fighting on the Russian front in the near future.

MASSES IN HUNGARY LEAN TOWARD REVOLT

Refusal of Effective Electoral Reform Closes Budapest Factories.

Copenhagen, May 6, via London.—The ferment among the Hungarian working classes caused by Premier Count Tisza's refusal of an effective reform of the franchise is far more serious than appeared in the censored telegraphic accounts of Wednesday's demonstrative strike.

All the Budapest factories, it is now learned, were then closed. A resolution was presented by the workmen after the closing which demanded a liberal electoral reform. If the answer was delayed or unfavorable it was announced the workmen were determined, thru a general strike, to compel the government to yield.

The discipline among the workmen was shown by the strict adherence to the hour for the stoppage of labor fixed by their leaders.

POTATO FAMINE LEADS TO RIOTS IN SWEDEN

Stockholm Women Clash With Police—Disturbance at Gothenburg Also.

Stockholm, May 6, via London.—Women who stood in line to buy potatoes in the southern part of Stockholm yesterday grew angry when informed that the stock was exhausted, and began a demonstration which assumed proportions that kept the police busy until after midnight. Several policemen were injured by stones thrown, and a number of the rioters received scalp wounds from the police sabres. Sixteen arrests were made.

Serious rioting also occurred in Gothenburg. Ten of the rioters were taken to hospitals. Many other persons were injured, but went home. Hunger demonstrations occurred at Norrkoeping on both Friday and Saturday. Butcher shops there were plundered.