

### GREATEST STRUGGLE PROCEEDS ON AISNE

Germans Report Artillery Fight Levels Positions Making Stand Impossible. SAYS FRENCH FAILED

Berlin Communication Declares Allied Object to Break Thru.

Berlin, April 17, via London.—The text of the German official statement is as follows: "One of the greatest battles of the mighty war, and therefore also in the history of the world, is in progress on the Aisne."

"Since April 6 preparatory fire by the artillery and mine throwers had continued uninterruptedly. The battle fire, which was unprecedented in duration, volume and intensity, the French endeavored to render our positions ripe for assault by our batteries out of action and exhaust our troops."

"Early yesterday morning the French, on a front of forty kilometers wide, launched with the object of breaking thru, a deep column attack from Soupir on the Aisne to Betheny, north of Rheims, with the huge weight of strong infantry forces fed by reserves which had been brought up in the rear."

"During the afternoon the French threw fresh masses into the fray and carried out later attacks against our front between the Oise and Conde-sur-Aisne. The artillery fight, which continued today, leveled the positions and produced wide, deep craters, rendering an obstinate defence no longer possible."

"The fighting is no longer against a line, but over quite a deep and irregular fortified zone. The battle swung backwards and forwards around the foremost positions, our object being even if war material were lost to spare the lives of our forces and inflict heavy, sanguinary losses upon the enemy and thus decisively weaken him. This was achieved, thanks to splendid leadership and the heroic bravery of our troops."

"The great French attempt to break thru yesterday, the object of which was far-reaching, failed. The sanguinary losses of the enemy were very heavy, and more than 2,100 prisoners remained in our hands. Penetration into our lines the fighting still continues, and fresh enemy attacks are expected."

"In the Champagne region, where fighting between Prunay and Auberive has developed, the battle line thereby extending from the Oise into the Champagne."

"The troops look forward with entire confidence to the coming heavy fighting."

### CANADIAN CAVALRY TAKE SIX VILLAGES

Horsemen Make Effective Dashes into Lines of Retreating Germans.

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, April 17.—The day of the cavalryman in war has not passed. Details are now available of the recent operations of the Canadian cavalry in the wooded region, where the enemy's withdrawal shows that the Canadian horsemen were used to keep him on the move, and they did so with such success that in four days the horsemen captured six villages. Three of them were well organized for defence and made an advance ahead of the infantry on the morning of the day of six and a half miles. This cavalry dash into the enemy lines was one of the first operations of the sort on the western front since the Marne campaign, and it furnished many incidents that, but for the great events taking place elsewhere, could have afforded much material for descriptive writers.

Lieutenant's Heroism. The most dramatic of all is the case of a young lieutenant, who, while leading his troops to the attack on one of the villages the Canadians had captured, came upon a trench which was protected by three strands of wire and was occupied by twenty Germans who had a machine gun. The lieutenant jumped from a trench, getting straight for the machine gun, clearing the wire in the best cross-country running form. He shot with a revolver and machine gun, and then, getting into the trench, he found out afterwards that the unexpected appearance of a body of horsemen had made the gunner nervous and prevented him from getting into action before being shot down. A second's hesitation on the part of the horseman would have meant many casualties to the men of his troop.

The first time for over two years in which cavalry galloped straight at a position occupied by the enemy with rifles and machine guns was in the capture of high ground in the same area. The enemy, after they had been ejected from a village, held a clump of woods. The horsemen attacked it in open at a gallop.

### THE WONDERFUL FRUIT MEDICINE

Thousands Owe Health and Strength to "Fruit-a-lives."

"Fruit-a-lives," the marvelous medicine made from fruit juices—has relieved more cases of Stomach, Liver, Blood, Kidney and Skin Troubles than any other medicine. In severe cases of Rheumatism, Sciatica, Lumbago, Pain in the Back, Impure Blood, Neuralgia, Chronic Headaches, Chronic Constipation and Indigestion, "Fruit-a-lives" has given unusually effective results. By its cleansing, healing powers on the eliminating organs, "Fruit-a-lives" tones up and invigorates the whole system.

### GRAND OFFENSIVE LIKELY TO EXTEND

French Wrest Strongest Part of Line From the Germans.

FOE FIGHTS FIERCELY

Enemy Launches Many Useless Counter-Attacks During Night.

Paris, April 17.—The great offensive opened by the French from Soissons to Rheims is likely to extend still further tomorrow or the day after. The tremendous assault on the German lines had long been planned, and for a month past French artillery had been pounding the enemy's position.

Forty miles of the strongest part of the German line were wrested from the enemy with an estimated loss of nearly 100,000 killed, wounded and prisoners. All France hails the victory as a brilliant demonstration of the skill of her generals and the courage of her troops.

According to the latest news reaching Paris, the Germans are bombarding the last trenches furiously, counter-attack after counter-attack having been delivered far into the night. The struggle is particularly fierce in the region of Craonne, but the French have so far managed to hold their gains. The French advance averages in depth from two to two and one half miles beyond the German first position, which is composed of lines of five and six trenches, one behind another.

Measured by the amount of territory freed the victory does not compare with the Somme offensive which opened a month ago, but viewed from the amount of destruction done to the enemy's armed forces and the damage to his military prestige, it is a far greater success. Here there can be no question either of a previously planned retreat or of a surprise. The enemy expected an attack and made every preparation to defeat it.

The Germans were well aware of what was coming, as they showed by a number of furious attacks made, notably at Sapignoul and Godat farm, which were the object of something definite in regard to the French preparations. The invaders had planned naturally formidable positions were miles from the front, and at least twenty divisions and an enormous number of guns, well supplied with munitions.

Mass of Canadian Wheat Now Released From Bond

Washington, April 17.—Great quantities of Canadian wheat now in bond in the United States and subject to duties of ten cents a bushel have been made duty free by the Canadian Government's action in placing wheat, wheat flour and semolina on the Canada wheat list. By the same act Canada removed the duty on American wheat flour, and this in turn removes the duty on Canadian wheat flour coming into the United States.

This is in accordance with the terms of the tariff law, which provides that whenever any country imposes duties on American wheat, wheat flour or semolina, removes such duties the American duties on those products from each country shall likewise be removed.

SGT. DUNCAN MACNEIL OF THE CANADIANS Says Dr. Cassell's Tablets Cured his Dyspepsia Completely.

Sergeant Duncan MacNeil of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, writing from Europe (his home address is 114 Pleasant street, Halifax, N.S.), says: "For six years I suffered from frequent attacks of dyspepsia, often being in bed for days at a time. When the war broke out I joined the Expeditionary Force and came to England. I had not been long there, however, when my old trouble returned. I had to go to hospital. While in hospital a friend told me of Dr. Cassell's Tablets, and I decided to try them. The first box brought such pronounced relief that I continued the treatment. To make a long story short, a complete cure was effected."

### FRENCH ADVANCE UP DEEP VALLEYS

New Design of Artillery Barrage Keeps Down Allied Losses.

SMASH FOE RESERVES

Gallic Guns Check Counter-Attacks—Fight for Hill Near Rheims.

Paris, April 17.—From Soissons to Craonne the German line has been a series of hills of an average height of 500 feet, with deep valleys between. The attackers advanced up the valleys, under a cross-fire from each flank by the artillery curtain, on a new plan invented by a British general, was so effective that the operation was carried out at less cost than any other of the kind.

The weak point of the German line is from Craonne to Rheims, where the ground is more level. Here the attack was made more vigorously and the danger of a rupture of the line became so imminent that the Germans threw in all available reserves. The reserves were smashed by the French field artillery, which kept close on the heels of the waves of infantry. The result of yesterday's operations was that the western battle line now joined along a front of close to 150 miles, more than one-third of the mighty line from Switzerland to the sea.

The struggle was hottest at the left of the line where shortly after 8 o'clock in the morning the French infantry swept forward in an irresistible wave. In spite of the resistance the Germans were driven back, and inside of half an hour prisoners began streaming toward the French rear by hundreds. The struggle was fiercest at the Oise, as well as in the whole sector of Berry-au-Bac and to the east of Craonne, but the French heavy shells were too much for the Germans and before noon the whole first line was won.

Action on Right Sector. On the right the action began a little later than on the left. The French met with a very determined resistance and the fighting was terrible. After several hours of heroic struggle the French infantry, supported by the sort of several hundred quick firing guns, forced their way into the enemy first line. It was a fine success, as the terrain was most difficult and the position extremely formidable.

In the afternoon the Germans counter-attacked with extreme violence almost everywhere along the front. A number of their reserves were engaged south and east of the Brimont ridge. It is from the Brimont fort, built on a crest which dominates all the plain in the coming fighting, have bombarded the city of Rheims. The French troops are now very close to this ridge, which is likely to play a prominent part in the coming fighting.

In capturing Lovre they have drawn nearer to Bermercourt and have gone far beyond the famous position which they held in the first week of the war and failed to win back at the battle of the Marne.

FOE LOST NERVE AT VIMY RIDGE

Battle Disgraceful Defeat for Bavarians, Say Captured Prussian Officers.

Canadian Army Headquarters in France, April 17.—The battle of Vimy Ridge was a disgraceful defeat for the enemy troops who took part in the action. This is the strongly-held opinion of high-born officers of the Prussian Guard, captured by patrols on our front, where a whole brigade of the Bavarians, drawn out of the place of the Vimy Ridge, had been captured.

An officer who is well-known in British Columbia, where he has visited as a big game hunter, says that despite the intensity of the campaign, of which it is only fair to say, he had no personal experience, the ridge could have been held against the infantry attack by the men who had served on the ridge and who knew the extent of the measures and means of sheltering the force holding it from bombardment. The blow has been the most serious yet inflicted, for the battle not only deprived the country of much war material, but indicated demoralization of the men who garrisoned the ridge.

Surrender Easily. Medical returns on the battle show that slightly over 800 out of a total of 4000 captured required surgical treatment. It may be something in the officers' view that the bombardment produced a panic among the German infantry.

Smoke still rises from Lens, where the enemy seems to be burning everything of value. The mines may be wrecked in the Lens district, but the coal remains and new shafts will be sunk.

The enemy resistance on our front east of the Vimy Ridge has stiffened. Everybody on this front has been greatly encouraged by the good news from the south of Arras.

During the recent scouting work of the Canadian cavalry a young officer and patrol of less than a dozen men killed or captured several members of the fleeing German infantry. A complete list of names has not yet been made up, but it is presumably a prisoner. Hill self-sacrifice had important results.

GEN. BYNG PLEASED. Canadian Associated Press Cable. London, April 17.—Writing to friends here, General Byng says: "I am simply delighted with the corps."

### Pays Death Penalty for Killing a Toronto Soldier

London, April 17.—William James Robinson, sentenced to death for the murder of Alfred Williams, a Canadian soldier, who resided at 19 Ontario street, Toronto, was executed in London today.

His confederate was sentenced to two years for manslaughter.

Pte. Williams was killed in November last in a street near Trafalgar Square, a few hours after his arrival in London from France on leave. Pte. Williams went overseas in May, 1915, with the signal section of the 20th Battalion. He was born in England, but had lived in Canada for 13 years. With his wife Williams had lived at 19 Ontario street.

DIES SUDDENLY IN STREET. Special to The Toronto World. St. Catharines, April 17.—Ithamer Nelson, who in January retired as keeper of the Lincoln County Jail, died suddenly today, aged 59 years.

If You Want Evidence That Hemorrhoids, or Piles, Can Be Completely Cured Read These Letters—Both A Sworn Statement.

Toronto, Ont., April 17.—Next to personal experience the sworn statements of reliable people is the strongest evidence obtainable. If you have any doubt that Dr. Chase's Ointment will positively and completely cure piles, these letters—should convince you.

Mr. Samuel Parker, fruit grower, Grimsby, Ont., has made the following declaration before M. W. W. Kidd, notary public of the same place: "I do solemnly declare that I was troubled with bleeding piles and was advised to go to the hospital to have an operation performed. My wife said, 'No, get a box of Dr. Chase's Ointment. I did so and have used it according to directions while living in Manitoba, and obtained a complete cure, for I have never been troubled with piles since. I am now 70 years of age and want to recommend Dr. Chase's Ointment to all sufferers from piles. My wife has used it for itching skin and obtained complete cure.'"

Mr. Donald M. Campbell, Campbell's Mountain, N. S., writes: "I have used Dr. Chase's Ointment with great success for hemorrhoids or piles of fifteen years standing. After trying all kinds of so-called pile cures, three boxes of Dr. Chase's Ointment gave me a complete cure. I have also used Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, and there are no others so good. You may use this letter, if you wish, for the benefit of others who may suffer as I did."

Sworn before me, Murdoch Gordon Campbell, P., in the county and for Liverpool County.

If you would like to try Dr. Chase's Ointment at our expense, send a two-cent stamp to pay postage and we will mail you a sample box free. Full size box 50 cents, at all dealers, or Edmondson, Bates & Co., Limited, Toronto.

BOYS AND GIRLS. Do you want to be helpers? Read the children's column and send stamps for free seeds.

### Preferred 7% Stock

Cumulative, Fully Paid and Non-Assessable

### Hotel Lexington Corporation Chicago

This corporation has been formed to acquire the valuable long term leasehold, building, furnishings and equipment of Hotel Lexington and to operate the hotel.

Discount Privileges to all Holders of Preferred Stock Make This a Unique and Very Attractive Offer

Why The Stock is Offered

In addition to acquiring the leasehold, building, furnishings and equipment of Hotel Lexington, it is further the object of the corporation to complete extensive plans for improvements upon which the sum of \$75,000.00 has been expended within

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes Preferred Stock, Common Stock, Present Value Building, Leasehold, Total Gross Value, etc.

The Management of the Corporation

Mr. Charles McHugh, president of Hotel Lexington Corporation, will continue to direct the management of the hotel, in behalf of the corporation.

### ITALIANS PREPARE FOR BIG ADVANCE

Swiss Advances Report Heavy Artillery Engagements on Isonzo.

JULIAN ZONE ACTIVE

Infantry Encounters Mark Operations in Many Important Sectors.

Rome, April 17.—Italy may be starting an offensive, timed to catch the Austrians when they are directly in need of men to withstand the great Franco-British push on the western front.

Advices received here from Switzerland today reported the Italian artillery extremely active on the Isonzo front. One despatch significantly mentioned a large number of Austrians taken prisoner by the Italian forces.

Increasing activity on the Austro-Italian front is reported by the war office today. Intense artillery fighting is in progress on the Julian front. Infantry encounters occurred in other sectors.

The Lagarina Valley our artillery renewed the bombardment of the station at Collano, damaging the buildings, putting trains and motor lorries to flight and dispersing troops.

On the Julian front the artillery fighting was more intense in the vicinity of Gorizia. An enemy aeroplane was brought down in an aerial fight over Ternova.

Cadet Perrault is Killed By Aeroplane at Borden

Camp Borden, April 17.—While attempting to pick up a shovel in front of an aeroplane with the propellers revolving, Cadet Perrault of the Flying Corps stepped too near to the propeller and was instantly killed, the propeller striking his head.

JAIL NEEDS GARDENER. Special to The Toronto World. St. Catharines, April 17.—The number of prisoners at Lincoln County jail has fallen off to such a negligible amount that there are not now sufficient to work the jail garden, and the backyard garden campaign committee has been appealed to for help.

### WEST IS JOYFUL OVER FREE WHEAT

Newspapers Express Opinion That Duty is Permanently Removed.

Winnipeg, April 17.—Commentary on the order of the Canadian Government removing the duties from wheat and flour, The Manitoba Free Press says: "It puts wheat raising in western Canada upon a permanently sound basis, and will make possible the rapid development of the wheat which is essential if the Dominion is to prosper and grow. It has long been obvious to those who had eyes to see that we must either get the United States market for our wheat or that our wheat production. This boon has now been obtained, and we have no doubt it will never be lost. The trade in wheat between the United States and Canada will remain the permanent trade policy of both countries."

The Saskatchewan Phoenix says: "The announcement means an increase of \$5 an acre for every acre of land between the Red River and the Rocky Mountains. For speculative purposes one could say \$3 to \$10 an acre. No farmer should sell his land today except at an increase. There will be an influx of farm population from the United States into Canada such as has never been seen."

The Edmonton Bulletin says: "The wheat, like the Canadian wheat, will have a thing which had to come. The concession of free wheat to the western farmers will be construed generally by us to mean that we are to have a more so, as the western farmer is less in need of free wheat now than he ever was before."

The Regina Morning Leader says: "It is the greatest victory achieved by Liberalism—and we mean Liberalism in the largest possible interpretation of the word—in many years in Canada. The Borden Government and its big interest allies have at last been compelled to give way before the progressive advocates of freedom for western Canada."

Petrograd, April 17, via London.—The first congress of the Jewish Social Democratic party, known as "The Bund," opened today. The chief business discussed was the disabilities suffered by the Jews in Finland.

TO VISE SWEDISH PASSPORTS. Stockholm, via London, April 17.—Ira Nelson Morris, the American minister to Sweden, has been instructed that no persons will be permitted to come to the United States from Sweden without their passports being vised by the American legation or the chief consular official. The new order, it is said, applies to all of Scandinavia.

SIXTY-SIX ENLIST. Special to The Toronto World. Kingston, April 17.—There are 5,144 overseas men in the third military district. In the last two weeks 66 recruits signed up.

BRITISH GAIN ON TIGRIS; TROOPS NEAR SAMARA

General Maude Reports Successful Night March to Attack Turks.

London, April 17, 11:38 a.m.—British troops in Mesopotamia are continuing their advance up the Tigris in pursuit of the retreating Turks. It was officially announced today. They have pushed to within a little more than ten miles of Samarra, seventy miles northwest of Bagdad, and within a mile and a half of Istablat, where the Turks apparently are expected to make their next stand.

The official statement reads: "Gen. Maude, telegraphing yesterday, reports an advance by our forces on the right bank of the Tigris by means of a night march to within one and one-half miles of the position occupied by the eighteenth Turkish Army Corps covering Istablat station on the Bagdad-Samara Railway. The enemy's advanced troops fell back without offering opposition."

AVIATORS IN TRAINING DESTROY FOE AT FRONT

London, April 17.—Here is a Jules Verne story of modern war. One morning recently a big flock of aeroplanes training in England made the trip by air to the front in France in three hours.

The aviators ate lunch and then rose. In two hours they had bagged three German aeroplanes. They dined, slept, and arose early the next morning. Then they flew back to Great Britain.

MINERS GET HIGHER PAY. New York, April 17.—After a joint conference of representatives of bituminous coal miners and operators here late today it was announced that the recommendation of a sub-committee granting an increase in wages averaging 20 per cent. to 225,000 miners in Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, Illinois and Indiana had been formally adopted.

JEWISH CONGRESS OPENS. Petrograd, April 17, via London.—The first congress of the Jewish Social Democratic party, known as "The Bund," opened today. The chief business discussed was the disabilities suffered by the Jews in Finland.

TO VISE SWEDISH PASSPORTS. Stockholm, via London, April 17.—Ira Nelson Morris, the American minister to Sweden, has been instructed that no persons will be permitted to come to the United States from Sweden without their passports being vised by the American legation or the chief consular official. The new order, it is said, applies to all of Scandinavia.

SIXTY-SIX ENLIST. Special to The Toronto World. Kingston, April 17.—There are 5,144 overseas men in the third military district. In the last two weeks 66 recruits signed up.

Advertisement for DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS, featuring a circular logo and text describing the medicine's benefits for kidney ailments.