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WEDNESDAY MORNING AUGUST 1 1917 —FOURTEEN PAGES

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GREAT DRIVE IN FLANDERS

BRITISH and French Advance on Fifteen Mile Front North and South of Ypres---British Report 3,500 Prisoners Thus Far, But Total Cannot Be Estimated, and Capture of Villages of La Basseville, Bixschoote, Valorenhoeck, Frezenberg, St. Julien, Pilkem, Hooge, Westhoek, Steenstraete and Hollebeke---French Gain Important Positions With Small Loss.

CONSCRIPTION DEBATE OPENS IN THE SENATE

Sir James Loughheed Strongly Censures Stand Taken by Laurier.

REPLY GIVEN SIFTON

Senator Bostock Disagrees With Statements Made in Letter.

By a Staff Reporter. Ottawa, July 31.—The debate on the national service bill began in the senate today, and while it could not be said to have stirred up so much interest as the debate on this measure did in the commons, the presence of a number of members from the lower house indicated that it is attracting considerable attention.

The expectation is that only two of the French-Canadian senators will vote against the principle of conscription. The amendment is that there should be a general election before conscription is put into force. With the new appointments to the senate recently, the government will be able to defeat the amendment by a narrow majority.

LOUGHEED'S APPEAL. Ottawa, Ont., July 31.—Sir James Loughheed in the senate today moved the second reading of the military service bill.

May Move to Hamilton.

Col. Bob Low, Toronto: Cable me what Church, Harris, O'Neill are doing to get decent pavement and street car service on Yonge street for my thousand fivers in two aviation camps in that city, on which I am spending several millions a month. May have to move them to Hamilton. Have Tom Humble post up general alarm on bill boards. King George.

King George, London: Landmark says Church is loyal, but is protracted taking royal salaries. Please command me to put your crushed stone and hot bit tar on Yonge street and authorize Hearst to take over Metropolitan Railway, and I'll lay down double tracks in fifty and make Colonel Fleming run cars. Colonel Harris busy at Ottawa on lobby and coal commission. He hasn't time even to fix up Billy's viaduct. He has great deliberation. Hamilton will build two lines of railway for your men if you will move them up there. Bob.

King George, London: Mercy, kind King, and don't move your Royal flying camp to Hamilton. Am putting on Ford jitney service if Bradshaw will authorize. Cable William Mackenzie to hurry up and say what he'll take for Metropolitan. Nunkey John sore because Doherty puts likker-ed peas in his boots. Tom Church.

OFFENSIVE PROMISES TO RESULT IN GREATEST STRUGGLE OF WAR

Anglo-French Forces Strike Hard Between River Lys and Boesinghe, British Occupying Enemy's First Three Lines, While French Cross Marshes Between Dixmude and Point Near Boesinghe---Allies' Casualties Are Surprisingly Light, Tho Germans' Resistance is Desperate at Nearly All Points.

By R. T. Small, Staff Correspondent of Associated Press. BRITISH Front in France and Belgium, July 31.—An epoch-making offensive launched by the British and French against the German lines between the River Lys and Boesinghe at daybreak has, with few exceptions, accomplished all that had been planned for the first day of the battle, which, in its early stages, gives promise of being the greatest conflict of the war.

Roughly speaking, the British penetrated positions held by Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria between Boesinghe and Warneton, and at the time of the filing of this despatch were in possession of the first three lines of the German trenches at most points throughout this front.

Reports received from the French troops which are attacking on the difficult territory between Dixmude and a point near Boesinghe say that they have forced their way across this marsh-studded and partly inundated ground and captured the first two lines of enemy trenches.

The casualties of the entente allies have been surprisingly light and the morale of the men continues at the highest pitch. The contact between the British and French armies has been constant and excellent. Germans Resist Fiercely. One of the most striking and spectacular events of the day's fighting occurred at the so-called Menin Tunnel, an underground fortification constructed by the Germans on the Menin road opposite Hooge.

Further information obtained from German prisoners concerning the effects of the British preliminary bombardment indicates that the effects of this unparalleled expenditure of ammunition were disastrous in the extreme, both in damage and to the morale of the German troops.

Under the drumlike tempest produced by the big guns, the attack opened. The night was damp and the visibility very low. The Hunns were expecting attack somewhere and some time, and they put down their barrage with great promptitude. The enemy which is bearing the brunt of the British offensive is the fourth army group of the Crown Prince Rupprecht; several divisions of which are known to have been very much knocked about, so much so that some of them have recently been withdrawn to the reserve. It is certain that an appalling proportion of these troops consisted of mere boys.

OFFICIAL BULLETINS OF GREAT OFFENSIVE BRITISH

The official report from British headquarters in France, issued last evening, reads: "The operations of the allied troops, begun this morning in the neighborhood of Ypres, have been continued with success during the day, despite unfavorable weather. The enemy's positions have been entered and our line has been advanced on a front of over fifteen miles, from La Basseville, on the River Lys, to Steenstraete, on the River Yser. Both of these villages are now in the hands of the allies."

"On the extreme left the French troops, acting in close co-operation with and protecting the left flank of the British forces, captured the Village of Steenstraete and rapidly penetrated the German defences to a depth of nearly two miles. Having gained their objectives for the day at an early hour, they continued their attack with the greatest gallantry beyond their original objectives and captured Bixschoote and the enemy's positions to the southeast and west of the village on a front of nearly two and a half miles, including the Kortekert Inn."

"During the afternoon a hostile counter-attack was successfully repulsed. In the centre and on the left centre British divisions penetrated the enemy's positions to a depth of two miles and secured crossings on the River Steenbeek, which constituted their final objectives."

"Further south, in the right centre of our attack, after gaining the whole of their first objectives, which included the Village of Hooge and Sanctuary Wood, our troops fought their way forward against very obstinate resistance from the enemy in a difficult country in the neighborhood of the Ypres-Menin open road and carried the Village of Westhoek. In this neighborhood, where heavy fighting has taken place throughout the day and still continues, we have penetrated the enemy's defences to a depth of about a mile. A number of powerful counter-attacks have been successfully repulsed."

"On the extreme right, south of the Zillebeke-Zandvoord road, our troops gained the whole of their objectives early in the day, capturing the Villages of La Basseville and Hollebeke."

"In addition to heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy, over 3500 prisoners have already been brought in, but no accurate estimate of our captures can yet be made."

"The French official report last night reads: "Having crossed the Yser Canal during the night our troops attacked, at 4 o'clock this morning, in conjunction with the British armies on their right. The formidable artillery preparation had completely leveled the German organizations and inflicted heavy losses on the defenders."

"At the end of the morning, our troops had carried two enemy positions, and in their dash had spontaneously gone beyond the objective which had been assigned to them. They advanced on the road between Lazerne and Dixmude, and captured the Village of Bixschoote and Kortekert Inn. "Our losses were exceedingly small. We captured important material and took prisoners, not yet counted. The battlefield is covered with German dead, showing the magnitude of the enemy losses."

"On the Aisne front, the artillery fighting was particularly violent. Reports up to the present concerning the operation carried out south of La Koyere emphasize the splendid attitude of our troops. On the entire front of the attacks the objectives assigned having been exceeded, we have been able to clear out the advance trenches, which we found filled with enemy dead. The number of prisoners taken exceeds, up to the present, 210. Our losses were slight."

"About 11 o'clock in the morning the enemy made a counter-attack against our trenches west of L'Epine de Chevregny, which was repulsed. "The Germans, after an intense bombardment of our lines at Cerny and Hurtebise, attacked our positions east of Cerny on a front of about 1500 metres with three regiments. Our counter-attacks, immediately carried out, drove them back and permitted us to advance along the whole front. "The day was relatively calm on both sides of the Meuse."

RUSSIANS GIVE BATTLE ALONG ZBROZ RIVER

Resistance Further Develops to German Attempt at Invasion.

FIGHTING IN BUKOWINA

Enemy Presses Back Ally—Rumanians Makes Further Progress.

London, July 31.—In east Galicia the Russians along the Zbroz River continue to give battle to the Teutonic allies, who have crossed the stream and gained a footing on Russian soil. At several points enemy detachments have been forced out of captured positions, which have been retaken by the Russians.

To the south the Russians have attempted to make a stand also in western Bukovina, but were compelled to evacuate positions along the Chernomosh River and retreat eastward. The Town of Zala-Szcsyky and several portions blocking the road to Czernowitz, the capital of Bukovina, have been evacuated by the Russians.

On the Rumanian front and in the wooded Carpathians the Germans have gained a little ground against the joint armies of the Russians and Rumanians, except in the Casin and Putna valley regions, where the Russo-Rumanians still hold the upper hand, and the Rumanians make a further advance. "Beat Russia in Two Months."

A Petrograd despatch via British admiralty per wireless, says: "An official statement issued today says: "According to reports of secret service agents, the present German offensive was undertaken as a result of detailed testimony concerning internal conditions of the Russian army which had been placed in the hands of the German chief of staff. Field Marshal von Hindenburg, it appears, had promised Emperor William that in two months he would put Russia out of action."

North of Husiatyn on the Russo-Galician frontier, the Russians yesterday restored their position on the east bank of the River Zbroz, says the official statement. Austro-German efforts to force a passage across the Zbroz in the region of Pukliany and Podpile were frustrated. The Teuton forces pressed back the Russians in the region of Doroshouk, Zastavna, Uvrensanzka and Orochopy.

South of the Kimpolung road, on the Rumanian front, the Austro-German (Concluded on Page 11, Column 5).

GERMAN

Last night's official Berlin report read: "The first assault of the English army, delivered in Flanders on a 25-kilometre front on both sides of Ypres, has been repulsed."

"After changeable, bitter fighting on a large scale the enemy, who attacked with superior forces many ranks deep, had to content himself with the possession of a crater position in our defensive zone. "The Chemin-des-Dames (Aisne) front, an energetic attack put us in possession of important height positions near Cerny and resulted in the capture of more than 1500 French prisoners."

A WARM WEATHER CONSOLATION. While the temperature has been going up the price of hats has been coming down. The clearance sale announced at Dineen's two weeks ago is still in progress. Every English and Panama hat in the store greatly reduced in price. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

FOUR THOUSAND MEN AS BRITISH RECRUITS. Chicago, July 31.—British recruiting officers were counting strongly today on a total of at least 4000 men from the Chicago district for service under the Union Jack. The big rally last week resulted in the enrolment of 650 men.



Another Kind! Th' French Min' this, John: It was they German lardies that were broken into British high two hunder years agone till be or kings that was th' bagtani' o' th' trouble. An' it was gaen on ever syne then. Th' Jan'mark: Sure, Frasch. King George th' Third driv th' Americans and Jori' Wankings into bein' rebs; an' now th' Yanks is jinin' up with us to get even with th' German Kaiser. We're gettin' in th' same lodj agin. Th' Frasch: How about Weetum of Orange, John? John: He kum from th' North ov Irelan', Frasch.