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GENERALLY FAIR

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ENEMY'S DASH CHECKED!

BRITISH LINE IS HOLDING AND GERMAN DRIVE WEST OF ARMENTIERES CHECKED

Saturday Evening's News of Fighting in Northern France and Flanders Highly Encouraging, Although Situation Still Remains Grave-Terrific Battle Rages Along Whole Front Running from Holbeke to La Bassee.

Both Sides Obtain Fresh Reinforcements Hourly—British Still Hold Bailleul, Important Railway and Highway Centre and Bethune Another town where Another Terrific Struggle Prevails—Thousands of French Civilians Abandon Villages.

Special Cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard. (By Arthur S. Draper).

London, April 13.—The British line is holding and the German drive west of Armentieres has been checked. Today's news of the fighting in the north is highly encouraging but the situation remains extremely grave. Along the whole battlefront, running from Holbeke to La Bassee, the terrific battle rages with both sides adding fresh reinforcements hourly. A straight line drawn from Merville to Wytschaete gives the approximate positions on the northern part of the front. From Merville it takes a circular shape to Festubert. The enemy is pressing his attacks on the flanks. Haig reports severe fighting in the neighborhood of Wulversen and southwest of Messines. Here the fighting has continued without pause for the last sixty hours. The British still hold Bailleul, an important railroad and highway center. Another terrific struggle has been raging around Locon and directly north of Bethune, which is an important center for the British. The Merville portion of the front has been the scene of heavy fighting but the attacks there have been far less powerful than those on the flanks. (Continued from page one.)

THE BRITISH TROOPS RESPOND NOBLY TO DEMANDS ON THEM

Reinforcements Steadily Coming up and from Givency to Laon Line is Holding Well—Everywhere Entente Troops are Fighting Magnificently.

London, April 13.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—Telegraphing from British headquarters in France last night, Reuter's correspondent says: The enemy continues to strain every effort to break through Flanders. Already thirty enemy divisions have been thrown into the battle, including reserves from other parts of the front. The enemy is employing great gun power, reinforced by hauls from the east, in the same lavish manner as his men, thus imposing the most severe test upon our troops. Their response to this in courage and endurance defies all praise. By the sustained pressure of dense masses and constant blows and shock tactics, the enemy has succeeded in the past twenty-four hours in advancing in the centre of our front. The flanks are holding. The enemy has extended the nose of his salient in a way in which nothing but immense superiority in numbers could render tactically feasible or achieved. We have been counter-attacking to day. The battle is progressing fiercely in clear weather enabling the air force to thoroughly reconnoiter. At Bailleul,

operating in the combat with the most effective results. The enemy's objectives in this drive include Bailleul, Aire, Bethune and Merville. The enemy had two hundred divisions at the beginning of the offensive on the western front, of which twenty are believed to be practically intact. On our battle line their force consists of twenty divisions which have been thrown in the battle line three times since the 21st of March, and forty-five divisions which have been thrown in twice, while over four times the number of divisions have been hurled against the British then against the French. The enemy rate of spending man power cannot be long maintained. Already, to a considerable extent, the 1918 class is being sent to refit the battle line divisions, while the calling up of the 1920 class began a month ago. Our reinforcements are steadily coming up. From Givency to Laon our line is holding well. Everywhere the troops are fighting magnificently. Owing to pressure we have fallen back slightly in the area east of

U. S. STEAMER BURNED OFF N. S. COAST

Crew of Unknown Vessel Rescued by American War Ship—Ferry Steamer Plessis Damaged by Ice in the St. Lawrence.

Sydney, N. S., April 14.—The agent of the marine department here was advised today that an American steamer was burned off the Nova Scotia coast on Saturday night and that her crew had been transferred to a United States warship which came to her assistance. The name of the vessel was not mentioned.

Quebec, April 14.—Heavy shore ice which was being swept down by the ebb tide shortly before midnight on Saturday tore the screw off the ferry steamer Plessis and carried away two Canada Steamship pontoons from Hadlow Cove. The steamer was near the Quebec side when the accident happened and drifted a little bit but was able to moor at Canada Steamship wharf. The pontoons, which broke away from their moorings on Saturday night, were carried down the river to St. Jean, Island of Orleans, fifteen miles from this city, but floated up with the tide today as far as Indian Cove and were towed back to their moorings by the steamer Quebec. It was reported here today that the ice had begun to move on Lake St. Peter.

FLAMES BREAK OUT IN BATTLE FOR CITY OF RHEIMS

Champagne Centre was Beautiful City of Hundred Thousand Persons.

Paris, April 14.—Part of the city of Rheims, city of the famous cathedral which since early in the war has been the frequent target of heavy guns of the Germans and is now a shell torn ruin, has been the special objective of the German artillery fire at frequent intervals for several weeks past. Berlin announced that the bombardment was in reprisals for the shelling of German dugouts at Laon by the French artillery. The earlier reason given for the firing on the cathedral was that it was being used as an artillery observation post, which the French have denied. The city had more than 100,000 inhabitants before the war, but has been very largely depopulated by reason of its close proximity to the battle line and the frequent German shelling. Besides its beautiful 14th century cathedral, its architectural treasures include the archiepiscopal palace, nearly 11th century Abbey church of St. Remy, its splendid Hotel De Ville, or city hall and a Roman triumphal arch for one of its gateways.

THE AMERICANS REPEL SEVERE HUN ATTACKS

Men from United States Withstands Series of Persistent Onslaughts.

NORTHWEST OF ST. MIHEL VILLAGE The Americans Defeat Enemy Decisively in Every Style of Fighting.

The entire allied line in Belgium and France is holding firm. Nowhere have the Germans been able, notwithstanding the great numbers of men hurled against it, especially that portion in Flanders where the British are holding forth, to gain an inch of ground. Field Marshal Haig's order that no more ground be ceded is rigidly being complied with, as is attested by the thousands of prisoners now lying before the British positions southwest of Ypres, where it is the ambition of the high German command to break through and envelop Field Marshal Haig's forces and gain an open highway toward the English Channel. Northwest of St. Miheil the American troops have been compelled to withstand a series of persistent assaults, second in intensity only to those delivered by the Germans against the British in Flanders. And the honors at the end rested with the Americans, who met the foe at every style of fighting he offered and decisively defeated him. Along the front held by the French Sunday saw nothing of greater importance than reciprocal bombardments on various sectors, the troops of both sides remaining in their trenches. Likewise in Italy the big guns were doing most of the work although at several points enemy patrols attempted to carry out diversions but met with no success.

Heavy Fighting. At Neuve Eglise, northwest of Armentieres, where the Germans are endeavoring to drive their wedge farther in order to outflank Ypres, the heaviest fighting has taken place. Throughout Saturday night and Sunday battles of a most obstinate character took place, the Germans throwing thousands of men into the attack, notwithstanding their wastage in killed and wounded. Several times the village changed hands, but at last reports the British were still in possession of it and holding tenaciously under repeated German onslaughts. Nowhere along the eight mile front where the Germans are trying to drive through between Wulverghem and Metaren has the German met with anything but repulse, and the price they have paid for their attempts to breach the British line has been enormous. On no other sector have they been able to surmount the stone wall of the defence, and, for the moment at least, there seems to be justification for the hope that the turn in the tide of the battle is at hand.

The German Aim. Documents captured from German prisoners show conclusively that the new German offensive of the Germans was launched with the intention of separating the British and French armies and the crushing of the British.

BOMBARD PARIS

Paris, April 14.—The bombardment of the Paris district by the German long range gun continued today. One woman was killed. The war announcement tonight says: "The day was marked only by reciprocal bombardments at various points along the front. There was no infantry action." "Eastern theatre, April 13.—Our artillery was active along the whole front, successfully carrying out methodical fires of destruction against the enemy batteries and organizations. In the course of the aerial fighting during the day two enemy airplanes were forced to make a landing."

GERMAN BLOWS ON BRITISH LINE NEAR ARMENTIERES GRADUALLY WEAKENING

BRITISH LINE MORE FIRM YESTERDAY

Numerous Attacks in Neighborhood of Bailleul by Germans Repulsed—Enemy Continues to Drive Forward in Masses.

London, April 14.—The British state ment says: "An attack commenced by the enemy early in the morning in the neighborhood of Bailleul was repulsed by our troops and another hostile attack which developed later in the morning in the neighborhood of Merville was equally unsuccessful. "During the morning hostile infantry also attempted an attack northwest of Merville, but was caught and dispersed by our artillery. The hostile artillery has been more active today in the neighborhood of Albert. "On the remainder of the British front there was nothing of special interest." With the British army in France, April 14.—(By The Associated Press) This morning found the British holding firmly in the critical Bailleul-Merville sector after a night of the most intense fighting, during which numerous heavy enemy attacks were repulsed and the invaders were driven from Rebecq by a counter-stroke. The Germans today were continuing to drive in masses against the defending positions which block their way to Hazebrouck, with its railway lines, but at the latest reports of British lines had not wavered in the face of the terrific onslaughts by superior numbers. "While no one could predict the outcome of the fierce battle, now raging, the British position this morning seemed more firm and settled than at any period since the Germans began their onslaught west of Armentieres."

A. G. BRAND, SUGAR OFFICIAL DEAD

Was Director of Acadia Sugar Refining Co., Representing Scotch Interests.

Halifax, April 14.—The death occurred today of A. G. Brand, of Glasgow, Scotland, who has been a resident of Halifax for the past two or three years. Mr. Brand was a director of the Acadia Sugar Refining Company, representing the interest of the Scotch shareholders in that company. He came to Halifax for the refinery and would have returned during the first year, but the war made this impossible at that time, and one reason for his not going back since those difficulties were removed, was the state of his health, which has been becoming more precarious for some time.

P. E. I. CHANGES TODAY.

Charlottetown April 14.—Charlottetown starts on the daylight saving time tomorrow. It was postponed by proclamation of the mayor so as not to disturb the churches today. In all island churches today an announcement was made that the week beginning April 22 would be dedicated week for greater food production.

Despite Grave Situation There is Feeling That Enemy's Dash for Channel Ports has Been Definitely Checked—British Defence, Supported by Reinforcements, is Stiffening Hourly—For Moment at Least Ludendorff is Balked.

Allies are Not Yet "Out of the Woods," However, and it will Take Several Days to Tell Whether the Battle of Armentieres is Another Verdun or Another Marne—Britain Breathes Easier After Week of Anxiety.

Special Cable to the New York Tribune and St. John Standard. (By Arthur S. Draper).

London, April 14.—Despite the grave situation on the Armentieres front there is a feeling this Sunday night that the enemy's dash for the channel ports has been definitely checked. His blows have become gradually weaker, while the British defence is stiffening hourly. For the moment at least, Ludendorff is balked, but the Allies are not yet "out of the woods" and it will take several days to tell whether the battle of Armentieres is another Verdun or another Marne. Britain is breathing easier after a week of the gravest anxiety. Fighting continues on a gigantic scale. The enemy is still attacking with the greatest violence, but the deeper he advances the slower his progress and the more costly his attacks. From the hills around Armentieres basin the British with their French reserves are presenting an obstacle which the Germans are finding desperately hard to surmount. Generals Horne and Plumer have rallied their men and every inch of territory is being contested. There is a noticeable hardening, due probably to the arrival of reinforcements.

Huns Slowing Down. It is difficult to estimate whether the slowness of the enemy's progress is caused by the stiffening of the defence or whether he is growing weary and his punches lack the steam of initial attacks. As Haig emphasized the enemy losses it is reasonable to expect that the Germans are beginning to slow down. In the last three days Haig has exacted a relatively greater toll than in any similar period during the fighting on the Somme. In the present battle the Germans are facing an army which has withdrawn slowly, fighting every foot of the way, while on the Somme it was necessary for the third army to retreat hastily to keep the alignment with the battered fifth army on their right. Also, the Germans found the clinging mud at Armentieres a heavy handicap. That Ludendorff will call a halt at this juncture is regarded the most unlikely, but if he does, the resumption of the campaign for Amiens may be expected immediately. Heavy artillery fire concentrated on various points between Arras and Noyon shows that the pause on this front is not caused by delay in bringing up guns. Ludendorff is ready for fresh assaults. To date he has won two big successes but he is still a considerable distance from attaining a strategic victory. British Uncrushed. Ludendorff has perfected the offensive to a higher degree than any other general on the western front, but he has paid a bigger price than any other commander. The British army remains uncrushed, the French are intact and the Germans are already showing signs of weariness. Because this battle is like no other in that the German militarists are free from political checks, it is unwise to become optimistic at this stage. A glance at the map shows the Allied position at Bailleul is more encouraging, the bright spot being the counterthrust the British made which regained Neuve Eglise.

TOO LATE FOR SERVICE

Halifax, April 14.—Daylight saving came into effect in Halifax today and throughout the province with very little confusion. In this city some of the churches adhered to the old time so that some members of the congregations arrived as the services were ending. The rule will be universal tomorrow.

SARDINE SEASON. The sardine season opens at East port and Lunenburg today, but herring are scarce in Passamaquoddy Bay and vicinity.