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THURSDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 27 1917 —FOURTEEN PAGES

VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,469 TWO CENTS.

Senate Reading Room
18jan17

BRITISH GAIN ON SIX-MILE FRONT IN BELGIUM

Thousand German Prisoners Taken in Advance East of Ypres

ONLY FIFTEEN BRITISH SHIPS U-BOAT VICTIMS

Thirteen Merchantmen Sunk Are of More Than Sixteen Hundred Tons.

PIRATES ARE BAFFLED

Number of Vessels Lost Smallest Since Germany Began Campaign.

London, Sept. 26.—Thirteen British merchantmen of 1600 tons and over, and two vessels of less than 1600 tons were sunk by mines or submarines last week, according to the weekly admiralty statement issued this evening. In the aggregate this is the smallest number of vessels sunk during any one week since Germany began her intensified submarine warfare last February.

Two fishing vessels also were sunk last week.

The text reads:

Arrivals, 2775; sailings, 2691.

British merchantmen, over 1600 tons, sunk by mine or submarine, including two previously, 13; under 1600 tons, 2.

Fishing vessels sunk, 2.

British merchantmen unsuccessfully attacked, including three previously, 10.

The smallest aggregate of vessels sunk in any previous week since the February undersea campaign was inaugurated by Germany, was 16—14 merchantmen of 1600 tons and over and two of less than 1600 tons. This was during the week ending August 12.

Last week the admiralty report showed 28 merchantmen, sunk—8 of more than 1600 tons and 20 of less tonnage.

LONDON HOSPITAL ALMOST PREY OF GERMAN BOMB

Prompt Action of Attendant Saves Building in Air Raid on England.

London, Sept. 26.—A hospital in a southeastern suburb had a narrow escape during last night's air raid. It was only saved by the prompt action of an attendant.

An incendiary bomb fell on a stone pathway near the main premises, and the attendant threw a bucket of water on it, rendering it harmless.

Several small buildings in the same district were badly damaged.

Talks in the Street.

The Preacher: Sir Joseph, ye'll ken that th' puir buddies o' ceetizens 'll no be for profiteerin' in bacon an' shells an' cold storage stuff.

Sir Joseph: Quite so, Reverend Sir, but Mister Hanna is putting the blame on the middlemen in provisions, and I have cut down the prices on the shell contractors.

The Preacher: An' hoo aboot th' farmer, Sir Joseph?

Sir Joseph: The Grain Commission has fixed the price of wheat, and the Food Controller will 'tend to the millers and the bakers. And the women who have to buy it may reach the middlemen who handle the farmers' milk.

The Preacher: Maister Hanna was jus' gran' in th' way he handed it oot til they middlemen. When he got til his "seventeenth reason" I thocht he was fit til be a meenister makin' a sermon.

Sir Joseph: Yes, Reverend Sir; Mr. Rockefeller, I imagine, would admire his discourses. He has a fine style and a nicely-rounded delivery. And my good friend, and yours, our dear co-worker in the cause of Social Uplift, Josephus of The Star, he, too, is also much impressed by Mr. Hanna's expository power.

The Preacher: But what aboot the profiteerin' in bacon, Sir Joseph?

Sir Joseph: Talk it over with Josephus. He has seen the Light and knows the Way. And don't forget how necessary it is that the price of munitions be fixed so that we may win the war.

The Preacher: Ma conscience!

"IS IT A BOCHE MACHINE?"
Canadians at rest and French gleaners interested in an aeroplane somewhere in France. When the buzz of a machine is heard it spreads fear into the hearts of the people.

FIX PRICE OF POTATOES IN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC

Maximum Price of Dollar and a Quarter Per Bag After October First Recommended—Hanna Says Hoarding Must Cease

Ottawa, Sept. 26.—Hon. W. J. Hanna, Canadian food controller, has received a report from the chairman of the fruit and vegetables committee recommending that potatoes in Ontario and Quebec produced in these two provinces be sold at no higher than $1.25 per bag after October 1.

"There must be no hoarding of potatoes this year," declared Mr. Hanna. "We must hear no more of speculators hoarding car loads of potatoes on railway sidings to freeze, so as to reduce the supply of food in the country and enhance the market value of the remaining supply. Such an action should be made a criminal offence."

Mr. Hanna went on to say that the Canadian potato crop would probably be twenty million bushels greater than last year, and that there would probably be a surplus of about ten million bushels. The problem, he says, is not how to economize the supply of potatoes, but how to increase the consumption so that none will be wasted. An increased consumption of potatoes would help to reduce the amount of white flour, beef and bacon used in Canada.

To Summon Committee.

"In all probability," said Mr. Hanna, "a joint committee of representative men will be formed with one representative from each of the eastern provinces to consider the whole potato situation in the interests of consumers and producers alike. The question will be considered of the necessity of opening wholesale and retail storage facilities in the interest of those who may find themselves without the proper means of carrying over their crop until the spring demand."

Mr. Hanna is strongly of opinion that no undersized potatoes should be used for consumption in the larger centres, but that the standards of grading recommended by the committee be adhered to.

HUNS REPORTED READY TO GIVE UP BELGIUM

News of Pan-German Activity, However, Accompanies Report of Willingness to Cede Territory on Certain Conditions

London, Sept. 26.—While it is reported in a despatch from Berne that Germany in an official statement declares willingness to evacuate Belgium on certain conditions, a Berlin despatch emphasizes the formidable character of pan-German activities.

The Berne despatch says Germany stipulates that she must have the right to develop her economic enterprises freely in Belgium, especially Antwerp. The proposal is said to have been made in a supplementary verbal note to the Vatican setting forth that Germany would contribute a share of the compensation to be paid to Belgium for war damages. Belgium would be required, it said, to give a guarantee that any such menace as that which threatened Germany in 1914 would in future be excluded.

Belgium must undertake to maintain administrative separation of the Flanders and Walloon districts introduced by Germany, the verbal note says, because this separation corresponds to the wishes of a majority of the Belgian people and because Germany desires such separation on account of racial sympathy.

Bitter Factional Fight.

The pan-German activities which have been launched on a big national scale are expected to find an echo in the plenary sessions of the reichstag. The central governing board of the social democratic party has issued a plain spoken call, summoning the opponents of the reactionaries to join the action. The declaration proceeds to establish the identity of the various disguises adopted by the pan-German agencies. It asserts the combination is made up of industrialists and the landed interests, whose war aims reach the pinnacle of demand for annexations.

The call concludes with the declaration that the realization of the pan-German program would mean the suicide of European cultur and civilization, for after such a collapse, it is pointed out, the reconstruction of Europe could not be accomplished for a century. The activities of the fatherland party are also likely to be discussed in the open sessions of the reichstag.

Unlimited Funds.

The pan-German organization, ostensibly founded to rejuvenate national patriotism, is gradually unfurling its true colors. The Duke of Mecklenberg-Schwerin is its honorary president. Its true inspiration, however, is supplied by Admiral von Tirpitz and by public individuals who would not resent being accused of harboring pronounced pan-German annexationist views. Its Berlin deed but left no doubts of its jingoistic ambitions. In the last analysis it supplies but further evidence of the desperation with which the reaction-

(Concluded on Page 2, Column 1.)

DINEEN'S IMPORTED HATS.

They are becoming scarce, are these English hard and soft felt hats, but Dineen's exclusive sources of supply are still available. Christy hard felts, the absolutely genuine, in the new style blocks, $2.65, regular three-fifty value. Soft felt hats, $2.50 and $2.65, including some splendid English makes.

The foremost store in Canada for silk hats—English, American and French blocks, $6 to $8. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

Famous Aviator Here Today

Major Bishop, V.C., D.S.O. and bar, M.C., who received an ovation in Montreal last night, will arrive in Toronto at 5.45 o'clock this afternoon by the International Limited. His mother, Mrs. Bishop, Owen Sound, and his fiancee, Miss Margaret Burden, will arrive with him.

Upon arriving in the city he will be honored with a dinner by the local Royal Flying Corps officers, and will also be the guest of the officers of the Mississauga Horse, which unit Major Bishop was connected with prior to leaving for the front. He will leave for Owen Sound in the morning.

MUST HAVE PEACE WITHOUT FETTERS

Aspirations and Liberties of Nations Must Be Respected, Says Asquith.

ASKS DEFINITE ANSWER

Enemy Reply to Papal Note Teems With "Unctuous Generalities."

London, Sept. 26. — "Any peace worth having cannot be found in a cessation of active hostilities followed by a process of territorial bargaining to be embodied in protocols and pacts and still less in an arrangement imposed either by victors or vanquished which sets at defiance the historic traditions, aspirations and liberties of the people affected."

Ex-Premier Herbert H. Asquith, who has recently returned from a visit to the western front, made this declaration in addressing a mass meeting at Leeds tonight, under the auspices of the war aims committee. He described the German reply to the papal note as teeming with "nebulous and unctuous generalities," but giving no indication that Germany will take any practical steps to open the road to a real and lasting peace.

Was Germany ready to restore French territory and give Belgium full independence, without fetters or reservations? he asked.

A definite reply to these questions, he said, would be worth whole columns of "pious platitudes."

Forty-One Billion Rubles Spent by Russia on War

Petrograd, Sept. 26.—The finance minister has issued a statement of the financial position of Russia, showing that the expenses of the war up to Sept. 14 have amounted to forty-one billion rubles. The war costs are still further increasing owing to the demand for higher wages and the increased price of necessaries. The minister urges the people to postpone their wage demands until the end of the war.

Rowell Confers at Calgary On Union Government Plans

Calgary, Sept. 26.—N. W. Rowell, leader of the Ontario Liberals, is expected in the city this afternoon and will confer with southern Alberta Liberals in regard to union government.

FOE DEAD COVER ARENA OF DRIVE INTO BELGIUM

Germans Admit Losses to British

Berlin Reports Penetration of Lines to Two-Thirds of a Mile.

Berlin, via London, Sept. 26.—The British forces in their new offensive in Flanders have penetrated German positions to the depth of about two-thirds of a mile at several places, according to the German official communication issued tonight. The fighting, which is of a desperate character, is continuing. The communication follows:

"The battle in Flanders between Langemarck and Hollebeke—a front of fifteen kilometres—still continues. The enemy has succeeded at places in penetrating as far as one kilometre deep into our fighting zone, where desperate fighting is proceeding."

SEES IDEAL SOLDIERS IN CANADIAN FORCES

French Writers Praise Besiegers of Lens—Grenade Throwers of Finest Class—All Keep in Good Condition

By Roland Hill.

War Correspondents' Headquarters, France, Sept. 26. — French correspondents with the British troops have been lavish in their praise of the Canadians and their fighting at Lens. One of the most influential of the French provincial papers is "Le Telegramme," published at Boulogne, and the following literal translation, without comment on an article of August 25, speaks for itself.

It says: "The Canadians at the present time completely hold the light in the theatre of war. It is these picked troops that have been given the incomparable, the glorious and difficult task of retaking Lens—Lens where each house is a fortress—Lens and its slag heaps bristling with machine guns and trenches which the enemy only manages to hold by continual reinforcement."

"This Canadian army, altho only raised during the war, is curious to study for several reasons. Recruited exclusively by voluntary methods, it is composed of various elements curiously representing the world crusade against the abhorred Germans.

"One meets trappers, colonials, hunters, men who have lived full lives of adventure and peaceful merchants of Quebec or Montreal. There are battalions that speak only the true French of the 18th century. Some have names like 'Gros Rene,' others 'Oeil De Faucon,' and all these various elements are assimilated in the great British army, respecter of the traditions of others.

"These trappers, these hunters, these woodmen, trained to stand the limit of fatigue by their hard life, are ideal soldiers. They keep themselves in condition, even when they are in rest, by their games and sports, which they practice with fury but with method. Football and baseball, which they excel in, make them grenade throwers of the finest class. They can jump in their competitions 5 ft. 6 in., and when the time comes they can do the same in combat. They have not abandoned their national game of lacrosse, where these talents are necessary.

"There is one part of the Canadian army which is made up of foresters, who are actually working in England and France with their own machinery. They can, it is well known, cut down a forest in the twinkling of an eye.

"You have to admire their marvelous cutting while you sigh for our poor trees, sacrificed in this way for the country's cause. It would take several columns of this paper to relate the splendid deeds of these adventurous and heroic men."

SAXONS, SICK OF WAR GIVE UP GRATUITOUSLY

Others Only Wait Similar Chance to Surrender, Prisoners Declare—Glad to Be Finished With Beastly Business.

London, Sept. 26.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency).—Telegraphing from British headquarters in France this evening (Wednesday) Reuter's correspondent says:

"The Flanders campaign has been continued in a manner which cannot but be regarded with admiration and satisfaction. Both the strategic idea and the tactical methods show skill to which all the teachings of the war have been applied. In the early days of this great struggle we learnt much from the Germans. Today it is a simple truth to say they are learning much from us.

"On Thursday last we bit into the great Flanders ridge system to a depth of 1500 yards. Today we have gone on to a scarcely less degree.

"The great defeat which the German wireless concludes the British suffers flourishes well. May we be utterly crushed in the same terms. Doubtless we shall be anon.

"The fighting thruout today's battle has been severe and frequently of a desperate character. Some prisoners state that the attack was unexpected, but the preparations of the enemy do not bear this out.

Faultless Advance.

"In the north today's operations went ahead with almost faultless shape, possibly due to the fact that the opposition was much less determined than further to the south. Indeed, a number of the Saxons surrendered gratuitously to our men, declaring they were sick of the war and were glad to be finished with the beastly business, and that there were others only waiting a similar chance to surrender.

"In the centre the attack also went successfully, tho there was some hard fighting. The Anzacs pressed forward in their usual irresistible way, and early this morning low flying airmen reported them moving across the Polygon racecourse.

"But it was to the south of the Anzac right that severest opposition of the day was encountered. Nevertheless progress was made, but slowly in comparison with the Anzac push.

"The Australians took 800 prisoners in dugouts in Polygon Wood in their first advance.

"Elsewhere along the front of attack we gained our objectives. This means an extreme penetration of about three-quarters of a mile across ground of the utmost tactical value, densely scattered with camouflaged strong points held at exceptional strength in depth."

C.P.R. OPERATORS MAY QUIT WORK

Alleged Importation of United States Telegraphers Causes Unrest.

Unless the government enforces the Alien Labor Act and stops the importation of telegraph operators from the United States, which is alleged by S. Konemkamp, agent of the telegraphers' union, a general strike may be called, which will involve all the telegraphers in Canada and tie up the entire telegraph service in the country. A meeting of C.P.R. telegraphers is called for tonight, when a definite decision will be arrived at.

In an interview with a reporter for The World last night District Chairman G. R. Pawson of the C.P.R. operators said that if the report that the G.N.W. were employing United States operators and bringing them to Montreal and other cities in an endeavor to continue the service proved correct, it is not improbable that the C.P.R. telegraphers will decide to strike unless the government takes prompt measures to prevent violations of the act.

Desperate German Resistance Overcome at All Points of Attack---Zonnebeke With Strong Positions at Tower Hamlets Speedily Captured.

London, Sept. 26.—In an attack along a six-mile front today the British troops captured an important position around Tower Hamlets and strong German field works, according to the official report from Field Marshal Haig tonight. Powerful resistance was offered by the Germans thruout the day and they delivered many strong counter-attacks. "But," says the British commander, "our operations were entirely successful." The text of the statement reads:

"Our attack this morning was delivered on a total front of nearly six miles, from south of Tower Hamlets to east of St. Julien. Our operations were entirely successful.

"Later in the day the enemy delivered a series of heavy counter-attacks along our new front, resulting in hard fighting, which is still continuing at certain points. South of the Ypres-Menin road an attack carried out by English troops successfully completed the capture of the Tower Hamlets spur and gained possession of strong German field works on its eastern slopes, which formed our objectives.

"A powerful counter-attack in the direction of Gheluvelt was repulsed.

"On the right of our main attack, north of the Ypres-Menin road, our troops met obstinate resistance and heavy fighting took place in the area across which the enemy counter-attacked yesterday. After a severe struggle, lasting thruout the greater part of the day, English and Scottish battalions drove the enemy from his positions and accomplished the task allotted to them of securing the flank of our principal attack.

"In their advance our troops relieved two companies of Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who had held out with great gallantry during the night in a forward position in which they had been isolated by the enemy's attack yesterday morning.

"In the afternoon the enemy delivered another counter-attack in great strength in this sector, where fierce fighting is still continuing.

"Further north, Australian troops cleared the remainder of Polygon Wood and captured a German trench system to the east of it, which formed their objectives for the day.

"On their left, English, Scottish and Welsh battalions penetrated the enemy's defence to a depth of nearly a mile, stormed Zonnebeke and gained the line of their objectives.

"On the left of our attack, North Midlan dand London Territorials, attacking on both sides of the Wieltje-Gravenstafel and St. Julien-Gravenstafel roads, also captured their objectives and beat off a counter-attack. In this area our line has been advanced to a depth of half a mile across a country defended by a large number of fortified farms and concrete redoubts.

"Early in the afternoon the Germans delivered a second counter-attack with large forces and succeeded in pressing back our line a short distance on a narrow front. Our troops, counter-attacking in turn, at once captured the greater part of the lost ground.

"Over 1000 prisoners have been taken in these operations. A very large number of German dead have been found on the ground captured, and the enemy's losses, both in our attacks and in his subsequent counter-attacks, have again been heavy."

Another Heavy Attack.

An early despatch from R. T. Small, staff correspondent of the Associated Press, said:

Another heavy attack was delivered by the British at daybreak today against the German positions east of Ypres and early reports showed that the assaulting troops had pushed the enemy out of many important positions. The offensive was started along the major portion of the line that the British reached in last Thursday's battle, extending from east of St. Julien to southwest of Gheluvelt.

Along the northern half of the line of attack the British success was marked, but meagre details have been received from the sector of Polygon Wood and south of that place. On the north an advance of from a thousand to twelve hundred yards was made quickly at numerous places, and it was reported that strong British troops were engaged in fierce fighting only a few hundred yards west of Zonnebeke.

The Germans are resisting desperately, and along a front of about a thousand yards astride the Ypres-Menin road a terrific struggle has been proceeding.

The most important points involved in the new offensive, as was the case six days ago, lay directly east of the City of Ypres between the Ypres-Roulers railway and the Ypres-Menin highway. Here are situated those

(Concluded on Page 2, Column 3.)