

ARMIES LOCKED In Death Struggle.

**Mightiest Conflict Ever --
British Line Holds.**

BRITISH MACHINE GUNS DO TERRIBLE EXECUTION.

FEARFUL CARNAGE.
British Headquarters in France, March 23 (via Reuters' Ottawa Agency).—Last evening the great German offensive was proceeding. The weather is glorious but definite drizzle is still unobtainable. Despite the driving ground under the unprecedented weight of men and guns the enemy gains are nowhere of strategic importance. The withdrawal everywhere was carried out in an orderly manner after exacting a fearful price from the enemy. Our airmen report from the ground that the enemy's rear is strewn with German corpses. It has been noted that all the attacking troops have been clad in new uniforms and it will be remembered in this connection that Von Hindenburg boasted he would be in Paris by April 1st. Anyway he is certainly essaying to break through in record time, and as the divisions melt away under the onsets of our shells, fresh ones are being fed in. Forty enemy divisions, including four of the Guards, had been identified in the front line of attack by Thursday night, and already some of the enemy troops have been relieved. Responsible quarters are gratified at the magnificent manner in which our troops are withstanding the ordeal. Not a single division has faltered. Against one sector of ten thousand yards it has been estimated that the Germans employed one gun for every fifteen yards, not counting trench mortars. It is noteworthy that some actual retirements on our front have been made only upon orders, after the troops had held the trenches intact through the whole of the first day's assault. The first wave waves of Thursday's attack was frequently held up by our wire. The Germans halted and hacked their way through whilst our riflemen and snipers were making a veritable shambles of the ground. The enemy fought with sturdy vigor, for it was their picked divisions which were participating. Our airmen are doing valiant service, flying low and attacking enemy flying formations who are attacking our trenches with machine guns. At one place eight German divisions attacked on a front held by eight battalions and our front line has been destroyed by weight of metal, but the troops achieved a great feat, but they only held the enemy for a few minutes before he was compelled to withdraw. On Thursday evening three divisions of Germans lost a certain number of guns through entering our barrage. Gas shells have been largely used and we have been employing projectors, thereby neutralizing the whole effect of the enemy's batteries.

ARMEN AID ARMIES.
LONDON, To-Day.
British aircraft during the fighting along the front in France, Thursday, aided materially the infantry forces below, killing or wounding many Germans with machine guns while flying at a low altitude, according to a British statement issued to-night dealing with aviation. In addition, British aircraft bombed important military positions behind the enemy's lines and aviators accounted for many streams in battles in the air. The communication follows: Mist over the front on Thursday morning cleared locally, but at most places the weather was unsuitable for low flying. The enemy's attacking troops and reinforcements on the front offered excellent targets to the pilots of our low flying machines. They poured many thousands of rounds into them causing considerable casualties. Our bombing machines also attacked these targets, in addition to bombing important railways on the battle front and over 100 bombs were dropped. A great deal of the fighting occurred at low altitudes, in which 16 hostile machines were downed and six driven down out of control. A hostile balloon was destroyed by one of our pilots. One enemy low flying plane was shot down in our lines by our airmen. Three of our machines are missing. During the night eight flying squadrons in the southern area of the front were unable to leave the ground owing to the mist. In the morning, where the weather was clear, our airplanes dropped three and a half tons of bombs on the enemy's rear, and three and a half tons of bombs on rest billets.

British defensive system west of St. Quentin.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE.—By the Associated Press: British troops between the Scarpe and the Oise have fallen back in places, but the British General had foreseen this eventuality and made his preparations accordingly. In the face of a great attack, it is not only impossible, but quite unsound, to attempt to hold the front line trenches everywhere. Good defensive tactics usually aim at organizing resistance, so that the further the enemy advances the stronger will be the opposition he meets. Taking the situation as a whole the British are well satisfied with the results of the first stage of the fighting though they undoubtedly lost several ruined villages, and the Germans will probably make much of their capture; but the defenders have held on amazingly well and worked terrible slaughter among the attackers.

The fighting to-day was the greatest in intensity on two sectors of the north-west of Cambrai, and the other southwest; the fighting on the northern front was about Bullecourt, while Hargicourt is the southern centre. A bright sun came out at midday and the airmen were most active, the British aviators flying at very low altitudes and using their machine guns against the opposing infantry. Before he attacked to-day, on the sector between the Canal Du Nord and Croiselles, on the northern battle front, the Germans for four hours smothered the British with every conceivable form of hate which a gun could throw. The enemy depended largely upon large numbers of trench mortars to cut the wire entanglements. The British have had warning that the Germans would use great quantities of gas shells. This proved true, although there was nothing new in the type of gas, and the British gas masks appear to have been most effective. The British Tommies and their officers fought for hours with their gas masks on, but even this drawback could not dampen their jubilation at the havoc they caused as the German infantry presented itself in the form of point blank targets. Nine German divisions negotiated the assault in this section but they met with strenuous resistance. British machine-guns did terrible execution as the Germans moved forward the same as on Thursday. The Germans to-day depended on tremendous artillery bombardments and massed attacks, with great numbers of troops to achieve results, and at least forty German Divisions have been identified and the German artillery concentration is the greatest that has been seen in the west. It is reported that in one section the Germans came across No Man's Land in regular formation and gaps in the ranks were quickly filled in to present a solid front. The Germans were said to have

stopped when they reached the barbed wire, and to have cut it by hand under a heavy fire from rifles, machine guns and artillery. However, their part is not verified, but it is certain that the Germans advanced in more dense formation than ever before, and naturally suffered grievous casualties. Six German Divisions, Thursday, delivered a very heavy attack against the British south of St. Quentin, and despite the fact that the enemy had a superiority in numbers the British hung doggedly to their posts throughout the day, and it was only after the Germans had stopped the assault that the British withdrew their lines, somewhat, in order to give them protection by means of the Oise River and the flooded ground around it. A further attack here will be extremely costly to the enemy.

BOMBS PARIS.

PARIS, To-Day.
At nine o'clock to-night a group of enemy airplanes crossed the lines and a number of bombs were dropped on Champagne and different towns in that region. Several machines advanced further to the South but were forced to turn back by the fire of the French artillery. The alarm was immediately given in Paris and a half hour later the "all clear" signal was sounded.

NOTHING LEFT UNDONE.

LONDON, To-Day.
The German newspapers reflect a feeling of confidence concerning the present operations in the West though the seriousness of the moment is recognized, according to Dutch newspaper agencies, says an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Amsterdam. The German newspapers insist that the military and political leaders of the Central Powers have left nothing undone to spare their people this terrible blood bath.

Wild Scotch Cured Herring.

While the herring trade of New York has been staggered by the loss of the s.s. Florizel, which sank off the coast of Newfoundland with a cargo of 6,000 barrels of herring, probably most of it Scotch cured, there has been no tendency to take advantage of the market situation here, which at present is critical. There is a limited supply in the hands of merchants and jobbers and a demand in evidence, yet sales of the week have been on the basis of former quotations, the ruling price for well-packed stocks being \$28. This price has been exceeded in a few instances, especially for fancy goods, but in the development of the market following its complete demoralization early in the week it has been noted that jobbers evidenced a willingness to buy almost without regard for prices in some cases. In the face of this condition, which is distinctly favorable to the seller, the small lots that changed hands were, almost without deviation, at the quotations which have prevailed. What the future will bring about is still a matter of speculation. Some hold that prices will soar to \$32 and \$35, while others appear content to take a fair profit on their goods and to sell regardless of the future supply. It is probable, however, that unless a steamer brings further supplies here in the immediate future, there will be a clean-up of stocks and therefore a higher and stronger market. There is still a fair quantity of Scotch cured and Norwegian style herring held on the West Coast, and some of this has been offering here at fairly reasonable prices. It is reported that New York merchants have been offering \$16 a barrel for the Scotch stocks. Of course, this stock cannot be moved at present, but will be held at the out-port station until the waters of Newfoundland are again opened to navigation. A schooner load of herring came into the market this week, consigned to two firms here. No prices have been made on this as yet.—N.Y. Fishing Gazette, March 22d.

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Fresh New York Chicken.
Fresh N. Y. Corned Beef.
Rounds Corned Beef.

New Currants.

FRESH COD FISH.
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FRESH CAPLIN.

Buckwheat.
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FINNAN HADDIES.
FRESH KIPPERS.

Faced Evaporated Apples.
Faced Evaporated Peas.
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J. ALEX. ROBINSON,
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Insure with the
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The London Directory, Company, Ltd.,
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BODY UNIDENTIFIED.—The body of one of the victims of the Florizel, which yesterday was claimed to be that of R. J. Fowler, still rests at the morgue unidentified. W. J. Fowler, brother and Mrs. Fowler, mother of the late R. J. Fowler, viewed the body yesterday and are confident it is not the person they seek.

MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES
STOMACH.

MINARD'S LINIMENT CURES
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BROOKS' BABY BARLEY

(is made from whole barley)
especially recommended for
Infants and Invalids.

WHOLE EGG (Powdered)
one pound equal in volume to 4 doz. eggs.

CORN MEAL. (Yellow and White.) GRAHAM FLOUR. BUCKWHEAT. CREAM OF WHEAT. GRAPE NUTS. FORCE. CORN FLAKES. RICE FLAKES. SHREDDED WHOLE WHEAT BISCUITS.	BACON— Beechnut, Fidelity, Premium, C. Rapids. MARMALADE— Shiraff's and Wag- staff's, in 1 lb. and 2 lb. glass and 7 lb. tins. JAMS— Hartley's, Linder's, Wagstaff, Blue Rose SOUPS—Campbell's, Heinz, Lazenby's, Morton's. CRISCO—1½ lb. and 3 lb. tins.
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Eyesight Specialist.
St. John's.

Here and There.

PRICES AT OPORTO.—Minister of Marine and Fisheries has received the following message from Oporto: Large 61 to 68 shillings; Small from 56 to 60 shillings.

POLICE COURT.—Three men from the schooner Grace Darling were in court this morning charged with refusing duty on board their ship. Mr. Gibbs appeared for the defendants and Mr. McNelly for plaintiff. Owing to some investigation necessary, the case was delayed, but will be disposed of later in the day.

He Rests from His Labors.

The funeral of the late James McCoubrey, whose body was recovered at Cappanayden a few days ago, took place yesterday afternoon and was largely attended. Representatives of Lodges Dudley and Empire S.O.E. preceded the hearse, as did also a deputation of the St. Andrew's Lodge, Masonic Order.

The deceased was a Past President of Dudley Lodge, S.O.E., and represented his Lodge at a gathering of the Grand Lodge of North America, held at Halifax about a year ago. He was also senior warden of St. Andrew's Masonic Lodge, and was held in the highest esteem by the brethren of both societies. The service for the burial of the dead was taken at the graveside by Rev. Canon Field and interment was at the General Protestant Cemetery. At the conclusion of the prayers the last fraternal honors were reverently given by both societies.

Card of Thanks.

Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Gittleton and the family of the late C. H. Miller desire to thank their friends in the city and all over the island for the many telegrams and letters of condolence received. Also to offer to the Brethren of the Masonic (Lodge Tasker) and Odd Fellows Societies their sincere thanks for the kindly resolutions of sympathy expressed by them.—adv.11

Here and There.

GOVERNOR AND SUITE RETURN.—The Governor and suite who had been visiting Harbor Grace and Carbonear, reached the city by private car attached to the local express, which arrived at 12.20 p.m. to-day.

AT REST.—All that was mortal of the late Jack Parsons, who lost his life in the recent marine disaster, was laid to rest yesterday afternoon in the General Protestant Cemetery. The funeral was very largely attended, the officiating clergymen being Rev. Dr. Curtis and Rev. D. B. Hemmion.

And the Worst is Yet to Come—

