

# GERMANS UNABLE TO MAKE FURTHER HEADWAY AGAINST FRENCH DEFENCE

Their Losses Said to Have Reached the Appalling Total of 40,000 in Killed Alone—New Submarine Warfare to Start Tonight—Turks Evacuating City of Trebizond—Greater Offensive Expected in the Champagne—Huns Sowing the Seas With Mines.

## BIG ASSAULT COST GERMANS 40,000 IN KILLED ALONE.

**LONDON, Feb. 29.**—Despatches from Dutch sources state that the German loss in the assaults on Verdun positions total over forty thousand in killed alone.

## GERMANS UNABLE TO MAKE FURTHER HEADWAY.

**PARIS, Feb. 29.**—Today's report from the front indicate that conditions have greatly improved for the French. The enemy is making no headway.

## HUNS NEW MURDER PLANS TO START TONIGHT.

**BREILIN, Feb. 29.**—The German submarine war, it is declared will positively commence at midnight tonight as previously announced. All armed vessels will be treated as warships and sunk without warning.

## TURKS EVACUATING TREBIZOND.

**PETROGRAD, Feb. 29.**—The Turks are evacuating Trebizond and neighboring towns on the Black Sea coast. The Russian armies from the west and north are rapidly advancing this region.

## GREATER OFFENSIVE MAY DEVELOP.

**LONDON, Feb. 29.**—The British military authorities expect a new and greater offensive to develop in the western front probably on the Champagne Mass.

## BRITISH CASUALTIES FOR FEB.

**LONDON, Feb. 29.**—British casualties in all the war zones during Feb. total 739 officers and 12,847 men.

## GERMANS SOWING THE SEAS WITH MINES.

**COPENHAGEN, Feb. 29.**—The Afton Bladet reports that a large German flotilla is engaged in laying mines south of Falstaboro, but outside of Swedish territory.

## MATERIAL GAIN FOR ALLIES.

**OTTAWA, Feb. 29.**—In the House of Commons yesterday Sir Sam Hughes was asked as to the situation at Verdun. He replied that the cables reported an announcement by the President of the French Republic that the Germans had been driven back past Fort Douaumont and that France expected to hold all the ground that had been recaptured.

Later the Prime Minister received a cable from Sir George Perley which was shown to a number of the members but not to the public. The message, it is understood, not only confirmed the announcement above quoted, but stated that the French Government was sanguine that the general result of the whole engagement would be distinctly advantageous to the cause of the allies.

## GERMAN VESSELS ATTACKING ATLANTIC COMMERCE.

**NEW YORK, Feb. 29.**—Wireless warnings that a German commerce raider, possibly accompanied by escorts was attacking shipping in the Atlantic were received by the Standard Oil Tanker, which arrived here today from Algiers.

## 21 CIVILIANS KILLED BY SHELLS AT VERDUN.

**PARIS, Feb. 29.**—Reports from Verdun say that 21 persons of the few remaining civilian population have been killed by shells which fell in the city.

## PASSENGERS FEARED THREAT.

**NEW YORK, Feb. 29.**—The French Line steamship *Espagne*, some of whose original passengers now at sea on the steamship *Lafayette* received anonymous warning that the *Espagne* might meet with mishap, called today for Bordeaux. She carried but one of the 130 passengers originally booked.

## TO DISCUSS AFTER WAR CONDITIONS.

**LONDON, Feb. 29.**—Delegates from all the Chambers of Commerce in the

United Kingdom, except that of Manchester met in conference here today to discuss proposals regarding the regulation of British trade after the war.

## SECOND SESSION OF PARLIAMENT OPENS.

**TORONTO, Feb. 29.**—The second session of the 14th parliament of the Ontario Legislature was opened this afternoon at three o'clock by His Honor Lieut.-Governor Sir John Hendrie. The proceedings were devoid of the usual degree of ceremony.

## GERMAN ATTACKS NOT SO STRENUOUS.

**LONDON, Feb. 29.**—With the formidable German advance on Verdun still checked, it is believed for good, the fury of the onslaughts of the Kaiser's soldiery abated considerably and the French still continued to hold the same lines which they fell back on four days ago and the new lines which they established in their counter-attacks from the heights of Douaumont along the ridge which runs from there north of the village of Vaux, heading back the less heavy waves of Germans which were hurled against them at less frequent intervals. Though the German and French artillery still keeps up spirited bombardments, signs are developing that the German gun fire has begun to abate, especially on the western side of the Meuse, where it died down considerably today.

The rushes of the Germans against the French positions were today routed down into several artful attacks, which, the French say, were driven back by fire and counter-attacks. The struggle on the lines drawn so the west of Fort Douaumont has been marked by hand-to-hand fighting in which the French say they won a local success by ejecting their foes from a small redoubt in which these foes had succeeded in effecting lodgment.

The Germans do not claim much in their official report from Berlin today in regard to the fighting north of Verdun, beyond asserting that fresh masses of French troops which were thrown into the combat in and near the fortresses of Douaumont and Hardaumont were exhausted in unsuccessful attacks against the German positions, and that the Germans had cleared the French out of the Meuse Peninsula, but the French had reported on Friday that positions closer to Verdun than these had been attacked furiously by the Germans, indicating that they had evacuated the ground which the Germans now claim that they have captured. The reason given for the withdrawal from the Meuse Peninsula by the French was that, owing to a bend in the river, the French forces in the peninsula would run grave danger of being cut off in case of accident.

A Paris despatch dated Sunday, but delayed by the censor till today, says: "A frightful massacre" is how German soldiers taken prisoner in the battle of Verdun describe the effect of the French artillery, machine gun and rifle fire. But he impetus of the assaulting forces was not diminished thereby during the first four days because fresh troops were thrown into the battle incessantly.

"Advance no matter what the losses may be," was the order given to the German troops before the attack. This is verified by documents found on one of the captured officers.

The most critical moment in the six days' action was when the Germans gained a footing in the entrenched camp by the capture of Fort Douaumont. The least hesitation on the part of the defenders would have been disastrous. The Germans redoubled their efforts to take advantage of any confusion, but the French immediately began a counter-offensive.

French infantry advanced at double quick to the trumpet charge and leaped at the first rank of the Germans with irresistible fury. The clash was murderous to both sides. The thinned French ranks were not to be denied, but went on to the second German wing, while reinforcements were hurled to their support. The German lines wavered first west of Douaumont, then were driven out at the ruins of the fort.

A cry of triumph went up all along the French line, and the arbor of the

counter-attack was redoubled. In the meantime an artillery duel, surpassing in intensity any previous action of the war, added to the carnage.

**LONDON, Feb. 28.**—The French have checked the German advance upon Verdun on a front which extends from the eastern banks of the Meuse and Pepper Hill, to a ridge which runs north of the village of Vaux and Fort Douaumont, part of which at least fell into German hands at some time early Saturday morning, but which was speedily regained in a counter-attack which drove the Germans back on the right wing for a considerable distance.

Violent fighting was continued on Saturday and Sunday, which resulted in the lines staying where they were drawn on Saturday morning. The French rapidly brought up reinforcements to the threatened points, and it is said that by Saturday night they had 15 divisions on the spot, while the Germans had thrown 20 divisions or 400,000 men into the conflict.

The Germans claimed that they captured Talon Hill in Sunday's official statement, and that they still held Fort Douaumont, but the French official communications make it clear that they dominate the position at that point. As to Talon Hill, the French say that they evacuated it in order to give their artillery a full sweep, and that the Germans have been unable to occupy it.

The Germans on Sunday claimed that they had taken nearly 10,000 prisoners, but it is authoritatively stated in Paris that the total French losses in killed, maimed and prisoners are smaller than the Germans give as prisoners taken.

The bombardment of the Verdun front on both sides of the Meuse was continued without cessation while the Germans continued the making of tremendous attacks which the French vigorously answered by counter-attacks. The French clung with success to their positions at Champ Neuville and Cote du Poivre (Pepper Hill) repulsing all attacks of the Germans. A furious struggle raged around Fort Douaumont, in which the Germans were driven back but the enemy clung to positions east and west of this point which the French fought all Sunday to capture.

All Saturday night the French troops continued to reinforce their positions, and on Sunday the brunt of the fighting was on the ridge which extends from Douaumont heights to north of Vaux Village, several violent attacks of the Germans being repulsed. The slaughter of Germans has been enormous.

Allied aircraft have attacked and destroyed the railway station and damaged the tunnel at Hlayberg, according to The Echo Belge. An Amsterdam despatch says: "This, in fact, impairs the German communications between Metz and the interior of Germany."

Paris is extraordinary calm in the presence of the great battle in progress around Verdun. There are no indications of tension or nervousness but only sober confidence in the result prevails.

The desire among those who know the defensive strength of the lines seems to be that the attacks should continue, for, they argue, the losses on the German side would be in proportion to the efforts.

The whole front from the North Sea to Switzerland is on the alert and all leave of absence has been recalled. The French maximum effort has not yet been made.

The Temps' military review which is usually written by Gen. De La Croix, sums up the situation thus: "The battle being fought is extremely serious. Even should the heights of the Poivre and the Vache wood be taken the enemy would find us perhaps stronger on the Froideval-Douaumont line, from which begin the defences, properly speaking, of the fortifications, covered with trenches and batteries. This is a siege by the Germans; it is a battle against one of our armies in the garrison at Verdun, and its forts don't figure in these combats as a support. The big guns of the enemy might destroy the fort of Douaumont without destroying anything more than an inert block of cement."

"The snow has not caused any dim-

inution of the attacks, because they cannot be suspended. They must be continued to the end. The troops engaged would be unable to remain idle long in the territory captured while awaiting better weather conditions. A thaw would render their situation worse, and it must already be painful."

The Temps refers to the possibility of the attacks continuing for two weeks and adds:

"Let us continue to have complete and unshakable confidence in the final issue."

French reinforcements are being taken from Flanders, and their places in the trenches are being taken by British troops.

## MANY SHIPS LOST.

**LONDON, Feb. 28.**—Eleven steamers, all but one British, have been re-

ported lost during the week-end. The total loss of life is so far unknown. Some of the vessels were victims of mines and one was burned at sea, while the Fastnet and Torberg are reported to have been torpedoed. Following is the list: P. & O. liner Maloja, 12,500 tons, over forty lost; Wilson liner Dido, 4,769 tons; Fastnet, 2,227 tons; Empress of Fort William of Canada Steamships, Limited; Birgit, seventeen saved; Mecklenburg, 2,888 tons; Saevier, 2,996 tons; Denaby, 2,987 tons; Tummel, 531 tons, and Triglac, 1,447 tons, twenty-six lost; Tornberg.

## SIR SAM HUGHES TO GO TO THE FRONT.

**OTTAWA, Feb. 28.**—It was learned in official circles last night that Sir Sam Hughes will be at the battle-

front at the end of May or the beginning of June. Sir Sam refused to say in what capacity he would see service when he was approached last night but it is well known that he has been invited to go to Europe by the highest authorities in Great Britain.

Nothing further concerning the matter was learned until it became known yesterday that he had accepted the invitation, and that he had at once made arrangements for proceeding to England and Flanders. It is characteristic of the energetic actions of the minister of militia that every detail was attended to a few hours, even to the passports of himself and his staff.

## TERRIBLE TOLL OF DEATH WITH SUNKEN LINER.

**LONDON, Feb. 28.**—The latest re-

port shows that but two hundred and sixty were saved out of the 411 passengers and crew on board the liner "Maloja," sunk off Dover.

## GREAT BATTLE MAY EXTEND ALONG WHOLE FRONT.

**LONDON, Feb. 28.**—Military authorities in London expect the German attacks to extend along the entire western front. Rumors are revived that the German fleet is about to come out.

## EVACUATION OF DURAZZO IN ACCORD WITH PLAN.

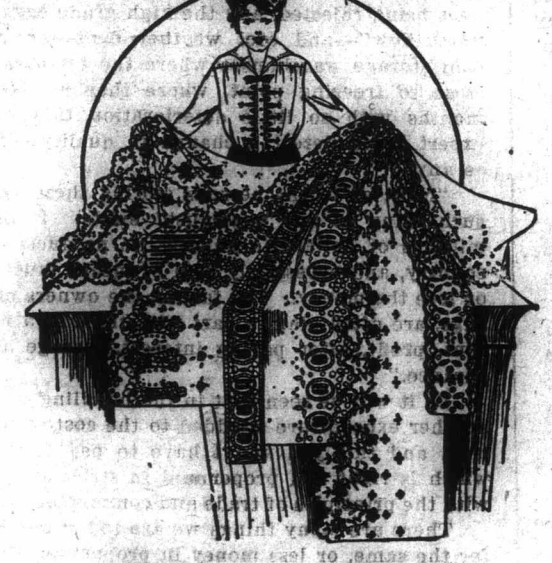
**ROME, Feb. 28.**—The evacuation of the port of Durazzo in Albania is said by the Italian press to have been in accordance with plans long prepared. All efforts it is declared will now be directed to the safe-guarding of Aviona.

# RITCHIE'S DRESS GOODS

**To Sell at Prices to Save You Money at Ritchie's**

This season, as usual, we imported practically all our Wool Dress Goods direct from the manufacturers in England. This, in itself, makes it possible for us to sell Dress Goods at a great saving to you in price. But the fact that we placed our order months ago, before the drastic increases of woollen goods, places us in a position to offer our customers some splendid values in their Dress Goods needs. The showing already on display at the counters includes the following in the season's pet shades: Serges, Gabardines, Santos, Armares, Caprice, Magali, Figue, Poplins, Bedford Cords, Aurora Cords, Black and White Checks, etc. Your inspection invited.

"New York" Silk Sweater Coats



These are being worn very extensively in New York and our buyer while there selected a fine assortment which we are now displaying in the Mantle Room. All the newest colors are shown some plain shades, others trimmed with white around collar and down front. A few with white sashes or half belt effect at back. Also in fancy checks. Come in and see these prices:

\$7, \$7.50, \$8, \$9, \$9.75 AND \$12.00

SPECIAL VALUES IN UNDERSKIRTS \$1.50

Ladies' fine, soft finish Sateen Underskirts, a new fresh showing, first in show all the best shades of green, African, brown, navy, Copenhagen, grey, amethyst and black, all with fancy colored frill at bottom, an effect which is very new. These Underskirts are also in O. S. sizes in black only and at the same price. All with elastic fitted waistband and guaranteed to give satisfactory wear. Lengths, 36, 38, 40 and 42.

DRESSMAKING ROOMS OPEN FOR THE SEASON

Miss Murphy is now in charge of the Dressmaking Rooms for the coming season and will be pleased to meet any of our former customers and any new ones. Miss Murphy comes to us with the highest references, having for the past five years been with Murray-Kay's, one of the highest class dressmaking departments in Toronto, and we have no hesitation in recommending her to our customers. Come in and interview her.

Jap Silk Blouses \$1.98

We have just received a very large shipment of new Jap. Silk Blouses to sell at this price. They are in the most advanced styles and made of a splendid quality silk, hemstitched around sleeves, yoke and down front. New style collar that can be worn either high or low. There are several different styles at this price. We invite you to come in and see them, the values will surprise you. Other prices, \$2.75, \$3.98 and \$3.50.

Royal Worcester and Bon Ton Corsets

The RITCHIE Company Limited

D. & A. and Nemo Corsets.