

THE LONDON ADVERTISER

Weather Forecast:

Fair and Warm

53rd YEAR. No. 22750

LONDON, CANADA—THE HOME OF UNBROKEN PROSPERITY.

THE LONDON, ONTARIO, ADVERTISER, FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 20, 1917. 128 COLUMNS

HOME EDITION

PRICE, TWO CENTS.

FRENCH WIRE CUT TWO GERMAN DIVISIONS

VIOLENT NIGHT BATTLE WON BY THE FRENCH

SOLENN RELIGIOUS SERVICES

HISTORIC ST. PAUL'S SEALS U. S. UNION WITH ENTENTE

British and Americans in Old Land, Headed by Royalty, Celebrate America's Partnership in the Great War by Impressive Ceremonies in the Great Cathedral, While Stars and Stripes Flies Above Westminster Palace.

London, April 20.—The British people and Americans in this country celebrated America's partnership in the world war by a religious service today in St. Paul's cathedral, attended by the official heads of the nation and a great congregation which included hundreds of Americans and many prominent British men and women. There was a great display of American flags in London, and all other English towns had a popular demonstration by the crowds which surrounded the cathedral. The Stars and Stripes floated from the highest tower of the Parliament Buildings at Westminster—the first time a foreign flag was ever displayed on that eminence—and flew above all Government buildings in the British capital.

The service in the historic cathedral, where the most momentous occasions of nation rejoicing and mourning have been solemnized for centuries, was unprecedented in being the commemoration of an act and decision of another nation. Overhead in the dim arches hung the dust-weighted and battle-torn flags of famous British regiments. The cathedral seats nearly 4,000 people and was filled to its furthest recesses with hundreds looking down from the balconies and niches high in the vault. All seats were occupied when King George and Queen Mary entered, followed by the mayors and aldermen of the 35 boroughs of London, who formed a vivid block of color in their scarlet robes of office. The American embassy and consular staffs occupied front seats with representatives of the Fliegende Amerikaner Club, the American Chamber of Commerce. In the diplomatic section were officers in the uniforms of France, Italy, Belgium, Serbia, Montenegro, Rumania and Japan.

Many Wounded Officers. In the reserve seats there were a large number of wounded officers and soldiers, including many Canadians and several Americans who are serving with the Dominion Forces. The American Exchequer, Hon. R. L. Borden, and the Canadian Exchequer, Hon. J. H. Macdonald, were in the front row. The service was conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the dean and chapter of St. Paul's, and the States Ambassador Page.

The King and Queen and Princess Mary were received at the cathedral entrance by the lord mayor and sheriff, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the dean and chapter of St. Paul's, and the States Ambassador Page.

The clergy of St. Paul's conducted the service, assisted by the choir of the cathedral, and the organ played a stirring march. The royal party came from Windsor for the service, and drove to the station to the cathedral in open carriages. The King and Queen, the Prince of Wales and the Princess Mary, were in the front of the procession. The service was a most impressive one, and the cathedral was filled with a great volume of cheering from the distance, up Ludgate Hill, and the cathedral was heralded the approach of the royal party.

As the royal party entered the cathedral, the organ played a stirring march. The royal party came from Windsor for the service, and drove to the station to the cathedral in open carriages.

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FOE'S LOSSES AT HANDS OF FRENCH ARMS ARE FEARFUL

Two Complete Divisions (40,000 Men) Literally Wiped Out.

FIVE DAYS STEADY SMASH French Have Advanced Over 40-Mile Front, Taking Many Towns.

(Special Cable to The Advertiser.)

By HENRY WOOD.

With the French armies in the field, April 20.—Seventy-seven square miles of France had been reclaimed up to today from the invader by five days' continuous steady smashing over a front of nearly forty miles to a depth of from three-quarters of a mile to four miles. A score of villages and towns have been taken since Monday, when the great offensive started.

Losses Are Staggering.

The German losses have been staggering. Two complete divisions (40,000 men) were literally wiped out by the French artillery alone.

Demoralization is spreading among the Germans, even among their officers. Great masses of reinforcements hurriedly rushed to the line are unavailable in stopping the advance.

French Are Calm.

"The battle is progressing favorably," is the calm way in which the French military chiefs regard the offensive.

"The results exceed the expectations," French officers regard the advance between Ostel and Courtcamp as having reached the proportions of a great success. The utmost strategic importance is attached to the formidable positions captured there.

ALLIES PURCHASING VAST GRAIN STOCKS ON CHICAGO MARKET

Also Make Some Neat Profits By "Turns."

Chicago, April 20.—The Allied governments have bought wheat futures in anticipation of a profit of more than \$3,500,000 in the last two months in "turns" of the grain market by changing from one option to the other.

This profit, it is said, was made by selling a line of July wheat and buying the September option at a price of 100 cents, and then selling the September option at 105 cents.

Only a short time ago agents of the Allies sold more than 2,000,000 bushels of May wheat, in an endeavor to block the rise in price and according to brokers, they made a large gain on the transaction.

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FORMER LONDON MAJOR WEDDED IN ENGLAND



MAJOR S. R. HEAKES, formerly assistant rector at Cronyn Memorial Church, is here shown leaving Holy Trinity Church, Marylebone, with his bride (Mrs. Watkin). Major Heakes went overseas as chaplain with an Ontario battalion, and later joined a Highland unit. (Photo from the Daily Mirror.)

REMINISCENCES

To the Editor of The Advertiser:

On this date (April 20th), thirteen years ago (1904), curling was going on at the Sincere street rink—a record for late play.

On the 16th a fall of ten inches of snow had occurred. Street railway sweepers and snowplows doing duty, and cutters and lighter class of sleighs were to be seen on the streets. On the 17th the big Toronto fire took place, eight firemen being sent from London to help quell it.

On Haig's Front the night was a success. The Germans were repulsed. The French made further progress last night in the great battle along the Aisne and in the Champagne.

This is notably true of the region northeast of Soissons, where the lines of envelopment are gradually being drawn nearer to the important railway centre of Laon, the strategic objective in this division of the front.

The French have gained ground in the vicinity of Laffaux, the advance characterized in the official statement as "considerable." The Germans reacted strongly on this front, but were unable to make any impression on the new French lines.

Forcing Germans Out. General Nivelle's pressure here is calculated to force the Germans speedily out of the salient to which they have clung, projecting toward the Aisne in the direction of Compe.

The advance towards Laon also was continued on the Vaulere plateau, almost directly south of this city, where the French are pushing forward west of the Rheims-Laon roads. On the other front, north of them, where the Germans are clinging stubbornly to their strong position, the French are making progress by the use of heavy machine guns and light tanks.

The result was that the Germans, although their position had been prepared by heavy bombardments, were badly cut up, and failed to attain their objective.

Signs of renewed activity also appeared yesterday on the British front in the Arras sector, where some gains in the Lens region and east of Pampou were reported, extending last night to the district northwest of St. Quentin. London today reports British progress in the neighborhood of Villers-Bretonneux, midway between St. Quentin and Cambrai.

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FURTHER GAINS FOR GEN. NIVELLE'S TROOPS

BRINGS FRENCH CLOSER TO LAON FORTRESS; ENEMY ATTACKS ROUTED WITH BIG LOSSES

THE WAR SITUATION

The French made further progress last night in the great battle along the Aisne and in the Champagne.

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