

AWFUL SLAUGHTER OF FRENCH ARTILLERY

Ailly Woods, Held By Germans, Cleared By Rain Of Shells. Many Teutons Driven Mad By Terrific Cannonade.

Paris Cable.—An official statement issued by the Press Bureau today says: Since the month of September violent engagements have been delivered, accompanied by grenades and bomb-throwing, in the Brule wood and the Ailly road. Infinitely small sections of ground were fought for foot by foot. Our troops were faced by a courageous and ardent foe, including contingents of Bavarian troops, perfectly disciplined and well equipped, thanks to the proximity of the Metz stronghold. The officers of these troops kept on telling them that the success of their efforts would bring about the fall of Verdun. As a matter of fact, the German general staff gave up long since the attempt to invest that fortress, which was started in September, and it is now we who are threatening St. Mihiel.

ARTILLERY FOR METZ.

The Ailly wood is about three kilometers (two miles) from the town, and it was to stop all progress on our part on the southern crests in the Ailly forest that the enemy adopted this aggressive attitude. The Germans have used in these attacks light artillery and powerful material. Hand grenades were thrown without regard to the cost, and aerial bombs containing large charges of explosives were launched. They also brought up for use on the slopes pieces of heavy artillery from Metz. They defiled from the shelter of the wood and frequently displayed their guns by using the intersecting roads of the forest.

All winter we sustained the shock of the enemy, and little by little we were able to force him to relax up to the time when, renouncing his offensive, he was content to remain on the defensive, which, however, is still enigmatic and stubborn. The initiative now belongs to us. Our attacks in the recent engagements carried out methodically and energetically have permitted us to realize a success of which our troops have reason to be proud—the capture of the summit in the Ailly wood.

The communique continues: "All the Ailly woods, which constituted a strong and well fortified support for the Germans, is now entirely in French hands, conquered for the most part by troops from the centre of France, after several days of systematic preparations by a heavy fire from 7-inch and big guns and by aerial torpedoes. "At certain points the Germans had constructed in front of moats twelve yards wide spiked barriers extending about six feet above the level of the earth, surrounded by barbed wire entanglements, which were so intricate as to make them impervious to any tools.

RUSSIANS HOLD FLANK SECURE

Austro-Germans' Attack Doing Them Little Harm.

Big Gun Superiority Rests With Czar's Troops.

Petrograd Cable.—The great Austro-German attack on the right flank of the Russian southern army is now developing successfully for the Russians. Recently the enemy brought a great quantity of heavy guns along the winter positions on the River Dunajec, but a tremendous exchange of long-range fire has already established the superiority of the Russian big guns, which are destroying the enemy's transport. The Russian infantry are deploying over a distance of nine or ten miles.

The enemy has been driven back from Gorlice in the direction of Neusandez, which is a point of crucial importance, with a strong bridge over the Dunajec, besides being the junction of railway systems into Moravia. Evidently the Germans have a strategic purpose in pressing this attack from the Dunajec immediately after the failure of Litsinger's attempt to recross the Carpathians on the Russian left flank towards the Strý road. Prisoners arriving at Kiev declare that the Kaiser has been with the Austro-German army. He addressed the Saxon corps Saturday in Bako-wina, telling them they must protect Hungary like their own homes. A Russian victory there, he added, would be a defeat of Germany herself. The Kaiser then visited other German corps among the Austrian positions in North Hungary and returned to Cracow.

NO RESPIRE IN FIGHTING.

London Cable.—Although the passes and defiles leading down into the plains of Hungary are still deep with water, and the Russian advance held up, there appears to be plenty of fighting on the Carpathian front with the Russians on the defensive. "It is realized that when the time

WORK OF THE ARTILLERY.

"A concentration of artillery fire opened large breaches in this defence; parapets were sent crashing to the ground, and dismembered bodies were blown into the air about the clouds of smoke. The earth was strewn with overturned trees and branches. "After five hours' intense fire five mines laid under a parapet adjacent to the principal fort holding the position exploded, annihilating the garrison and spreading panic in the trenches. "An attack with fixed bayonets then began in three lines, preceded by a detachment with hand grenades. Engineers followed with little bridges which had been prepared in advance to facilitate the passage over the network of trenches. The order had been given not to stop in any trench, but to pass over and take the enemy in the rear. "Three lines of trenches were thus cleared of the Germans. Those who sought refuge in the underground shelters perished from suffocation, through the collapse of the entire earthworks.

GRENADES AND COLD STEEL.

"Towards three o'clock on April 5 the enemy attempted to counter-attack, supported by a heavy artillery fire, which was neutralized by our batteries. Our attack was renewed the following day, and developed into a furious hand-to-hand struggle with grenades and cold steel in the narrow lines of trenches. The enemy opposed each resistance that the order was given to evacuate part of the ground that had been gained. This was then bombarded until the enemy was obliged to retire. We then held the three main line trenches of the Ailly woods. "The enemy's losses were heavy. We counted two hundred dead on the evening of the 5th and on the evening of the 6th we found the dead piled in three rows.

"During the 7th and 8th we repulsed eight counter-attacks. The enemy succeeded in entering one trench, but were unable to hold it. Of the Ailly woods there remained nothing but a few hacked trunks, and not an inch of ground in it that had not been turned up by explosives.

ENTIRE HILL DISAPPEARED.

"At 5:30 o'clock on April 8 an intensive bombardment by the enemy was begun. In ninety minutes upon this corner of the woods, over a front of from 550 to 400 yards, 20,000 shells were fired; they included all calibres, from four to eight-inch. The entire hill disappeared in a cloud of smoke; all communications were cut during this time, and when the fire ceased many men were mentally dazed. They had to be removed and required several days for recovery. "Again on April 10 and April 15 our attacks were renewed, resulting in the gain of the balance of the position in Ailly woods. "Six German companies, besides the garrison in the fort, were annihilated in these engagements."

is propitious the avalanche will descend, the Austrians and the Germans are trying to break it up by desperate attacks upon positions securely held by the forces of the Czar. Two parallel flanking movements have been launched simultaneously in the Mezô-Laboroz and Lupkow Pass regions, and in the region of Gorlice with the object of getting to the rear of the Beskids and cutting off Russian communications. Neither has been successful. In the one case the Russians, securely entrenched on the heights, waited calmly for the Teutons to advance, and then, not waiting for the attack, charged with the bayonet. That broke up the one movement and delivered a large number of prisoners into the hands of the Russians. Using a similar stratagem near Polen, the Russians captured an entire Austrian battalion of 1,000 men.

It is stated that the German bombardment of Ossowetz is not succeeded any better than the first one did. Both sides are using big guns. One German battery near Stawischi has been silenced, while another on the Lomza front has been badly damaged.

CUT COAL PRICES

British Mine Owners Said to Have Made Offer.

London Cable.—A deputation of coal mine owners recently had a conference with Walter Runciman, President of the Board of Trade, according to an announcement by him in the House of Commons to-day, in reference to the supply and price of coal. Subsequently the owners met and recorded their wish to reduce prices as far as practicable in the interests of the country. They also resolved to recommend to the owners of the various coal districts that the same course be pursued by them.

It is unofficially stated that Mr. Runciman and the owners also discussed the demands of the Miners' Federation. The federation has resolved to ask the Government to convene a conference between the owners and the employees since the owners have refused to confer with the miners in reference to their demands. "One woman can always make another woman happy by envying her.

GETTING WORSE

Turk Defeat at Shaiba is Now Total Rout.

London Cable.—The following official communication was issued this evening: "The latest telegrams from the Persian Gulf show that the defeat of the Turks at Shaiba was even more complete than had been hoped. Not only have they abandoned their motor cars and gun and ammunition wagons, but independent reports show that their retirement has been a rout, motivated by tumcoat Arab tribesmen. There are persistent rumors of the suicide of Suliman Askeri, the Turkish commander-in-chief.

"It is estimated that the enemy's casualties from the 12th to the 15th of April reached 6,000. The Turks in this direction are now all north of Khamieh, which is more than 90 miles from Basra."

LESS GRAIN IN FARMERS' HANDS

Light Crop and High Price Clears Up the Surplus.

Live Stock Did Well in Most Provinces.

A press bulletin issued recently by the Census and Statistics Office, gives the results of the usual annual inquiry as to the stocks of grain and other crops remaining in the hands of the farmers on March 31st, and the proportion of the crops harvested in the previous year which turned out to be of merchantable quality. The returns received from crop-reporting correspondents show that of the total estimated yield of wheat in 1914, 12 1/2 per cent., or 20,247,000 bushels remained in farmers hands at the end of March. At the rate of 1-3/4 bushels per acre this quantity should allow for the sowing of the spring of about 11,570,000 acres, or 1,522,000 acres more than were sown in the spring of 1914, independently of quantities of wheat stored in elevators, which may be returned to farmers for seeding purposes. The quantity of wheat remaining this year in the hands of farmers is, however, smaller than in any previous year on record. The light crop and the high price being together responsible for this result. In 1914 the quantity of wheat estimated to be in farmers' hands at March 31st was 38,353,000 bushels, or 16 1/2 per cent. of the large harvest of 1913; in 1913, at March 31st, the proportion was 22 per cent., or 50,234,000 bushels, and at March 31st, 1912, it was 27 per cent., or 62,183,000 bushels.

Of the remaining grain crops the proportions of the previous year's production estimated to be in farmers' hands on March 31st, are also smaller than in any former year on record. Oats show a balance of 85,843,000 bushels, or 27 per cent.; barley, 7,430,400 bushels, or 20 1/2 per cent.; rye, 345,700 bushels, or 17 per cent.; buckwheat, 1,792,500 bushels, or 21 per cent.; corn for husking, 2,928,000 bushels, or 21 per cent.; and flaxseed, 740,700 bushels, or 10 per cent. Of potatoes, which gave the excellent yield last year of 35,672,000 bushels, 37.7 per cent., or 13,350,000 bushels were in farmers' hands on March 31st, this proportion being larger than in any of the last five years, excepting 1913, when 43 per cent., or 36,619,000 bushels, or 15 per cent. remained over, and of hay and clover the quantity in farmers' hands is placed at 2,175,000 tons, or 21 per cent. of the total crop of 10,259,000 tons.

Out of the total wheat crop of 161,280,000 bushels, all but 6 1/2 per cent., or 10,373,000 bushels proved to be of merchantable quality. This percentage, although below the exceptional record of 1914, when the proportion non-merchantable was less than 3 per cent., is about equal to the average of the last six years, during which the lowest merchantable grain was in 1910-11 after the poor season of 1910, when 12.8 per cent. was estimated to be of non-merchantable quality. The proportions of other crops in 1914, which proved to be of merchantable quality are as follows: Oats, 91 per cent. (285,988,000 bushels); barley, 88 per cent. (32,022,000 bushels); rye, 90 per cent. (1,815,000 bushels); buckwheat, 84 per cent. (7,279,000 bushels); corn for husking, 80 per cent. (11,100,000 bushels); flaxseed, 88 per cent. (6,270,200 bushels); potatoes, 86 per cent. (74,165,000 bushels); turnips, etc., 87 per cent. (60,218,000 bushels); and hay and clover, 88 per cent. (9,000,000 tons).

Correspondents throughout Canada report that the past winter has been exceptionally mild. In most of the provinces live stock have in consequence come well through and are in good condition. In some parts, notably in Saskatchewan, the light crops of last year rendered feeding difficult, and animals at the close of the winter were thin. In these cases, however, matters would have been much worse had the winter been of normal severity. An early spring was anticipated, and the prospects for the coming season were hopeful. Farmers were preparing for a big increase in the acreage to be seeded, their efforts being facilitated by the large amount of fall plowing completed last year.

VALUING ABSINTHE PLANTS.

Paris Cable.—The Minister of Finance, Alexandre Ribot, appointed today a commission to assess the value of wormwood plants producing absinthe. This step is preliminary to the purchase by the Government of these plants, under the act recently adopted by Parliament, which prohibits absolutely the manufacture of absinthe.

SHORT ITEMS OF THE NEWS OF THE DAY

Health of Canadian Troops at the Front is Remarkably Good.

\$19,500 "STRAD"

Sir Percy Gironard is Appointed Temporary Major-General.

Harry Livingstone, of Ridgeway, dropped dead in his garden Thursday. Ben. F. Law, contractor, was killed in a motor accident on the Kintlogs road, Toronto.

Dr. W. W. Orden, a veteran educationist, and one of Toronto's oldest physicians, died at the age of 78. John A. Auld, M. P. P., proprietor of the Amsterdam Echo, was quietly married to Miss Minnie Smith, of Essex, Ont.

A despatch to Lloyd's states that the Norwegian steamer Brilliant, from Sarborg, for London, has been captured by the Germans. Annie, the twenty-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Paron, of Crowland township, was fatally scalded Thursday morning.

Mrs. Frank Goodwin, of Sarnia, escaped from her nurse in the early morning and was later found killed by a train on the bay shore. A famous Stradivarius violin, presented by Lord Newlands for sale at Christie's auction room on behalf of the Red Cross, brought £3,900 (\$19,500).

Sir Percy Gironard, now serving with the forces in an administrative capacity, has been promoted from Brevet Colonel to temporary Major-General. George Jerrold Potts, M. D., M. R. C. S., formerly editor of the Leader and surgeon with British and American forces, died at Clinton in his 80th year.

Peterboro Medical Society has completed details of organization of a base hospital unit for the front, the city furnishing a complete staff, and maintenance on service. The large bank barn, with contents, on the farm of Mrs. Hathaway, at Union, near St. Thomas, was totally destroyed by fire. The loss was \$4,000, covered by insurance.

Henry Beigel, of New York, known also as "Doc" Beigel, will be deported to the United States from Britain next Saturday as an undesirable alien under the defence of the realm act. A general just returned from France states that the health of the Canadian troops is remarkably good. "There is not a single case of enteric, nor is any other disease prevalent.

Chiefly because the Woodstock Water and Light Commission will be unable this year to produce more than half the amount the city got last year from that source, Woodstock's tax rate will be fixed at 25 mills. R. M. Hinman, of Peterboro, has been appointed assistant in the Elgin branch of the Department of Agriculture at Aylmer. Mr. Hinman succeeds Stanley Vanoverly, who resigned and returns to his farm in Welland.

The large barns of D. Fotheringham, on the London road, Tucker-ster, was a "dope fiend," and in the early part of April was sentenced by a Thorold magistrate to serve six months in the county jail at Welland in order to rid his system of the opium.

James Wilcox escaped from Welland County Jail at 3 p. m. Thursday. Wilcox was a "dope fiend," and in the early part of April was sentenced by a Thorold magistrate to serve six months in the county jail at Welland in order to rid his system of the opium.

Welland License Commission met the views of the temperance people to the extent of cutting off two country hotel licenses, those of W. N. Willick, in Bertie township, and C. M. Amhurst, in Willoughby township. The balance of the licenses were granted.

The main building of the Lakeside Home, the Summer Hospital for Sick Children, at Toronto Island, was totally destroyed by fire early Thursday morning. The loss is estimated at \$100,000, of which \$35,000 is covered by insurance. The cause of the fire is unknown.

STARVING POLES

Seven Million of Them in Dire Need of Food.

London Cable.—Seven million Poles, of whom two million are Jews, are in dire need of food. This state was made to-day by Hermann Landau, a prominent Jewish philanthropist associated with various Jewish charities in London. "Of these sufferers 5,500,000 are east of the Vistula River, and 1,500,000 west of the river," Mr. Landau said. "The Jews are even poorer than the Gentiles, because of the boycott against the Jews in parts of Poland before the beginning of the war, which impoverished thousands who otherwise would have been able to provide for their families."

LOSING SPIRIT

Morale of Germans Gone Since Neuve Chapelle Reverse.

London Cable.—The latest contribution to the account of events at the front by Eyewitness makes the claim that the morale of the British troops is now much superior to that of the enemy, which has noticeably weakened since the Neuve Chapelle fighting. The success in this fight, accepted as the commencement of the spring and summer work, has resulted in a noticeable dropping off in the number of sick. The troops are now supplied with many things to take the mind of the men off the serious side of the war. Chief of these is a general bathing system, which keeps down the vermin. Big rest depots are established at which band concerts, bagpipe competitions, moving pictures, vaudeville and boxing divert the men.

In addition, thousands of mouth-organs and penny whistles have been distributed, and the soldiers are encouraged to stage football matches in their rest periods. The beneficial result is very marked, the Eyewitness' narrative says.

CANADIAN CASUALTIES

Ottawa Despatch—The following casualties have been announced by the Militia Department: PRINCESS PATS.

Wounded: Bevington, Sergt. Ernest J. Next of kin in England. Macleod, John A. Next of kin in Saskatchewan. Young, Wm. (formerly 12th). Next of kin, Wm. H. Young, father, Dunnville, Ont. SEVENTH BATTALION.

Killed: Sparrow, Lance-Sergt. Arthur. Next of kin in England. Lloyd, Harry E. Next of kin in England. Nikitovitch, Zariga. Next of kin in Montenegro. Bowser, William J. Next of kin in British Columbia. Wounded: Boseney, Ernest G. Next of kin in England. Hodge, Alfred. Next of kin in England. Cumine, Butler. Next of kin in England. Emes, Clare S. Next of kin in United States. Spicer, Roy H. Next of kin in British Columbia. Faris, Bugler Andrew Y. Next of kin in Alberta. Cave, Lance-Corp. Bertram. Next of kin in England. Leacock, Arthur. Next of kin in England. Keith, John. Next of kin in Scotland. Doyle, Alfred E. Next of kin in England. EIGHTH BATTALION.

Killed: Curley, William. Next of kin in England. Gordon, Donald. Next of kin in Manitoba. Wounded: Whiteside, Russel. Next of kin, Mrs. Emery, 228 Lease street, Fort William. Thorsteinson, Kol-kuggar. Next of kin in Manitoba. Eddy, George. Next of kin in Scotland. TENTH BATTALION.

Wounded—Deally, James. Next of kin in Scotland. Wounded: Flynn, Alfred V. Next of kin in England. Riley, C. S. Next of kin in Quebec. Evans, William E. Next of kin in Nova Scotia. FIFTEENTH BATTALION.

Dead—Kirk, Andrew, pneumonia. Next of kin, F. Kirk, mother, 38 Woodbine Beach, Toronto. GERMANY PEEVED

By Washington Reply to Bernstorff's Memorandum.

Amsterdam Cable.—Discussing the United States note in reply to the German memorandum respecting Washington interpretation of neutrality, the Berlin Lokalanzeiger says: "President Wilson is mightily mistaken if he imagines his sort of neutrality will be acknowledged and valued by the belligerents as fair play. It is impossible for Germany and her allies to esteem as a sign of self-conceit one-sided patronage by the continued toleration of a most extensive supply of arms, combined with humble endurance of all English oppression of neutral commerce. So far as Germany is concerned, President Wilson need not trouble about preparations for help after the war."

The Cologne Gazette says: "As a philosophical and academic thesis, President Wilson's views may have value, but in the light of the sanguinary experience through which Europe is passing, they sound almost like mockery. At least in Germany this is the reception that will be given the promise that after the war America will lend her support to both belligerents after supporting Great Britain and her allies during the war itself, with cannon and rifles, and this so effectively that public opinion in Germany is accustomed to see in America an ally of our enemies."

"Why was it the facts in that story leaked out?" "Because it wouldn't hold water."—Baltimore American.

NO MEDIATION BY THE STATES

President's Speech Believed to End That Idea.

Has Given Up Hope of Being an Intermediary.

Washington Despatch.—In many quarters the President's speech of Tuesday is taken as indicating that he does no longer entertain the idea that the United States is likely to be the agency through which peace in Europe is to be attained. While the President's speech was by some regarded as again holding out to the American public the notion that their Government might be expected to be the peacemaker, those who have had occasion to study the speech carefully have reached the contrary conclusion. Their view is that the President's remarks regarding the service to be rendered by the United States referred strictly to what it might do after the war was ended and not to the processes of terminating the fighting.

Those who take this view of the President's speech are in the main those who most deplored the frequent suggestion by the President and others of his party earlier in the war that by observing strict neutrality the American people—through the present administration—might be instrumental in making the final peace. These observers, officials and diplomats, foresaw that the kind of neutrality which would prevail in this country would win no friends for the United States in either of the armed camps in Europe.

At least one member of the Diplomatic Corps has been assured by one of the President's few close friends that the President now has no expectation of playing any considerable role in the making of peace. In connection with the interpretation put on the President's speech in this connection these words are referred to: "We are the mediating nation of the world. I do not mean that we undertake not to mediate where other people are quarrelling. I mean that in a broader sense, this is regarded as specific repudiation of the earlier idea that this Government might become the agency for peace."

ALL FAILED

Says Report From Front On Attacks at Hill 60.

A London Cable says:—There was given out in London this morning the regular semi-weekly report on conditions at the front. It is dated April 22nd, and reads as follows: "The German attacks on No. 60, which had stopped at the time of issuing the report of last Monday, have been renewed several times. These attacks all failed, and for the time being they have ceased. We hold the entire crest of the hill, and so deny its use to the enemy, who have attached great importance to it. "There is not, and there never has been any truth in the German official communication that the enemy had recaptured this position. During the course of operations around Hill No. 60 the enemy fired shells seventeen inches in diameter into the town of Ypres.

"On April 19, one of our airmen carried out a very bold and successful single-handed attack on a German airship shed near Ghent. He had to run a gauntlet of fire from the ground, directed by a captive balloon, in order to attack his objective. In spite of this he came down to within 200 feet of the ground and effected his object, causing a serious explosion in the shed."

NITRIC FUMES

After Many Hours, Poisoned New York Firemen.

New York Despatch.—Nitric acid fumes, inhaled yesterday by a squad of firemen, and at first unnoticed, operated like slow poison during the night, with the result that to-day seventeen firemen were in hospitals or confined to their beds in fire houses, some of them critically ill. One of the seventeen lost his mental equilibrium during the night, jumped from his bed, and ran in his night clothes through the street.

This occurred five hours after the firemen had inhaled the fumes, and was the first indication of illness. One by one the men became stricken thereafter in quick succession. The fumes were inhaled when the firemen answered a call sent in from the factory of the Sheffield Standard Plate Company, in Canal street. There was no fire, but a thirty-gallon carboy of acid had overflowed, and formed a heavy vapor. Seeing this, and mistaking it for smoke, a policeman turned in the alarm. When the nature of the vapor was learned, the firemen were ordered away, and the rescue squad, protected by oxygen helmets, was summoned. They bailed out the acid with buckets, and were unaffected by the fumes.