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Severe Blow At German Prestige War To Become Young Man's Fight

French Hold All Despite Desperate Efforts of Enemy

London Jubilant Over The Victory At Verdun

A SMASHING BLOW

French General Nivelle. After watching for weeks, sent troops leaping at the enemy and they carried all before them—German front swept away.

London, Oct. 23.—On the French communiqué announcing the recapture of the fort of Douaumont and the Haumont Quarrie and the smashing of the German line over a four and one-third mile front north of Verdun all the morning papers commented enthusiastically in special editions.

The "Times" says:—"This strikes a severe blow at German prestige and shows the German staff the danger of weakening its lines in the west. The victory will dissipate the enemy's hopes. The Russo-Romanian parties and inspire all the allies with fresh confidence."

The Daily Telegraph says:—"The French have dealt a staggering blow, putting a finishing touch to the story of the heavy British blow delivered in the last week-end. The victory proves to what point of mastery our troops have attained in the business of grinding Germany in the mill."

Paris, Oct. 23.—(Delayed)—Verdun, long lost sight of, sprang suddenly and unexpectedly today into the forefront of the public mind which exclusively had been directed towards the Somme front. The German front on the right bank of the Meuse literally was swept away for a distance of four and a half miles like straw before the wind.

General Nivelle, for weeks has been watching the German movements like a hawk, carefully calculating the effect of their withdrawal of troops to the Somme and eastern fronts. At the same time, he quietly made his preparations and when he judged the Germans had thinned their defenses to the point where he struck like lightning. The result was one of the most brilliant operations of the campaign.

The Germans who yesterday were pressing close upon the inner line of defenses at Forts Souville and Tavannes, have now been driven beyond the outer defenses of the Fort Douaumont-Vaux line. Vaux fort remains in possession of the Germans but the French line extends beyond it on the north at Vaux Village and Fumiv Wood and also on the south of it at Damoupt Battery and Chenois Wood from both of which positions it can readily be attacked.

The French artillery preparation was brief but intense and was followed by the German commanders had time to bring up reinforcements, even if they were available. The assaulting French forces caught them before the Germans recovered from their surprise and swept over trench after trench, sending prisoners in all lines to the rear. The French losses were very slight, it is believed, even lighter than any recorded in the attacks on the Somme front.

News of the success has caused tremendous public enthusiasm here and this is all the greater because of the general impression that Verdun was the turning point of the war, the French proving that the French could strike a smashing blow at Verdun, while carrying on an extended offensive on the Somme, has greatly increased public confidence and gone far to lessen the depression caused by the loss of Contantza.

GERMANS LINE WAS "BURST" Paris, Oct. 23.—Not at one point did the Germans succeed in stopping the impetuous rush of the French yesterday. The official French account does not say the German line was forced back, but that it was "burst." Later details show that the extent of the victory was as much of a surprise to the French as to the Germans. General Petain regarded the front east of the Meuse as too cramped and suggested to General Nivelle, the commander of Verdun, that he give himself more elbow room.

With that end in view, infantry was sent up to reinforce the French and artillery was ordered for the establishment of new batteries. The aviation department was commissioned to make an exhaustive survey and the secret was kept so well that all appearances of the Germans had no inkling of what was in prospect. Furthermore, they evidently believed the energies of the French were being absorbed by the battle of the Somme and made no preparation to meet a thrust at Verdun. This was intended for a small maneuver but became a brilliant tactical success.

The attack was planned for ten days ago. Artillery began preliminary work, but rainy weather set in and grand headquarters ordered a postponement. When the time came the attack was delivered by four columns of a division each.

Kindly Admit It. Berlin, Oct. 23.—The war office announced today that an attack made on the Verdun front by the French yesterday gained ground for them. French assaults on the Somme front were without success.

GERMANS SINK FIVE MORE N RWEIGIANS London, Oct. 23.—The sinking by German submarines of five more Norwegian steamships, valued at about 5,000,000 kroner, is reported in an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Christiania.



STILL PRESSING ON IN BALKANS

Enemy Get Danube Towns of Chernavoda—Roumanians Believe Worst Has Been Told

Petrograd, Oct. 23.—The Roumanians and Russians have evacuated the Danube town of Chernavoda, in Dobruja, the war office announced today. The Roumanians in Dobruja, the state department says, were forced to fall back a little.

Berlin, Oct. 23.—Vulcan pass on the Transylvania front has been captured by the more than 650 of the men are athletes of no mean caliber, men that have won championships of cities, provinces, nations and the world.

ROUMANIANS FAITH UNSHAKEN. London, Oct. 23.—(New York Times cable)—Roumanian authorities here express what in some quarters is regarded as astonishing confidence in later developments of the campaign. They take the capture of the Constantza-Carnavoda line as the utmost success the Central Powers can effect against Roumania in the theater. On the other hand, the fall of Silistria and Tultrakan produced a demand for the recall of troops from Transylvania to defend Dobruja.

General Averescu fell between two mountains, his army being so divided that it had to retreat in Transylvania and was yet unable to reinforce Dobruja in time to parry Mackenow's thrust.

It is believed that Germany's ability to put heavy effective in the field against Roumania is seen in some present opportunity of withdrawing a certain proportion of men and guns from the front.

In view of German reports of negotiations with Russia for a separate peace, Grey's recent speech in which he said, speaking of the allies, "We stand or fall together, the separation of one from the others means the destruction of the one separately and not its safety. For all of us unity is essential not merely to victory, but to our future life and success."

CITY LEAGUE TO BE STARTED TOMORROW

The bowling season in St. John will be in full swing tomorrow evening when the City League will be opened on Black's alley. Nine teams have so far entered and a tenth is possible. The teams already entered are: Sweeps, Wanderers, Nationals, Specials, Elks, Wanderers, Whips, Beavers and Giants.

As practically all of the prominent bowlers in the city are members of the various teams some interesting games are looked for.

A change has been made in running the league this year. Formerly two series were played and the winners of each would roll off for the championship. This year there will be four series and the winners of the first and second will play off, and the winners of the third and fourth will meet, the leader to clash for the championship. Suitable prizes will be put up.

The opening game will be between the Nationals and Beavers and will start at the conclusion of a meeting of the captains, which is to take place at 7.30 o'clock.

Haig Wants Soldiers Between 16 And Twenty-Five

TOO SWIFT FOR MIDDLE-AGED

They Have Their Place, But it is Said Now to be in "Army Behind Army"—German Boys of 17 in Front Line Next Year

London, Oct. 23.—The war threatens soon to become a struggle between the boys. The pace is said to be entirely too fast for the older men long to endure. It is asserted here that next year the Entente Allies will be facing boys of seventeen in the German army.

General Sir Douglas Haig, commanding the British expeditionary force, is said to have objected to the sending out of men of middle age. He wants men from sixteen to twenty-five years old. After the latter year he said the fighting value of the human unit shows a rapid and steady decline.

The good soldier of today, it seems, must be of the age which excels in the more strenuous athletic games—the football player type. The older men have their place, but generally speaking, it is said now to be in "the army behind the army," the men back of the line in the supply and transport units.

England already is registering boys when they attain their eighteenth year.

VERY LITTLE IN YET FOR BRITISH RED CROSS

St. John Contributions to Date Total Only \$232.78

The contributions received so far by Mayor Hayes would indicate that St. John's gift this year to the British Red Cross is small. The contributions to date are as follows:—St. John's (Stone) church, \$46.31; Church of the Assumption (Iced Cross Circle), \$64.87; St. Jude's church, \$80; Brunswick Chapter, I. O. O. F., \$20; Women's Canadian Club, \$25; Soldiers' Wives League, \$25; total \$322.78.

Compared with this, Toronto raised \$701,546, or \$163,546 more than last year; Ottawa gave \$460,000, Montreal \$60,000, Pembroke \$18,223, and the total for Ontario was \$1,550,000, while the Saskatchewan government voted \$60,000.

Last year St. John's contribution was materially increased by a grant of \$5,000 from the city, but this year, with heavy assessments for the same purpose next year, no action was taken by the city.

A substantial amount was added also last year by a collection scheme undertaken by the ladies, but this year, ladies had so much on their hands that they did not feel equal to any organized effort.

The mayor hopes that additional subscriptions will be received to bring the amount up to at least \$2,000, and suggests that an average of \$50 from each church in the city would accomplish this.

DESTROYS LIQUOR AFTER SEIZURE; IS PLACED UNDER ARREST

Fredericton, N. B., Oct. 23.—The police this morning visited the Waverly Hotel, Regent street, and seized a small quantity of liquor. The landlord, Mr. Johnson, smashed several bottles after it had been seized and was placed under arrest. He was released on \$1,500 bail.

Stanley M. Bates, of Boston, and Miss Charlotte Babbitt, daughter of Mrs. B. H. Babbitt, of Gibson, were married in Christ Church Cathedral at noon today by Rev. Dean Nesles. Miss Mildred Sewell was bridesmaid, and Bacon Babbitt, brother of the bride, was best man. Mr. and Mrs. Bates left this afternoon by auto for Boston.

DR. ANGLIN A WITNESS

Dorchester, N. B., Oct. 23.—The trial of Capt. John E. Merrill, charged with the murder of J. F. Rogers, I. C. R. clerk, will begin at two o'clock this afternoon. Judge W. B. Chandler presiding. Among the crown witnesses summoned is Dr. V. Anglin, superintendent of the Provincial Hospital, St. John. It is understood seven or eight witnesses have been summoned from Halifax by the defence.

CONTRACTORS AT WELAND CANAL SUFFER BY FIRE

St. Catharines, Ont., Oct. 23.—Fire destroyed a frame structure 225 by 50 feet on Section 2, Welland Ship Canal, erected and owned by Baldry, Yerburgh & Hutchison, contractors, and used as an engine house, machine shop, blacksmith shop and storehouse. The fire was caused by the upsetting of an oil lamp. The loss will be about \$40,000, partly covered.

French Hold All Despite Desperate Efforts of Enemy

Paris, Oct. 23.—(Noon)—The Germans made a counter-attack north of Verdun last night and attempted to recapture the Haumont Quarries and the Damoupt Battery. In both cases they were repulsed. The German officer in command at Fort Douaumont is among the prisoners taken.

BRITISH REPORT

London, Oct. 23.—The official report of today from the Franco-Belgian front follows:—"Heavy rain fell during the whole of yesterday. During the night the enemy's artillery was active northeast of Courcellette and along the Posieres-Bapume road.

AUSTRIANS ARE CUT UP

Petrograd, Oct. 23.—Twenty battalions of Austrian infantry which took part in an attack against Russian forces at Kirilivka, in the Carpathians, were cut to pieces in the fighting of October 21, according to Russian reports received here. The 51st regiment of infantry was almost completely annihilated. Out of one regiment of 850 men there were only 160 survivors.

J. I. ANSLOW HAS RIGHT HIP DISLOCATED

Friends all over the province will regret to learn of an accident which recently befell J. J. Anslow, a veteran newspaper man of Windsor, N. S., who is now in St. John. He was injured while on a visit to the city. Mrs. S. E. Munroe of Taymouth, where he was visiting. The letter is dated Oct. 24 and comes to Rev. W. G. Lane.

MISS DRAPER WEDS ITALIAN PRINCE IN WASHINGTON TODAY

Washington, Oct. 23.—Miss Margaret Preston Draper today was married to Prince Andrea Boncompagni, who has made three visits to America in the last year to woo the youngest daughter of the late General William F. Draper, once a member of Congress from Massachusetts and ambassador to Rome under President McKinley. Their engagement with the date of the wedding, was announced by Mrs. Draper's press agent. The bride on last Sunday became a Catholic. The ceremony was held at the residence of the bride's mother, Mrs. Draper, in Washington. The bride is a member of the United States Episcopal Church. The groom is a member of the Roman Catholic Church. The ceremony was presided over by the Archbishop of Baltimore. The bride's father, General Draper, was a member of the United States Army and served in the Civil War. The groom is a member of the Italian Royal Family. The wedding was a private affair and only a few guests were present.

SAVED BOY'S LIFE

James Mitchell, a well known local baseball player and athlete, who is at present employed on the docks in the area in and about Amherst, rescued a small boy from drowning one day last week. The lad was playing on the pier, Amherst, when he fell overboard and in falling struck his forehead on one of the pilings, and then fell into the harbor. Mitchell was at hand and rescued the boy from the chilly water. He had considerable difficulty. He received great praise for his act.

GOING TO JAPAN

Roy W. Mitchell, who for the last twelve years has been connected with the Singer Manufacturing Co. here, and who for the last seven years has been in charge of the company's sales in Japan, will leave this evening, accompanied by Mrs. Mitchell, for Japan, via Montreal and Vancouver. He will act as supervisor for the company in Japan for a period of five years. Mr. Mitchell will have an important position entrusted to his care and will have under his control the supervising of the entire activities of the company in that part of the world. He has many friends in St. John and throughout the province, who will regret to hear of his departure from the city, but will congratulate him on his promotion and their best wishes for success will follow him.

ANOTHER TRIAL IN MANITOBA

Winnipeg, Man., Oct. 23.—The criminal list for the fall assizes includes the case of Dr. R. M. Simpson, charged with conspiracy. The names of co-accused ministers do not appear, but they may be added. It is reported that William Salt, a witness in the previous trials, has left for England.

THIRTY POLICE

Chief of Police Simpson said this morning that the force was to be strengthened at the present time after considerable difficulty. The full strength is forty-seven, a far too small number, he says, for a city the size of St. John. There should be at least one man for every thousand citizens. In Montreal there is a policeman for every 900 people.

STRIKE ON C. P. LIKELY AVERTED

Ottawa, Ont., Oct. 23.—Minister of Labor Crothers at Midday received a telegram from Winnipeg stating that representatives of the C. P. R. company and the men had sat throughout the night, that they had just reached an understanding, and that the agreement would be signed in a few hours.

Winnipeg, Man., Oct. 23.—After an almost continuous session of fifteen hours, a conference of C. P. R. officials and representatives of the conductors and trainmen's unions, seeking to avert a strike set for this afternoon, adjourned at half past seven this morning for two hours. At five o'clock the company submitted it to the men's representatives. It is said that several important concessions were made, but that in the opinion of the men they did not warrant calling off the strike. This schedule is being considered during the adjournment and the attitude of the men may be clearly revealed on the resumption of the conference at half past nine.

ACROSS OCEAN WITH THE 140TH BATTALION

Incidents of Voyage Related by Sergt. L. F. Duffy—Dan Littlejohn Wins Bout

The following are extracts from a letter received by Edward Hansen, 28 Douglas avenue, from a chum, Sergeant Leo F. Duffy of the 140th Battalion, now in England. Sergeant Duffy writes some interesting details of the trip from Valcartier to Halifax, where they embarked on board a troopship. The letter in part then follows:

"A great honor has been bestowed upon the officers of the 140th. Our O. C., Lieut.-Col. Beer has been appointed captain in charge of the ship, and as we have the 136th Battalion, several other drafts of officers and men on board, this responsibility. Our adjutant, Captain Lounsbury, our adjutant, lieutenant of the ship, and Doctor Malcolm made senior medical officer. Evidently the 140th has once more been given the honor of being the first to cross the Atlantic."

"Several small sharks could be plainly seen following us at a distance. It is quite a treat for many of us to see them."

"Have been promoted today to rank of sergeant. This will enable me to shift from second class to first, with quite a little improvement in line of accommodation. The same has been done with three others from the paymaster's office."

"Saturday 20th.—At the present a very heavy sea is rolling and a high wind makes our ship rather rocky. A great many of the boys are sick and they are 'some' sick, too. A heavy sea broke over our foredeck yesterday morning and it was interesting to watch our boys make a quick dash for their bunks."

"We received the war news today, some being received by the wireless operator, who prints bulletins to hold them in different parts of the ship for the information of all ranks. Arrangements have been completed to hold reports today, but on account of the unsteadiness of the ship and the fact that the boys from the orderly room are all reading while Sergeant Foster is rendering excellent music on the violin."

"Divine services were to be held this a. m. on the foredeck, but on account of the storm and the unsteadiness of the boat, same has been cancelled, although a voluntary service is being held in the main room. We have two chaplains on board and they are conducting the services."

"Tuesday, Oct. 3.—Was given to us as a holiday in memory of the sailing of the first Canadian contingent from Canada. The men greatly appreciated the kindness of Col. Beer in giving us a day to ourselves. All parades have been cancelled and sports are being carried out this afternoon. Our tug-of-war team won three consecutive pulls from the 186th, while Dan Littlejohn, well known to St. John boxers, won the heavyweight match. He certainly won great praise from the boys. Several prizes were awarded, the greater number being in cash. The boys of the 140th showed up remarkably well."

In conclusion Sergeant Duffy told about arrival off the coast of Ireland and the preparations being made for landing.

RUMOR THAT U-53 HAS BEEN SUNK OFF SYDNEY

British Captain Has Unverified Report That the Stanley Sent Raider Down

Boston, Mass., Oct. 23.—Captain W. G. Tudor of the British steamship Hochelaga, which arrived from Louisbourg yesterday, said that before he left Nova Scotia, persistent rumors were current that the German U-boat 53 had been sunk off Sydney, C. B., by the Canadian patrol boat Stanley. He said he was unable to verify the report.

"Before I left Louisbourg," he said, "I was told by a shipping man that I need not worry about the German submarine. This man said the U-boat would not bother any more British vessels because she had been sunk by the Stanley."

The name of Pte. H. Gallant of Grand Bay appeared in the casualty list this morning as having been killed in action. Enquiries at Grand Bay today failed to elicit any information regarding him.

Coming Along Well. Sergeant Andrew Campbell of Fairville, until recently serving with a trench mortar battery somewhere in France, and a week ago reported wounded from concussion and shell shock, is improving, and is expected to return to his regiment in a few days, according to word received by the family yesterday. At present Sergeant Campbell is in a hospital in England. Many Fairville friends (Continued on page 2, sixth column)