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VOL. XXXVI.—No. 12,978

FRENCH HOLD GRUIN VIOLENT BATTLE BEFORE VERDUN ITALIANS OCCUPY NEW DEFENSIVE POSITIONS SOUTH OF TRENTE British Parliament Votes War Credit of \$1,500,000,000

FULL RESERVES REQUIRED, SAYS COL. CHURCHILL

Where Are Empire's Five Million Men? He Asks in Commons.

CALLS FOR MORE VIM

Training of Africans and Asiatics for Next Year's Campaign Urged.

LONDON, May 23.—Winston Spencer Churchill, former first lord of the admiralty, definitely aligned himself up with the "ginger up" wing in the house of commons today. The keynote of his address, which was inspired by Premier Asquith's call for a new war credit of £200,000,000, was the enlisting of every available man for active service, declaring that the allies must depend for success on numbers as the enemy possessed great advantages in their central position and superior unity in war direction. He urged training of the "reserves of Africa and Asia for next year's campaign."

HUGE SUM FOR WAR REQUIRED BY GERMANY

COPENHAGEN, via London, May 23.—The German government, according to the Vossische Zeitung (Berlin), early in June will propose a bill for a new war loan of 10,000,000,000 marks (about \$2,500,000,000).

WAR SUMMARY

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

GLANCING at the face of the war as a whole, it is seen that the Austrians, the pausing, are committed to a big offensive against Italy on a front of about 20 miles, and that the Germans, attacking the French, are really on the defensive before Verdun, for they are obliged to fight to prevent the making of further progress by our ally. Here Paris reports that the power of taking the offensive is passing from the hands of the Germans to the hands of the French. So the effort of the enemy appears to be confined to one offensive at a time and on a limited front. The zone of attack in Italy is about 20 miles wide, but it is broken by ridges and mountain positions, and the actual frontage is much less. The frontage of original German attack on Verdun was eight miles.

Thus, the course of the war in the past 20 months, which has been in the main prescribed by Germany, and has, therefore, been conducted in harmony with her resources, provides almost certain indications that her military power is on the decline. This is noted by such eminent military experts as Colonel Blood of The Quarterly Review, who observes that the German offensive, which began in February, 1915, in Russia, embraced nearly the whole of the Niemen-Bohr-Narew front, an extent of 200 miles. Mackensen's phalanx advanced from the Donajec in May on a front of about 30 miles, while large armies prolonged the fighting far into the Carpathians on the right and south Poland on the left. Heavy fighting then extended over 200 miles of front.

Then again, the main fighting front during the development in Poland in August, 1915, reached the enormous extent of 300 miles, exclusive of the Bug-Dniester-Niemen-Courland fronts. About this period the Germanic empires appear to have reached their zenith of military power, for subsequent operations, says Colonel Blood, have shown a steady decline. Altho the elimination of the Polish salient reduced the front by 100 miles, and the line from Roumania to the Niemen was held defensively, the German offensive showed signs of weakness at Vilna, and ultimately degenerated into isolated and ineffective attacks between Dvinsk and Riga.

A comparison between the scope of the operations in Russia and the present offensive in Italy and the fighting in France, for which the Germans and Austrians have from seven to ten months to prepare by training new levies, leads irresistibly to the conclusion that the German reserves are on the wane and that the Germans and Austrians are obliged to husband

(Continued on Page 2, Columns 1 and 2.)

MAJ. NORMAN PILCHER MET DEATH AT FRONT

He Was Formerly Resident of Toronto and Served in South Africa.

MONTREAL, May 23.—The death of Major Norman C. Pilcher in action on May 19 is announced by a telegram from the militia department tonight. Major Pilcher was formerly general manager of the Sherbrooke Railway and Power Company. He came here from England some years ago. At the time of the Boer war he enlisted with the Canadian contingent at Toronto, where he was employed by the General Electric Co. His wife was a Miss Long of Toronto.

FOE LOSES AEROPLANE IN FIGHT WITH BRITISH

Fourteen Hostile Machines Engaged in Flanders Operations.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. LONDON, May 23.—In operations on the British front, fourteen German aeroplanes were engaged and one was driven down inside of the Teuton lines in a damaged condition, the British war office reported tonight, concerning the campaign in Flanders. Heavy bombardments were exchanged by both sides about the Vimy ridge today. German artillery was very actively engaged against the British trenches between Hooge and the Ypres-Bondues railway. Shelling is noted about Mametz, Monchy-au-Bois, Neuville St. Vaast, and Gray. The mining activity was most prevalent about Mametz, Flouret, the Hohenzollern redoubt, Cutchy and eastward of Laventie.

ECCENTRIC CAMPAIGNER LOST IN SOUTH DERRY

Lieut. Turnbull Recently Created a Sensation in British Parliament.

LONDON, May 24, 1:14 a.m.—Lieut. Arthur Turnbull, who jumped from the strangers' gallery in the house of commons March 28, shouting, "I ask you to protect the heads of British soldiers against shrapnel fire," his idea being to rouse the members of the house to the necessity of supplying steel helmets to the troops, has been defeated for election to the house of commons from South Derry by D. S. Henry, Unionist. Lieut. Turnbull was an independent candidate and his defeat was overwhelming.

PRESBYTERIANS DO NOT WANT CHURCH UNION

Representative Meeting in Knox Church Firmly Declares Attitude.

UNDULY INFLUENCED

Charge Pro-Unionists Used Money and Institutions Against Their Wishes.

Charges that money belonging to the Presbyterian Church in Canada, as well as institutions, have been used by those in favor of church union, to further their propaganda, were incorporated in a resolution protesting against church union, which was unanimously carried at a meeting of church-unionists, held in Knox Church yesterday.

The resolution, which was moved by Rev. D. C. MacLeod of Barrie and seconded by Rev. D. T. L. McKerrill of Victoria, Presbyterian Church, Toronto, also charged that the presentation of both sides of the question had been refused congregations by a great many ministers and sessions who have also refused from informing the people of the tremendous issues at stake. While all this has been going on the claim that a large majority of Presbyterians have refrained from taking action under "excessive and protracted urgings." Others, however, have decided that "further use of Presbyterian money, institutions and official positions for this propaganda, thus exerting undue influence on the minds of congregations, will not be tolerated."

STATION AT FLORINA OCCUPIED BY ALLIES

Resumption of Activity in Balkan Operations is Indicated.

PARIS, May 23.—The entente allies have occupied the railroad station at Florina, south of Monastir, according to a London dispatch. The station was an Athens despatch, have bombarded the village of Potholes, south of Doiran.

GERMAN CASUALTY LISTS FAR BEHIND

Names of Victims of Loos Fight Have Just Been Published.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, May 23.—Confirmation of reports that the German casualty lists are so far in arrears that their total as issued from time to time is in no way representative, declared now to have been supplied. It is now known that the names of Germans taken prisoner and left dead in the trenches at the battle of Loos in September have only just been published as among the German missing.

PILOT UNDER ARREST FOR AIDING CASEMENT

Goodwin Alleged to Have Taken Part in Landing Expedition.

TRALEE, Ireland, May 23.—A brother of John Goodwin, pilot, who was arrested here for alleged connection with the landing of Sir Roger Casement just prior to the outbreak of the recent rebellion, was taken into custody today. The man, who also is a pilot, is believed to have taken part in the attempt of Sir Roger to land arms and munitions for the Sinn Fein revolutionists.

FOOD SUPPLIES FULLY ASSURED

TEUTON BOAST

MRS. SMALL MAKES PRESENTATION

New Director Expected to Work Something Like a Miracle.

AWAIT NEW HARVEST

Internal Strife Over Food Question Admitted by German Papers.

BERLIN, May 23, via London, 11:10 p.m.—The adequate nourishment of our population is "fully assured and will not be rendered doubtful by any blockade regulations of enemy states," says the semi-official North German Gazette today in an announcement of the creation of a food dictatorship with sweeping powers.

However, the short harvest of 1915, together with reduced imports, have resulted in a food scarcity in some directions, which makes itself acutely felt, and efforts to better conditions have been hindered by the fact that each federal state has been able to make independent regulations. "This will now be corrected by a centralization of power."

Sweeping powers. Probably the above have such sweeping powers concentrated as are now granted. Herr Von Batocki, the new food dictator, various councilors will be assigned to him. Pressing agriculture, industry, trade, the military and consumers, and regulations of the federal states and of associations connected with the war will also aid him. Final decision on all questions, however, rests solely in the hands of the federal council.

The dictator will be able to appropriate all foods and fodder and may (Continued on Page 2, Column 3).

SERBERCHT OCCUPIED IN MARCH ON MOSUL

Russians Make Progress in Advance From Persia Into Mesopotamia.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. LONDON, May 23.—Serbercht, a town on the road from Persia to Mosul, has been occupied by a new column of Russians that is converging on this strategic point in upper Mesopotamia.

In the fighting in the Taurus mountains, the Russians have captured another fortified position on the northern slopes from the Turks. On the road southwest of Trebizond, the Turks attempted to take the offensive against the Russians and they were promptly checked.

Gen. Maxwell Issues Order To Stop Letter Smuggling

Communications to Points Outside Ireland Must Go Thru Postoffice Unless Permission is Given.

DUBLIN, May 23, 8 p.m.—General Maxwell, the British commander, has issued a new order, making it an offence under the Defence of the Realm Act, for any person to send a letter or any written communication from Ireland to any part of the United Kingdom or elsewhere by any means except thru the postoffice, unless official permission had previously been obtained. All persons are also prohibited from receiving communications except under similar conditions.

IN THE MORNING OF THE SPRINGTIME

Perhaps the bright, dry, warm weather has come at last. The farmer has yet to finish seeding his wheat, oats, barley, and his fodder corn some days yet ahead. But he manages to say it is all in at last. His clover fields and hay meadows are green and getting lush; his pastures are rich for his cows and cattle; and in many fields sprouted barley and oats are to be seen.

In the garden everything is behind; there is, however, asparagus to cut, if few other things are to be had. Flowers are beginning to show. The cherry trees, the apple trees, the light green-leaved plum trees, all show a wealth of blossom. Lilac trees that disclosed their fragrant flowers on many a former queen's birthday are still a week or more behind. Strawberry plants have had plenty of rain; now they only await the heat.

The maples, the beeches, the other forest trees, are days behind similar trees on the banks of the Ottawa and in territory more to the east. But they are leading: "The leaves do come!" The country in this Province of Ontario always manages to get ahead some way, fruit at last engendered.

STRUGGLE RAGES EAST AND WEST OF MEUSE BEFORE VERDUN

French Lines Hold Firm in Furious Fight

Struggle Rages East and West of Meuse Before Verdun.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. LONDON, May 23.—Furious fighting raged east and west of the Meuse before Verdun today, with the Germans doing the attacking but without the general or local situation being in the least altered. The French held their lines as they were drawn in the morning and they also retained the ground which they gained east and west in Fort Douaumont.

The German counter-attacks designed to check the advance of the French, took on a character of extreme violence along the whole of the French front in the region of Verdun. The French war office is not yet able to specify the considerable effectiveness of this enemy activity.

On the left bank of the Meuse, the Germans launched, on several occasions, their assaulting masses against the positions of the French to the east and the west of Le Mort Homme. The first attack was slowed down by artillery and machine gun fire and cost the Germans heavy losses. A second attack, as desperate as the first, began about seven o'clock in the evening, gained the enemy a footing in one of the French trenches to the west, but he was completely driven out by an immediate counter-attack.

Attack With Fury. The enemy also attacked with great fury positions at Hill 304. He employed in large measure machines to throw flaming liquid to the west of the hill, and under cover of these he entered one of the trenches of the defence. The foe was immediately subjected to a counter movement, which compelled him to evacuate all the positions which he had gained. An attack to the east of this hill, supported by an intense preparatory bombardment, was at once broken by French fire.

Around the Meuse the counter-attacks of the enemy continued all thru the night and day. The region of Hautmont-Douaumont was the scene of an all-day murderous struggle. The Germans multiplied their assaults and delivered in preparation very powerful artillery bombardments. Despite all their endeavors the positions taken by the French yesterday were maintained in their entirety, notably in Fort Douaumont. In this region they took over 800 prisoners.

Continued in Night. In the night operations, the battle was continued from yesterday with ferocity. The Germans increased the number of their attacks in massed formation and they suffered enormous losses. They succeeded in taking a trench north of Thiaumont farm. Inside the Fort Douaumont, the French continued to force back the Germans and left them today holding only the northeast corner of the fort.

The Germans, on the contrary, claim that Fort Douaumont remains firmly in their hands. They assert that there were violent infantry engagements on the front north of Thiaumont farm as far as the cailleste wood and that the French were repulsed on the flanks of the sector by German counter-attacks. West of the Meuse, they say that they captured a French blockhouse in Camard forest. French attacks east of Hill 304 and on the southern slopes of Le Mort Homme, they affirm, ended in failure.

In their aerial operations the French accounted for three German machines today. One was brought down by the fire of a French machine in the Furnee region. An aviate was seriously hit in the course of a fight and fell within its own lines. A French pilot, attacked by three German machines in the region of the Lange River, brought down one of the enemy and drove the other two off in flight.

DINEEN'S OPEN UNTIL ONE

For the benefit of visitors attending the races.

Dineen's Hat Store will be open till 1 o'clock today: Men's Hats, Millinery, Silk Sweaters, Raincoats, Umbrellas and Silk Hats. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

FOE COUNTER ATTACKS

Ally Retains Solid Grip on Fort Douaumont During Day.

British Parliament Voted One and One-Half Billion Dollars Readily.

Big Loans to Allies

New Credit Will Last Only Until First Week in August.

LONDON, May 23.—The house of commons unanimously agreed today to vote the credit of £300,000,000 (\$1,500,000,000) asked for by Premier Asquith.

The premier commented that this was the eleventh vote since the beginning of the war and the second for the current financial year. The total granted this year, he added, was therefore £3,000,000,000, making a grand total of £2,322,000,000 (about \$11,910,000,000).

In proposing the vote of credit Premier Asquith laid before the house of commons an account in some detail of the government's recent financial operations. He took up the period between April 1 and May 20, stating that the actual outlay during these 50 days was £241,000,000.

Expenditures for the army, navy and for munitions in that time accounted for £149,000,000; loans to allies and dominions for £74,500,000; and the outlay for food supplies, railways and miscellaneous items for £17,500,000.

Eliminating the payments to the Bank of England in respect of advances abroad, for which allowances had been made in the previous votes, the Gully average expenditure had been reduced to £4,600,000 (about \$23,000,000). There had been no increase, but a slight decrease, in expenditures for the fighting forces. The total outlay was somewhat larger, mainly on account of loans to allies and dominions.

The average expenditure for the army, the navy and for munitions, Mr. Asquith continued, was just under £3,000,000 daily. Speaking of loans to allies, Mr. Asquith said: "Without that financial assistance it is literally true that the combined operations of the allies could not be prosecuted with success and efficiency. The house would not grudge an additional expenditure in order that the whole financial, naval and military fabric, upon whose co-operative work the success of our joint efforts depends, should be kept in a state of efficiency."

BIG CREDIT FOR WAR PURPOSES WAS APPROVED

British Parliament Voted One and One-Half Billion Dollars Readily.

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