

BRILLIANT BRITISH OFFENSIVE MIGHTY BLOW IN BELGIUM

Britons, Led by Gen. Sir Herbert Plumer, Occupy German Positions on the Messines-Wytschaete Ridge.

A despatch from London says: In one of the most elaborately planned and daringly executed manoeuvres of the war, Sir Douglas Haig's forces have dealt a mighty blow against the German line in Belgium, and been rewarded with notable gains in terrain and the capture of more than 5,000 prisoners and numerous guns of various calibre. In addition they inflicted heavy casualties on the Germans.

Over a front of more than nine miles extending from the region of Ypres southward and nearly to Armentieres, the British started their drive in the early hours of Thursday morning and at nightfall had everywhere advanced their line, capturing villages and numerous points of vantage, among the latter the Messines-Wytschaete ridge, which commands the surrounding plains for miles and which for two and a half years has been a troublesome salient.

The villages of Messines and Wytschaete fell into the hands of the British during the attack, and the British

even pressed on eastward from Wytschaete and occupied the village of Oosttaverne and trenches east of the village on a front of more than five miles.

Probably never in history was an attack launched with greater preparation. For days the Wytschaete salient had been the objective of the British guns, which had hurled tons of steel upon it. When the time for the attack came the British loosed mines containing 600 tons of high explosives in front of the German positions, the detonations being heard 130 miles away in England.

With consternation reigning among the Germans and under a curtain of fire, English, Irish, New Zealand and Australian infantrymen, with "tanks" to aid them, started across the open. The Germans offered only slight resistance, and everywhere were beaten off, even late in the afternoon, when they had somewhat regained their composure and attempted a counter-attack near the southern end of the line, which was broken up by the British artillery fire.

GERMANY ANGRY AT FRENCH DEMAND

Will Not Accede to Restoration of Alsace-Lorraine.

A despatch from Berlin says: The French Chamber's decision that the war must continue until Prussian militarism is destroyed and Alsace-Lorraine regained caused the greatest indignation all over Germany, and not the least among the Socialists. For some time one could notice a decided change in the attitude of the large German classes toward France, who even to the beginning of the present year had displayed something akin to compassion. German papers preserve rather a forced calmness in discussing the proceedings in the French Chamber, though all of them without any exception emphasize the stereotyped phrase, "Alsace-Lorraine was German, is German, and will remain German forever, no matter what the Chamber may decide." Vorwärts feels perhaps the hardest, because it says that even French Socialists who recently were ready to sit down with German Socialists at Stockholm and discuss with them peace without annexation now seem to have identified themselves with the war aims of the capitalist classes.

LUXEMBURG STRIKES AGAINST THE HUNS.

High Cost of Living and Refusal to Increase Wages Are Responsible.

A despatch from Geneva says: The Gazette de Lausanne says it learns that a general strike has begun owing to the high cost of living and the refusal of proprietors of factories, mostly Germans, to increase wages as a result of the insecurity of their factories from attacks by allied air craft. Five thousand workmen, says the newspaper, began a strike at Esch, regardless of severe warnings by the German commander. The strike spread to other towns, and German cavalry at once occupied five of the principal industrial communities.

NORWAY PARALYZED BY FOOD STRIKES.

Many Important Plants Throughout the Country Are Idle.

A despatch from London says: A despatch to the Central News from Christiania says that great demonstrations against the unsatisfactory food situation were held throughout Norway lately. The Government, with a view to preventing rioting, prohibited the sale of alcoholic beverages for three days, and as a result of this order the restaurants were closed. The despatch adds that all stores in Christiania shut their doors, that the gas works and electrical plants are idle, and that nearly all workmen are striking.

CANADA CAN DRAW ON HALF MILLION

British Subjects in United States Liable for Service.

A despatch from Ottawa says: Extensive arrangements have been completed by which British subjects in the United States may join the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Various centres of recruiting have been opened in American cities, including New York, Boston, Rochester, Buffalo, Detroit, Chicago, etc. British subjects, of whom a complete list is in the possession of the United States Government since the registration day in the States, can proceed to any of these centres, pass a preliminary medical examination, and, if fit, are sent on to the headquarters of the military district in Canada that is nearest to them.

8 HUN RAIDERS WERE SHOT DOWN

Attack of German Air Squadron on English Coast Routed.

A despatch from London says: Eight of eighteen German aeroplanes that took part in Tuesday's air raid on Essex and Kent were driven down by British airmen. Four of these were to a certainty completely destroyed, while two others are believed to have been put totally out of commission. Of the eighteen machines that started in the raid two were brought down near the British coast after having dropped their bombs, as reported in the official British statement. The remaining sixteen were engaged by ten naval airmen from Dunkirk, who in a great battle over the sea destroyed two more of the Germans and drove down another four, two of which, it is reasonable to believe, were completely put out of action.

SIFTON WINS IN ALBERTA.

Liberal Government Returned by About Same Majority as at Last Election.

A despatch from Edmonton, Alta., says: The Liberal Government under the leadership of Hon. A. L. Sifton has been returned to power in Alberta as a result of the voting in Thursday's election. Returns are slow in coming in, but the figures tabulated up to 9 o'clock indicated that the Liberals would have about the same proportion of seats as formerly—38 out of a total in the House of 56. All the Cabinet Ministers are believed to have been returned, although the Attorney-General, Hon. C. W. Cross, is having a close run in from at Beaver River, where Hon. Wilfrid Gariepy is the candidate.

Markets of the World From Erin's Green Isle

NEWS BY MAIL FROM IRELAND'S SHORES.

Happenings in the Emerald Isle of Interest to Irishmen.

The price of hay has dropped in the Athlone market from £5 to £3 per ton. Fire raging in the hills south of Clonmel has destroyed large quantities of heather. Fire has destroyed Ballintemple House, Co. Carlow, the residence of Sir Richard Butler. A decision has been reached by the Ennis-corthy Guardians not to put the Vaccination Act in force until after the war.

The Carrick-on-Suir Guardians are paying one shilling and sixpence a gallon for the milk supplied to the Workhouse.

Fire in the works of William Fortune, building contractor of Ennis-corthy, did damage to the extent of £2,500.

A series of concerts in aid of the Athlone War Hospital Supply Depot, realized the sum of £30.

The Co. Wexford United Agricultural Society decided to hold a one day show this year on July 26th.

Dr. C. O'Reilly of Trim, has reported one case of cerebro-spinal meningitis to the Local Government Board.

Tobaccoists of Belfast and district have decided to adopt a scale of prices similar to that of Dublin and district.

A special grant of £400 has been passed by the Tyrone County Council to meet a deficit in the Tyrone County Hospital.

A new ward has been opened in Newry Hospital, by Sir John Ross of Bladensburg, in honor of the late Earl of Kilmorey.

SONG ON THE WAR PATH.

Shortens the Weary Mileage for Footsore Infantrymen.

The War Department of the United States is getting out a book of songs for their troops to sing in the trenches and on the march in France. General Bell is quoted as authority for the statement that singing shortens the weary mileage for the footsore, burdened infantryman. Every military camp has found itself sooner or later a nest of singing birds. So prone are the Italian soldiery in the Alps to "bel canto" that often they have to be warned in the face of the enemy that song, as well as the live thunder of the poet's description, leaps "from peak to peak the rattling crags among," and wakes betraying echoes. General Bridges, of the British commission to the United States, tells how he once had hard work to get some fatigued British stragglers out of St. Quentin when an overwhelming force of Germans was approaching. Finally he had the inspiration (he was then a major) to procure a toy drum and a whistle, and to this music he and a trumpeter brought the men out of town singing the "British Grenadiers." The other day, addressing the training camp at Plattsburg, General Bell said he wanted every company to have its own song. "A Hot Time in the Old Town To-night" has a swing to it that will put ginger and cold courage in the hearts of men. Go to it. Sing and fight!

Not without reason is part of the Young Men's Christian Association budget devoted to 200 pianos and piano-players, 200 phonographs and 10,000 records. Canadians and Territorials marching through London on their way to the front are accustomed to lift their voices in music-hall ditties—not, as a rule, those of the latest vintage, but usually the songs that have been gaining favor through several seasons. That is a striking fact about the songs the sailors sing. They are tenacious of the old and approved tunes. A modern ballad of a rhythm sufficiently taking may sweep the regiments like machine-gun fire; but for one "Tipperary" there are hundreds of modern mushroom growths that perish. The song a soldier carries in his mental kit must have a swinging simplicity of form and the sympathetic appeal of the elemental sentiment that makes the whole world kin.

German thoroughness should not overlook the fact that one of the many reasons that France is popular is that it is essentially a courteous nation.

CANADA'S GRAIN CROP

Coming Harvest Will Probably Yield 275,000,000 Bushels

When Vice-President George Bury of the C.P.R. made an inspection of the Western lines in June, 1916, he asked all the crop experts for estimates of the wheat yield of that year. The highest he could get was 230,000,000 bushels. With eye practiced at judging the growing wheat over great spaces, he was secretly amazed at the unusual fecundity of the soil, at the high and thick growth, the uniform excellence of the plant and its luxuriant appearance. He said Canada would raise 240,000,000 bushels of wheat and felt that it would raise 300,000,000.

In June, 1916, a private estimate placed the Canadian crop at 220,000,000 bushels. Notwithstanding a continuous avalanche of unfavorable reports, this was adhered to in the face even of Government figures. The 1915 crop yielded 150,000,000 bushels more than the public estimate of Mr. Bury, and the 1916 crop has produced approximately 220,000,000 bushels.

Canada's Spring wheat area increased from 4,977,000 acres in 1905 to 13,643,000 acres in 1916; oats area from 2,809,000 acres to 6,976,000 acres. Manitoba's wheat area is less now than it was in 1905.

Saskatchewan's acreage is four times as large as it was 10 years ago. Alberta has also felt the pressure of eastern and southern population, and now has 2,529,000 acres on which wheat has been raised where she only had 140,000 acres in 1906.

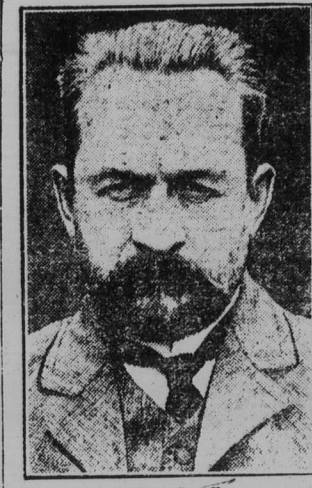
There have been official and numerous private estimates of percentage of acreage sown for this year's crop. It is doubtful if there are reliable figures even of acreage. The interior, or hinterland, farmer helped by moisture, played havoc with the estimates of 1915 and came to the rescue of the guess made for 1916. The settler many miles distant from the railroad, even from the public highway, is still and will be for many years an element to be reckoned with in the statistical life of Canada. He is the man who has last year's wheat to sell during this year's harvest. It is his contribution from a thousand isolated farms that adds 100 or 200 carloads a day in the Summer time to inspections of old crop wheat.

Experts familiar with the outlook for the coming crop place the probable yield at 275,000,000 bushels.

NO LOVE FOR THE TURK.

Tribal Group on Lower Tigris Accept British Administration.

One of the great tribal groups of the lower Tigris has now come completely under British control. It is known as the Albu Muhammad. As an independent entity the Albu Muhammad are not of ancient date, but for the last nine generations they have had a separate existence on the Tigris between Amarah and Ezra's Tomb, their headquarters being the little town of Qal'at Salih. The Shaikhs showed no pertinacious devotion to the Turks, with whom they had spent most of their lives in active conflict and made submission to British forces as soon as they had established themselves at Amarah. For the last eighteen months they have shown themselves reasonably loyal, willing enough to meet unusual demands for labor on road and railway, writes the British eye-witness with the army.



Prince Lvoff.

A new photo of the Premier of Russia, who is having troubles all his own trying to hold all elements of the Russians together.

LORD NORTHCLIFFE SUCCEEDS BALFOUR

Takes Position of Head of British Mission to the United States.

A despatch from London says: Lord Northcliffe, at the request of the War Cabinet, has accepted the position of head of the British war mission in the United States in succession to Arthur J. Balfour, who is to return to his duties at the Foreign Office.

Lord Northcliffe's task will be to co-ordinate the various British missions, and act in concert with the missions of the Entente allies and of the American and Canadian Governments. He has made many visits to the United States and Canada. He was born at Chapelizod, county Dublin, July 15, 1865.

Lord Northcliffe is well known as a writer and newspaper proprietor. He controls, among other journals, The London Times and London Daily Mail. He has a controlling interest in great Newfoundland paper mills and the Imperial Paper Mills at Gravesend, near London. He has long taken an active part in British political affairs, and recently has been engaged in vigorous support of Premier Lloyd George's Home Rule for Ireland.

LLOYD GEORGE HEARS BATTLE

Sounds of Explosion of British Attack Heard in London.

A despatch from London says: The tremendous explosions which opened the British attack on Wytschaete were heard by David Lloyd George, the British Premier, who was staying for the night at his residence, Walton Heath. The plans for the attack had been long maturing, and when the preparations were perfected the Premier was acquainted with the exact hour it was intended to open it.

Accordingly, on retiring last night, Mr. Lloyd George gave orders to be called at 3 a.m. Thursday morning, on the chance of being able to hear the explosions. The Premier and other members of his household clearly heard the tremendous detonations, as also did persons at the Premier's official residence in London, who supposed they were the sounds of heavy guns, until later they learned from the despatches that they came from the explosion of mines.

From London to the region where the British mines were exploded along the German front the distance ranges from 130 to 140 miles.

SHIP OF ARGENTINA IS SUNK BY U-BOAT.

A despatch from Paris says: The Argentine sailing ship Oriama was sunk by a submarine in the Mediterranean on Wednesday, according to an announcement made by the Ministry of Marine Thursday night. The crew was saved by a French ship.

EIGHTH ANNUAL TORONTO FAT STOCK SHOW

Union Stock Yards
TORONTO
DEC. 7th & 8th, 1917

WRITE FOR PREMIUM LIST TO-DAY

The Doings of the Duffs.

