

THE CANADIAN ARTILLERY CONTINUES TO ROAR

TEUTONS EMPLOY EIGHTEEN YEAR OLD LADS IN BATTLE

Indication of Serious Shortage Experienced by Enemy Troops on Canadian Front—Bones of French Killed Two Years Ago at Vimy Buried by Our Boys.

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, May 15—(By Stewart Lyon, Special Correspondent Canadian Press)—Some prisoners recently taken on the front are far below the general standard of physique of the enemy troops. It has been learned that in the disastrous attack at Avion on Friday last the troops employed by the Germans included drafts of eighteen year old lads who had reached the front only an hour before the attack was made. This indicates the serious shortage experienced by the enemy troops on this front.

Artillery Engaged.

The artillery of the Canadian corps continues to be engaged all day in duels with the enemy guns in Lens and the regions south and east with the most satisfactory results. Many direct hits have been obtained during the past two days and the German line has materially lessened. A relative calm exists today because a heavy mist prevails making aerial observation impossible. The most remarkable testimony yet obtained as to the importance attached to Vimy Ridge in the enemy's defensive scheme is contained in a recently captured document in which a commander tells his officers of his desire that every officer and man of the first Bavarian reserve division should be acquainted with the decisive importance of Vimy Ridge. The first Bavarian division, he stated, "will be called upon in the impending defensive battle to hold these commanding heights, which we are radically strengthening down to the last man. The more energetically we work at the consolidation of this position the more calmly shall we be able to contemplate the coming tremendous attacks which will decide the campaign."

Meant to Hold Ridge.

This order, together with the detailed instructions as to the procedure to be followed in resisting the expected attack, was sent out on March 1 from the command post of the northern group of the enemy's armies. It discloses the ridiculous theory that the enemy meant to retire from the ridge. The commanding heights of Vimy Ridge were held to be of decisive importance and the German army leaders are not in the habit of giving up such positions until compelled to do so. Members of a veteran battalion of the Canadian corps are now holding a part of the ridge on which, two years ago many of the French soldiers, killed in attacks, remained unburied because they fell in No Man's Land. Our soldiers have found time, despite the pressure of the duties of active service, to collect the bones of our gallant allies and bury them reverently in several mounds. These places of burial are marked by large crosses, composed of pieces of chalk set into the surface of the ground. Suitable inscriptions have also been placed on the mounds.

STERLING BANK INCREASES YEARLY EARNINGS

Special to The Standard. Toronto, May 15—The Sterling Bank of Canada which closed its fiscal year at the end of April shows for the period profits of \$161,270 which compares with \$145,290 earned in 1916, \$115,111 in the 1915 year and \$114,290 in 1914. Profits represent 10.6 per cent, on the paid up capital and

reserve. The rate of 13.3 p. c. earned on the paid up capital compares with slightly over 12 p. c. in 1916, 9.61 per cent. in 1915 and 9.64 per cent. in 1914. Of the year's profits, \$72,582 was devoted to dividends at the rate of 6 per cent, and the policy of a liberal allowance for depreciation of assets which has been observed for several years was continued. The amount transferred to contingent account for this purpose in the 1917 year was \$60,000 which compares with \$50,000 in 1916 and with \$40,000 two years ago. Various extra war taxes amounted to \$20,554 leaving a balance of profits carried forward when dividends had been paid of \$60,829 which compares with \$52,735 a year ago and \$52,183 two years ago. Current loans stood at \$6,434,000 compared with \$5,992,000 at the close

of 1916. Notice deposits increased from \$6,155,000 to \$7,237,000 and deposits not bearing interest from \$1,628,000 to \$3,440,000. Total assets are up from \$10,744,000 to \$18,759,000.

FUNERALS YESTERDAY.

The funeral of Mrs. Catherine McCormick took place yesterday afternoon from her late residence, Golden Grove, to the Catholic church at Golden Grove, where burial services were conducted by Rev. A. J. O'Neill. Interment was made in the Catholic burying ground, Golden Grove. The funeral of Nelson Gunn took place yesterday afternoon from his late residence, 10 Charlotte street. Services were conducted by Rev. Hammond Johnson. Interment was made in Fernhill.

The funeral of Mrs. Maria C. Elston took place yesterday morning from her late residence, 59 High street. Services were conducted at the house last night by Rev. B. H. Nobles. The body was taken to Holderville this morning on the steamer Majestic.

The funeral of Samuel K. Wilson took place yesterday afternoon from his late residence, 229 Charlotte street. Services were conducted by Rev. F. G. Scovill. Interment was made in Greenwood cemetery. Members of the Masonic fraternity attended.

The funeral of Miss Marietta Florence Stephenson took place yesterday afternoon from the residence of Frank H. McFarlane, 45 Harrison street. Services were conducted by Rev. Neil J. McLaughlin. Interment was made in Fernhill.

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