

GERMAN LINE AT SOISSONS AND AISNE IN DANGER

ENEMY FORCES BETWEEN AISNE AND OISE ARRE HURLED BACK

Compelled To Abandon Line on a Ten Mile Front, French Penetrating German Positions to Depth of Two Miles—Enemy Likely To Retire From Soissons To the Chemin des Dames.

(By The Associated Press.)

German forces holding the vital sector of the battlefront between the Aisne and the Oise river have been hurled back over a ten mile front this morning by the French, according to reports reaching London. It is stated that the French have penetrated the enemy positions to a depth of two miles.

This attack, which is a continuation of the assault made northwest of Soissons on Sunday night, is said to endanger the whole German position at Soissons and the Aisne. It is added that the French success will probably be followed by a German retirement from Soissons to the Chemin des Dames.

An advance of two miles in this sector would seem to place the Germans, both along the Aisne and before Noyon, in a serious position from which only an immediate retreat would appear to be possible.

Unofficial despatches also state that sufficient local successes have been achieved by the French from the Oise northward to well past Roye. The line, as it is traced in despatches, seems to be very close to the important town of Lassigny, for which the French have been fighting for the past week or more.

German Line Endangered.

London, Aug. 20.—(P. M.)—The French tenth army attacked again this morning on a front of ten miles, between the Oise and the Aisne, and reached a maximum depth of two miles, according to a despatch from the battlefront.

The advance of the French troops endangers the whole German position at Soissons and on the river Aisne. It is possible that the Germans will now withdraw to the Chemin des Dames.

Before nine o'clock this morning the French had captured 500 Germans in the sector attacked. North of Roye the French have taken the Bracquemont and Pendo woods, and have occupied the greater part of Beuvraignes. It is also reported that they have made progress to the south-east of Beuvraignes.

The attack of the French yesterday between the Aisne and the Oise was on a front of twelve miles, and although the Germans offered a stubborn resistance, the French made an advance of about a mile. At six o'clock last evening the battle line ran as follows:—

French Take Vassens.

Paris, Aug. 20.—French troops during last night occupied the village of Vassens, northwest of Morsain, between the Oise and the Aisne. There was reciprocal artillery fire in the region of Lassigny and Brezinourt, west of the Oise. A German aerial bombardment of Nancy was carried out. Six civilians were killed and a score injured.

Expect Austrian Attack.

Washington, Aug. 20.—Resumption of the Austrian offensive on the Italian front is to be expected at any time.

CASUALTIES

Ottawa, Aug. 20.—Casualty lists today contained 681 names. Of this number, two were killed in action, sixteen died of wounds, one was reported prisoner of war, one ill and 661 wounded. The names included:

Infantry.
Wounded—A. McMullen, North River, N. S.; A. Hazleton, Digby; A. Staples, Onslow, N. S.; F. S. Flaherty, Chatham; A. L. MacDonald, Elmstead, N. B.; W. Party, North Sydney; J. E. Toban, Newcastle; E. G. F. Scott, Goshaven; W. J. McKay, High Bank, P. E. I.; C. C. Politer, New Waterford, N. S.; A. J. Arsenault, St. Elanors, P. E. I.; T. D. MacKinnon, Pictou; J. T. McDonald, Trenton, N. S.; R. Butler, Weymouth; A. Martwood, Caledonia Mines.
Died of Wounds.
O. H. Fulton, Bass River, N. S.; W. W. Ellegood, Dumfries, N. S.; F. H. Kaulbach, Bridgewater, N. S.; H. G. Croly, Lawson, N. B.; W. H. Cole, Sussex; C. W. Butterwell, Pleasant Lake, N. B.

Wounded.
W. H. Thomas, Summerside, P. E. I.; A. H. Morrison, Milltown, N. B.; C. Barker, St. Croix, N. S.; C. B. VanBuskirk, Woodville, N. B.; W. B. McIsaac, Westville, N. S.; M. E. McKinney, Oak Bay, N. B.; T. Sahokley, New Glasgow; W. Bennett, North Sydney; J. McNaught, Chatham; J. P. Croken, Emerald, P. E. I.; L. E. Harrington, West St. John, N. B.; W. M. Bartley, St. Stephen, N. B.; D. P. Bernard, Tignish, P. E. I.; J. Morris, Bristol, N. B.; N. Patterson, Centre Village, N. B.; J. A. Forbes, Parrboro; J. E. Webb, East Hanford; E. Ross, Halifax; E. McIvor, Sydney; A. McNall, Caledonia Mines, N. S.; R. McIntyre, Sydney, N. S.; J. L. Nicholson, Barrachois Harbor, N. S.

Wounded.
Capt. T. N. W. MacDonald, Pictou; Lieut. D. M. Lawson, Amherst; Lieut. C. J. Markham, St. John; F. A. Grant, Goshaven; F. A. Andrews, Deep Brook, N. S.; B. Joudrey, Mahone Bay, N. S.; W. B. Hawkins, Merry River, P. E. I.; F. B. Harvey, Kentville, J. Manners, Truro.

Wounded.
S. Simms, Brockton, Mass., was an outgoing passenger on the Halifax express last night en route to Truro, N. S. He reported Maine farmers enjoying bumper crops and in spite of war conditions causing a scarcity of help, were progressing very favorably in harvesting their hay. Mr. Simms stated he had one brother now at Merritt Camp in Jersey awaiting the call for overseas service in the near future.

Wounded.
G. Chisholm, St. Mary's, N. S.; W. J. White, Sackville, N. B.

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SPLendid LECTURE BEFORE CANADIAN CLUB YESTERDAY

Prof. H. F. Munro of Columbia University on "Freedom of the Sea" Delighted Large Audience.

Yesterday's lecture before the Canadian Club on the "Freedom of the Sea," delivered by Prof. Henry F. Munro, lecturer of the department of International Law at Columbia University, was characterized by those privileged to hear it as one of the best addresses ever delivered before a St. John audience.

The speaker said it was his personal opinion that peace could only be enforced by the navies of the world. In the past few centuries Great Britain had been the dominant power on the sea, and it was admitted by all that she had used her power justly. British rule of the seas had also resulted in the abolition of piracy and the slave trade and the charting of practically all the waters of the globe.

At the present time the laws which should govern the free use of the sea by all were being broken in three ways: By Germany in the sowing of mines, irregular use of the submarine, the sinking of hospital and relief ships, the sinking without warning of merchant vessels, the slaughter of non-combatants and the bombing of defenceless ports. The second way was by the imposing of war zone restrictions by all nations, and the third was by the violation of private property rights.

In closing the speaker paid a tribute to the work of the British Navy which, he said, had made it possible for the Allies to continue the present struggle and would make the victory which was bound to come possible.

At the close of the address a vote of thanks was tendered the speaker by Judge H. O. McInerney, president of the club.

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CENTRAL POWERS MAY OFFER TERMS TO FRANCE OR ITALY

Ludendorff, Sparring For Time, Will Not Be Ready To Make Even a Small Spectacular Show For a Couple of Months or Until the 1920 Class Is Ready and Peace Move Will Serve His Purposes Excellently.

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

London, Aug. 20.—Out of the conference at the German main headquarters may come a peace rather than a military drive. Ludendorff is sparring for time and he won't be ready to make even a small spectacular show for a couple of months or until the 1920 class is ready, and a peace drive will serve his purposes excellently. Before Hintze, Kuehlmann's successor as foreign secretary of state, started for this conference in company with the Kaiser and Hertling he told the Berlin correspondent of the Kolnische Zeitung that Germany was ready for any reasonable peace but that he did not consider Lloyd George's offer reasonable.

Young Emperor Karl, who wants peace in the worse way, is attending the conference and before he leaves it is likely he will have promised Germany help in the west in return for which the Kaiser and the militarists will agree to attempt another peace drive.

Austrian Aid. Germany will get Austrian men and guns, while Karl will get what satisfaction he can out of a German militarist drive.

Because Poch happens to have the initiative and the war kaleidoscope presents a pretty picture for Allied eyes there is no proof that the German militarists are ready to quit. Whatever faults German militarists have they can't be charged with faint-heartedness. The Allies can have peace this fall, but not the kind America wants.

Before even the enemy leaders started for the conference the German agents in Switzerland, Spain, Holland, Sweden and Denmark began to work through the neutral press, through statements, honest and dishonest, in their efforts to have the world return to sanity, through financial concerns to whose interest it is to bring about a speedy peace.

Almost the moment the Somme battle died down the neutral press began to publish the rumors that they have increased in number, and also since then.

Following Branting's return to Stockholm after attending the Socialist conference in London and Paris, there comes news of a peace move by Sweden. From Holland comes the report that Kiehlmann, the most skillful of German diplomats because of his mixture of Liberalism and Junkerism, is about to become Germany's representative there. From Switzerland, honest and dishonest, in their efforts to have the world return to sanity, through financial concerns to whose interest it is to bring about a speedy peace.

Ludendorff's military policy consisted of concentration against one of the Allies. Germany's peace drive is likely to consist of a similar attack, but whether against Italy or France it is hard to say. Perhaps France may be selected because Karl must be conciliated. His subjects are encouraging him to throw off the German military yoke, and now that Germany is asking instead of giving assistance, his demands will carry greater weight.

Any tempting offer to Italy must be made at the expense of Austria, while France could not be satisfied unless Germany made great concessions at her own expense. If Germany could separate the Allies she would gain a great victory, but that possibility has passed when America arrived. The German wireless tries constantly to divide the Allies and to exaggerate the bravery and losses of one to the detriment of the other. She will probably follow the same tactics at the coming peace drive.

There is less pacifism in England today than at any time in the last three years.

The parishioners of the church defended the minister and last night cast a vote of confidence in him. According to many of the town residents, the gossip connecting Hall with his wife's death started over the fact that he did not accompany her to the hospital the night she received her injuries.

Lamont A. Stevens, ex-State Auditor, is one of Hall's staunchest defenders. He said that he does not believe the man capable of such a crime. Hall, it was said, had never been ordained to the ministry, but began his career as a preacher at camp meetings. He was formerly a cook in a fishing vessel. He is an impressive type of man, resembling Abraham Lincoln in appearance. He has a sister, Miss Cora Hall, who lives in Boston.

Hall Had Been in Province. Waterville, Me., Aug. 20.—Rev. Henry H. Hall's early home was in Harrington, Washington County, Me. He went into the province and did his first preaching and later had a pastorate in the Baptist Church at Princeton, Me.

His career has been somewhat interrupted as he has been in a hospital several times. His record shows nothing to indicate criminality. He is about 38 years old.

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PTE. LESTER WADMAN KILLED IN ACTION

Was Son of H. G. Wadman of Moncton—Arthur London and Frank McKinnon Wounded.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, Aug. 20.—H. G. Wadman received a telegram today from Ottawa informing him that his son, Pte. Lester Wadman, was killed in action in the recent big Canadian drive. Pte. Wadman left here with the dental corps in December, 1916. He was 19 years old in February last. After going overseas he went to France with the infantry, being eager to get to the front. Previous to enlisting he was a clerk in Dr. E. O. Steeves' drug store.

A telegram from the director of records informs Mrs. Edith Morrell that her son, Pte. Arthur London of the infantry, is officially reported wounded in France. He went overseas with the Westmorland and Kent battalion in September, 1916.

Pte. Frank McKinnon, son of Abalom McKinnon of Scotch Settlement, is also reported wounded a second time. He went over with the 26th Battalion.

Summerside, P. E. I., Aug. 20.—The annual meeting of the Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias for the Maritime Provinces opened here today. The membership on June 30 was 3,577, a decrease of 47.

The following officers were elected: Grand Chancellor—S. J. Boley, Port Greville, N. S.; Grand Vice-Chancellor—R. B. Wallace, Fredericton, N. B.; Grand Prelate—D. M. Corcoran, Sydney, N. S.; Grand Keeper of Records and Seal—James Moulton, St. John; Grand Master at Arms—J. S. Lord, St. Stephen, N. B.; Grand Master of Exchequer—J. R. Foley, St. Stephen; Grand Inner Guard—Roy Holman, Summerside, P. E. I.; Grand Outer Guard—W. R. Morton, Halifax; Grand Trustee—E. V. Morrow, Halifax.

Special to The Standard. Newcastle, Aug. 19.—The little hamlet of Beaverbrook, on the C. G. R., about nine miles north of Newcastle, and about the same distance from the mouth of the Bathurst Road on the Miramichi River, directly opposite Chatham, which was recently put on the map by the adoption of its name by Sir Max Aitken as his title for the House of Lords, is to have a new schoolhouse, of the latest and best model, thoroughly equipped and furnished, the gift of Lord Beaverbrook.

The village, with some fifteen children of school age but no schoolhouse and only about half a dozen families, was in a quandary as to its educational future, when the station agent, Mr. J. S. Boudreau, wrote a detailed account of the situation to Sir Max. The latter responded at once to the appeal and sent back word promptly to Mr. Boudreau that the district would be given a first class schoolhouse with all necessary appliances ready for the teacher to step in and go to work.

Another letter to Lord Beaverbrook's confidential legal representative, Mr. Allan A. Davidson of Newcastle, authorizes that gentleman to have the school erected and equipped.

Beaverbrook, though small at present, is well situated to become the centre of a thriving community.

Girl with Black Eyes. Kate Gerow, whose flashing black eyes are her most prominent physical characteristic, emphatically denied tonight that Hall was infatuated with her or had ever kissed her. Her sister, Grace, also denied ever having anything more than a spiritual interest in the minister. Both are his strong champions and also offer the theory that malice and jealousy is at the bottom of his arrest.

The parishioners of the church defended the minister and last night cast a vote of confidence in him. According to many of the town residents, the gossip connecting Hall with his wife's death started over the fact that he did not accompany her to the hospital the night she received her injuries.

Lamont A. Stevens, ex-State Auditor, is one of Hall's staunchest defenders. He said that he does not believe the man capable of such a crime. Hall, it was said, had never been ordained to the ministry, but began his career as a preacher at camp meetings. He was formerly a cook in a fishing vessel. He is an impressive type of man, resembling Abraham Lincoln in appearance. He has a sister, Miss Cora Hall, who lives in Boston.

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Dollar Day

\$25 Worsted Suits for \$20.

\$20 Fancy Homespun Suits, coat with half belt, \$15.

\$9 Raincoats for \$7.20.

\$11 Raincoats for \$8.80.

\$15 Two-Piece Suits for \$7.50.

Men's Stiff Cuff Shirts at 20 per cent. discount.

These are worth looking into.

Gilmour's, 68 King St.

Open Friday evenings, close Saturdays at 1—June, July, August.

MINIATURE ALMANAC

August—Phases of the Moon

New Moon, 6th, 11:44 30m. p.m.

First quarter, 14th, 11:44 30m. p.m.

Full Moon, 22nd, 11:44 30m. a.m.

Last Quarter, 29th, 11:44 30m. a.m.

THE WEATHER

Toronto, Aug. 20.—The weather has been fine today throughout the Dominion and warmer from Ontario to the Maritime Provinces.

Forecasts—Maritime—Moderate to fresh westerly to southwesterly winds, fair and warm.

Prince Rupert, 52 64

Victoria, 50 62

Yancouver, 50 68