

FRENCH DRIVE ON WIDE FRONT

Sweeping Drive in Progress by French on Meuse Front

British Miners' Union Votes Against Socialist Conference

Canadians Consolidate Gains Made in the Vicinity of Lens

Successful Offensive Launched on the Meuse

Great Thrust by Nivelles Troops on Verdun Sector; Battle Developing on Eleven Mile Front, and German Prisoners are Already Being Passed to Rear--Canadians Establish Strong Posts

By Courier Leased Wire.

Paris, Aug. 20.--French troops made an attack this morning on both banks of the Meuse on the Verdun front. Early information shows that the battle has developed to the advantage of the French on a sector of 18 kilometres (11 miles). Prisoners already have begun passing to the rear.

The attack was delivered between Avocourt wood and Bezonvaux. Heavy artillery fighting is in progress in Belgium. The following official statement was issued here today:

"In Belgium there was violent artillery fighting in the region of North of Bixchoote.

"In the Champagne our batteries effectively bombarded German defenses. We made several raids and brought back prisoners from the enemy lines.

"On both banks of the Meuse this morning our troops attacked the German positions with magnificent spirit. According to early information the new battle of Verdun is developing to our advantage on a front of eighteen kilometres from Avocourt wood to the region north of Bezonvaux. Numerous prisoners are being taken to the rear. The bravery of our troops is beyond all praise.

"In the region of Badonviller we easily repulsed an enemy attack. There was rather spirited artillery fighting in upper Alsace."

BRITISH OFFICIAL

London, Aug. 20.--A German counter-attack on the positions captured by the British yesterday morning southeast of Epey was completely repulsed after sharp fighting, according to an official statement issued today by the war office. A successful raid was carried out last night south of Lens. On the Ypres battlefield, the British line has been advanced slightly southeast of Stjenshoek.

ENEMY STATEMENT

Berlin, Aug. 20.--via London--The war office announces that the French, without fighting, have occupied the Talou ridge on the Verdun front east of the Meuse.

Forces of the Central Powers on the Roumanian front have driven back the Roumanians on both sides of the Oituz Valley and in the direction of the Trotus Valley, it was officially announced today by the German war office.

In the fighting in the Oituz valley, the Austro-German troops took 1,500 prisoners and captured 30 machine guns. Stubborn battles developed at the Maraschet station on the Sereth River, the Germans capturing more than 2,200 prisoners. The text of the statement follows: "Eastern theatre: "Group of Prince Leopold of Bavaria: There was nothing new. "Army group of Archduke Joseph; German and Austro-Hungarian troops made a vigorous assault on both sides of the Oituz valley, and drove the stubbornly resisting Roumanians back in the direction of the Trotus valley. A Wurtembergian mountain battalion especially distinguished itself. More than 1,500 prisoners and 30 machine guns have been brought in. "Army group of Field Marshal von Mackensen: On the western bank of the Sereth, stubborn struggles developed at the Maraschet railway station, in the course of which more than 2,200 prisoners remained in our hands. South of the confluence of the Rintio, strong Russian attacks failed before our positions. "Macedonian front: The situation is unchanged. (By Stewart Lyon, Special Correspondent of the Canadian Press) Canadian Headquarters in France.

Aug. 20.--Northwest of Lens, amid a nest of trenches and railway cuttings which forms the last line of German defense in that quarter, our men have succeeded in establishing strong posts in a support which is the scene of desperate and indecisive fighting two days ago. These new posts give command of the last bit of German ground from which the defenders of the city could overlook our advance from the west. They are now in a hollow all round the front which swings about Lens in semi-circular form. The eastern exits from the city are now subjected to a constant and harassing fire of the artillery and machine guns. This makes the bringing up of provisions and supplies of ammunition very difficult. At 2 o'clock this morning a trench raid on the enemy's front northwest of Avion, resulted in heavy fighting in the course of which a considerable number of the enemy were killed in hand-to-hand fighting. The Avion front was strongly held by the Germans as protection to Salumines, a large mining village to the southeast of Lens, where many guns withdrawn from the German front were still in position. Continued on page four

are now subjected to a constant and harassing fire of the artillery and machine guns. This makes the bringing up of provisions and supplies of ammunition very difficult. At 2 o'clock this morning a trench raid on the enemy's front northwest of Avion, resulted in heavy fighting in the course of which a considerable number of the enemy were killed in hand-to-hand fighting. The Avion front was strongly held by the Germans as protection to Salumines, a large mining village to the southeast of Lens, where many guns withdrawn from the German front were still in position. Continued on page four

FRANCE FORMS POLISH ARMY TO FIGHT UNDER ENTENTE FLAG

Franco-Polish Military Mission Appointed to Further Organization of Corps--France Fighting High Cost of Living Problem

By Courier Leased Wire. Paris, Aug. 20.--The French government continuing its efforts to solve the problem of the cost of living, to-day issued a decree authorizing the formation of local committees, which are to be presided over by the mayor in each canton of France to supervise selling prices of the necessities of life. Retail merchants and consumers are to be represented on the committees, each by four members, two of whom must be from labor organizations and one from co-operative societies. The mission of the committee is to study market conditions, arrive at costs and indicate to the authorities any persons who are realizing exaggerated profits. The committees are to watch especially the trade in bread, butter, chocolate, malt, beer, and wine. The committees eventually may take charge of the provisioning of cantons and assist the authorities in the management of civic retail shops.

Spain Normal Paris, Aug. 20.--Semi-official news from Spain, which is practically only news received continues to represent conditions as normal. The government has suspended "Heraldo" of Madrid for publishing a censored article. Madrid, Aug. 20.--Official news has been received from throughout Spain that tranquillity reigns everywhere and the general strike is expected to end to-day. A meeting of the cabinet has been called and it is thought martial law will be annulled.

Paris, Aug. 20.--The French government continuing its efforts to solve the problem of the cost of living, to-day issued a decree authorizing the formation of local committees, which are to be presided over by the mayor in each canton of France to supervise selling prices of the necessities of life. Retail merchants and consumers are to be represented on the committees, each by four members, two of whom must be from labor organizations and one from co-operative societies. The mission of the committee is to study market conditions, arrive at costs and indicate to the authorities any persons who are realizing exaggerated profits. The committees are to watch especially the trade in bread, butter, chocolate, malt, beer, and wine. The committees eventually may take charge of the provisioning of cantons and assist the authorities in the management of civic retail shops.

HAS RESIGNED

Ottawa, Aug. 20.--The Hon. Robert Rogers, minister of public works, this morning tendered his resignation as minister of public works. The reason which he gave for his action was that there had been too much delay in the carrying out of the conscription bill. All the minister's papers and documents were packed up and removed from his office this morning.

ITALIAN DRIVE IS RESPONSE

Offensive Gives Reply Of Entente To All Proposals For Peace

AUSTRIANS ALARMED

Emperor of Dual Monarchy Hastens To Rally Dispirited Forces

Rome, Aug. 20.--The Italians in their offensive on the Isonzo front began yesterday have crossed the Isonzo River and already have taken 7,500 prisoners, it was officially announced by the war department to-day.

Rome, Sunday, Aug. 19.--Commenting on the new Italian advance, the press says that it like the British attack in Flanders will be of service if it demonstrates how the people and armies of the allied countries feel toward the premature peace proposals of Pope Benedict. It is said Austria apparently realizes the gravity of the situation as announcement is made that Emperor Charles is soon to visit the Austro-Italian front, presumably to encourage his troops.

The official Austrian statement of yesterday said the Italians had begun an offensive on a 37 mile front from the region of Tolmino to a point near the Adriatic. The struggle was said to be raging with the greatest bitterness. Yesterday's Italian official statement did not mention the offensive.

CASUALTIES

Ottawa, Aug. 20.--To-day's casualty list of 143 names includes fourteen died of wounds. Private William Jenkins of Brampton, previously reported killed is now stated to be a prisoner of war at Dulmen.

BRITISH MINERS VOTE AGAINST SENDING DELEGATES TO SWEDEN

Previous Decision Reversed by Majority Vote of 22 Today--Allies to Confer Before Replying to Pope's Proposals

By Courier Leased Wire. Ermouth, England, Aug. 20.--The National conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain to-day decided to a vote of 276 to 354 that the British Labor party should not be represented at the International Socialist Conference at Stockholm. This is a reversal of a previous decision of the Miners' Federation.

London, Aug. 20.--The decision of the Miners' conference at Ermouth against the sending of delegates to the British Labor party to Stockholm probably will have some influence on the meeting of the labor party to-morrow when the whole question will be reviewed. At the meeting of the Labor party on August 19 when a decision was reached of attending a consultative conference at the Swedish capital, the miners practically held the deciding voice which they cast in favor of sending delegates to the conference after hearing the statement of Arthur Henderson, Labor member of the British war council, who the following day resigned.

To Confer First London, Aug. 20.--Lord Robert Cecil, minister of blockade and under secretary for foreign affairs, announced in the House of Commons this afternoon that the Entente Allied governments would hold a conference before a reply to the Pope's proposals would be sent to the Vatican.

London, Aug. 20.--In principle the British Government is of the opinion, Lord Robert Cecil, minister of blockade, told the House of Commons to-day, that neutral shipping, which has been persistently and continuously assisting Great Britain's enemies should be treated after the war on the same footing as enemy's shippings.

Vessels that lie in port in consequence of the German Government's threats, the minister added, would certainly be considered as assisting the belligerent objectives of the enemy.

Naval Losses London, Aug. 20.--Since the outbreak of the war 6,827 officers and men of the British mercantile marine, exclusive of those in the pay of the Admiralty, have lost their lives, according to a statement made in the House of Commons this afternoon by Sir Albert Stanley, president of the Board of Trade.

GERMANY DIVIDED BY PEACE NOTE

Pope's Proposals Viewed from Many Angles; Made Political Issue

By Courier Leased Wire. Copenhagen, Aug. 20.--The Pope's peace proposal is now being dragged into the field of party politics in Germany, and made the subject of contention between the pan-German annexationists and advocates of a moderate peace. George Bernhard, in The Berlin Vossische Zeitung, says the Pope's action has cleared one of the mysteries connected with Mathias Erzberger's recent peace campaign in the reichstag up, and that the adoption of the reichstag of his resolution was to pave the way for the Pope's note. The terms of the Pope's note and the reichstag resolution against compulsory annexation continue to trouble the relations of Bulgaria to her allies, and it has been found necessary to explain to Bulgaria again and again that Germany would interpret the acquisition of Macedonia regions as annexation. Vienna dispatches say the government newspapers declare emphatically that it is impossible to cede a foot of ground totally, but otherwise little vehement objection to the Pope's note is heard from Austria.

Count von Reventlow in The Tages-Zeitung, continues his cynical discussions of German policy. He avows in reference to the Pope's phrase on the substitution of the moral justice for might of arms, that the moral law exists for the Germans only, so far as it applies to the German empire and nation. The writer says the Germans cannot consent to a reduction in armaments, which alone have made possible the existence of the empire and the possibility of its moral activities. Count von Reventlow adds that Germany cannot bear her own burdens and that therefore she cannot renounce indemnities and that guarantees for Belgium's independence cannot be found. He says also that the carrying out of the papal program would mean an end to all the middle European alliance and Germany's ruin.

Annexationist mass meetings continue to bombard Field Marshal von Hindenburg, Chancellor Michael and Admiral Scheer, commander of the battle fleet with protests against the reichstag peace resolution.

Peace Conference

London, Aug. 20.--Friedrich Ebert, member of the reichstag, in discussing the prospects for the Stockholm peace conference in connection with the refusal of the Entente Governments to issue passports to delegates declared, according to a dispatch to Reuters' Limited, from Amsterdam, that the Dutch Scandinavian committee had not yet stated its attitude towards the changed conditions, and even if for the present the conference is impossible, this is no reason for us to change our attitude toward it.

Continuing Herr Ebert said: "If the Dutch Scandinavian committee believes that the conference intended for September 9th can still promote its peace work without Entente representatives, then the German Socialists will come."

Bernstorff To Turkey Amsterdam, Aug. 20.--Count von Bernstorff, the former ambassador to the United States, has been appointed, according to The Berlin Vossische Zeitung, to the post at Constantinople. He will leave Berlin immediately.

Forced to Fight Geneva, Switzerland, Aug. 20.--News received here from Munich, Bavaria, is to the effect that a number of German-Americans are fighting with the Bavarians, some as volunteers and others under compulsion, Germany considering her nationals, wherever they may be naturalized, as real Germans.

The advices say that the practice of forcing German-Americans into the fighting line has been general since the departure of the American representatives from Berlin.

To Seize Property London, Aug. 20.--An Amsterdam dispatch to Reuters' Limited states that Berlin newspapers announce the seizure of all property in Germany belonging to the government of Spain or to its citizens.

ays
olstering ALL KINDS Williman Opera House Bldg.
IES YOUR WHITE AND COLORED DRY CLEANED HILL'S BRANTFORD
560 - Automatic 560 Gentlemen's Valet
NG, PRESSING, AND REPAIRING, ES' WORK A SPECIALTY
illed for and delivered shortest notice. Beck, 132 Market St.
You Tried
Kiss Tale Kiss Face powder Kiss Perfume Kiss Toilet Water Kiss Sachet Are All Good McDOWELL BRUGGIST and Colborne St. Phone 403
or Exchange
white brick house, 2 er of Marlboro and Hall parlor, ditchen, back kitchen, 3 piece bath and tric light fixtures, way. Will take one on house.
RS. We have had farming and build- therefore we know both Call in and properties. No sale,
George CORNE STREET. Phone 1288.
SMOKE near Havana Cigars to 25 cents ana Bouquet Cigars straight unufactured by IR & CO., Ltd. BRANTFORD, ONT.
Can Supply You With LAKE BRAND AND CEMENT unufactured by TO PORTLAND COMPANY, Ltd. Office - Brantford
ARIO RAILWAY MUNICIPAL BOARD
er of the application of rantford, under Para- of Section 339 of "The " as enacted by Sec- of "The Municipal ct, 1917," for the ap- Board of its proposed \$19, to borrow \$50- to buy and sell Y FOR HEARING hereby appoints Pri- ty-fourth day of Au- 17, at the hour of half in the forenoon, at in the Legislative onto, to hear all par- in and supporting or aforesaid application Brantford. Notice is hereby given an opposing or objec- roval of the said By- to, to the said Twenty- August, file with the objections thereto, be entitled to appear and be heard in counsel or agent. ronto this Tenth day 1917. H. C. SMALL, Secretary.

MYSTERY SURROUNDS DEATH

Of a Well-Known Hamilton Doctor

Was Found in His Room With Blood Stained Iron Bars Near By

By Courier Leased Wire. Hamilton, Ont., Aug. 20.--Dr. D. G. MacRobbie, 209 York street, a young but well known Hamilton physician, was found dead in a room over the offices of the Crescent Oil Company on Cannon street, west, at 10.30 last night under circumstances which Coroner McNichol decided justified an inquest.

The gruesome discovery was made by the caretaker, who, finding the side-door open, something unusual, investigated and found MacRobbie, his head crushed in, resting in a pool of blood. The head was lying across a pile of iron bars.

No report of the affair was made to the police until early this morning. When Coroner McNichol arrived, three other men in another part of the building, could offer no explanation of MacRobbie's death. Later the police took the trio into custody as material witnesses.

"It may have been accident, or the man have been murdered. That remains for the inquest to disclose," said Coroner McNichol. "Dr. MacRobbie received a terrible gash on his skull."

"It seems incredible that a man could sustain such an injury as MacRobbie received by merely falling from a chair. There were blood stains too, on the wall at a height which I think, disproves the theory that MacRobbie was fatally injured by falling."

Two small iron bars, saturated with blood, rested in a pool that surrounded the doctor's body. Dr. MacRobbie was 38 years old.

GERMAN WOUNDED

By Courier Leased Wire. Soo, Mich., Aug. 20.--Alfred Benninghaus, a German merchant, was wounded by machine gun bullets early to-day when his launch was fired on by Michigan infantrymen in a patrol boat after, after a command to stop had not been obeyed. Two other persons in the launch escaped injury. Benninghaus and his companions received the Canadian side where they promptly were arrested and are being held pending investigation. It is alleged that the trio were attempting to evade inspection by American officials on a trip from the American to the Canadian side of St. Mary's River.

NEW STORY

In tomorrow's issue The Courier will commence a new story "An Outsider" by Louis Joseph Vante; one of the most thrilling and popular of modern writers and is the author of "The Lone Wolf"; "Joan Thursday"; "The Brass Bow" and other best sellers. The Courier has secured the copyright for the production on the well recognized basis that nothing is too good for the readers of this paper.

WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, Aug. 20.--A shallow depression covers the St. Lawrence valley while an area of high pressure is spreading south-eastward over the great lakes. Since Saturday showers and thunderstorms have been almost general in the province of Quebec and eastern Ontario while in all other parts of Canada, the weather has been fine and warm.

Forecast. Fair and decidedly warm with thunderstorms in a few localities. Tuesday--Northwest winds, fine and cooler.