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WEATHER—SHOWERY

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THE BRITISH AND FRENCH FORCES, WORKING IN COMPLETE ACCORD, OPERATE AS MIGHTY BROOM TO SWEEP HUN HORDES BACK TO BELGIAN BORDER

FRENCH START BIG DRIVE ON SOISSONS TO RHEIMS FRONT, CAPTURE 10,000 PRISONERS

Several German Lines Carried and Advance was in Every Way Successful—From Soissons to Craonne Whole German First Position Fell to French While East of Latter Point Second Line was Captured.

OPERATION WAS SOUTH OF BRITISH SUCCESS SMASHES HINDENBURG LINE IN NEW PLACE.

London Announces that French Movement is Result of Prolonged Conference Between British and French War Leaders—Both Mighty Armies are Working in Complete Accord to Sweep German Hordes Out of France and Belgium—Supreme Test of War is Now at Hand.

Paris, April 16.—The French began an attack this morning, after several days of artillery preparation, between Soissons and Rheims. Several German lines were carried and more than ten thousand Germans were taken prisoner. The official announcement of this success issued by the war office tonight describes the fighting as being of the utmost violence. The text of the statement reads:

"Between St. Quentin and the Oise artillery fighting continued throughout the day. South of the Oise we made new progress on the plateau east of the line of Barizil-Quincy Basse.

ATTACKED ON FRONT OF TWENTY-FIVE MILES.
"Between Soissons and Rheims, after artillery preparation which lasted several days, we attacked this morning the German lines along an extent of about forty kilometres (25 miles). A desperate battle was fought along the whole front, where the enemy had grouped very important forces and numerous artillery. Everywhere the valor of our troops overcame the energetic defence of our adversary.

GERMAN POSITIONS CAPTURED BY FRENCH.
"Between Soissons and Craonne the whole German first position fell into our power. East of Craonne our troops occupied the enemy's second position south of Juvincourt. Further to the south we carried our line as far as outskirts of Berniercourt and up to the Aisne Canal, at Lohve and Courcy.

"Violent counter-attacks, launched several times north of Ville-Au-Bols, were broken down by our fire with considerable losses to the enemy.

A SPLENDID TOLL OF 10,000 PRISONERS.
"The number of prisoners made by us up to the present exceeds 10,000. Likewise we captured important material which has not yet been counted.

"In Champagne artillery fighting continued actively during the day, on the various sectors. The cannonade was intermittent on the rest of the front.

"Belgian communication: There was artillery fighting along the whole Belgian front.

"Eastern theatre: April 15.—The artillery was particularly active on both sides on the Serbian front and west of the Cerna. A surprise attack attempted by the enemy on one of our posts at the Cerna bend was repulsed. Skirmishes continued in the zone west of Koritza."

FORCES ACTING IN ABSOLUTE ACCORD.
(From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press)—British Headquarters in France, April 16, via London—With the hot flames of war raging along the entire western front, British and French alike, it can be stated that each detail of the offensive plans has been worked out at prolonged conferences between General Nivelle and Field Marshal Haig and the war councils of France and England.

The part to be played by each belligerent has been definitely agreed upon, and a schedule has been arranged as for one great cohesive force. Various tasks have been precisely allotted along the wide-reaching battle lines, and the results thus far attained justify the conclusion that the supreme military test of the war is near at hand.

PLANNED THAT BRITISH SHOULD STRIKE FIRST.
It was planned that the British should strike from Arras while the French guns were still roaring their preparation for infantry hostilities along a wide front further to the south. The successes gained in the first stages of the British advance have given the French great confidence in the inauguration of their own enterprises.

The whole struggle in the western theatre promises to be a titanic one. The Allies are prepared as never before both in material and personnel and are co-operating with a smoothness which comes from a complete understanding and thorough appreciation of the work in hand. The Germans have more divisions on the western front than would have been thought possible a year ago, and however much of an "easterner" Field Marshal Von Hindenburg may have been in the past he will have to devote his entire time and attention to western events for some time to come.

FRANCE SENDS HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE UNITED STATES

Paris, April 16.—In a letter submitted to President Poincaré for his signature the decree appointing Captain Andre Tardieu, high commissioner to the United States, Premier Ribot says it has been found in the past that missions sent to the United States lacked co-ordination. He therefore had decided upon the creation of a high commissioner, which would centralize the presence drawn up by the different ministerial departments and direct press Zita.

FRANCE SENDS HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE UNITED STATES

Amsterdam, April 16, via London.—It is announced today by the newspaper Het Volk that a Dutch delegation of the International Socialist Bureau intends to proceed to Stockholm, Sweden, to summon a conference of Socialist representatives of the belligerent countries.

London, April 16.—A Central News despatch from Amsterdam reports that special services of intercession for peace were held yesterday in all the churches in Vienna. High mass was celebrated at St. Stephen's in the presence of Emperor Charles and Empress Zita.

BRITISH CAPTURE 14,000 PRISONERS

London, April 16.—"Since the morning of April 9," says the official report from British headquarters in France tonight, "we have taken over 14,000. The captured material includes 194 guns. "There is nothing of special interest to report. A heavy rain has fallen throughout the afternoon."

BRYAN STRONG FOR WILSON'S WAR PLANS

Following interview with the President Famous Pacifist Says he will Support Necessary Measures.

Washington, April 16.—President Wilson received Wm. J. Bryan at the White House today. Mr. Bryan reiterated to the president his offer, recently made by telegraph to be of any service he could to the government during the war.

CASUALTY LIST

- Infantry.
Killed in action—
Lieut. Alfred S. Churchill, Witton, Hants Co., N. S.
Lieut. H. E. Hilton, Kingston, N. S.
Died of wounds—
L. W. Crandieire, R. F. D. No. 1, Hartland, N. B.
M. J. McCormack, Lot 55, Launchin, P. E. I.
Wounded—
Lieut. A. J. McIntyre, 188 Howe street, Sydney, N. S.
Lieut. R. A. Major, 140 South street, Halifax, N. S.
Lieut. R. D. Graham, New Glasgow, N. S.
Lieut. R. E. Ingraham, North Sydney, N. S.
Ill and wounded—
M. Richard, Summerside, P. E. I.
Died—
M. Nyler, St. John's, Nfld.
Presumed to have died—
R. A. Smith, Weymouth Falls, N. S.
Mounted Rifles.
Wounded—
Gunner M. C. Steves, 475 St. George street, Moncton, N. B.
Artillery.
Wounded—
Corporal J. F. Harvey, 130 P. O. Box, Fredericton, N. B.
Gunner Wm. F. Taylor, Hillsborough, N. B.
The 8 o'clock list has the following names:
Infantry.
Wounded—J. L. Kennedy, 58 Sheriff street, St. John, N. B. N. Johnson, Upper Letches Creek, N. S.
Slightly wounded—Lieut. P. C. Crowell, Halifax, N. S. Lieut. H. S. Barker, Redway, N. B. Lieut. R. W. Casey, 112 Morris street, Halifax, N. S. H. L. Porter, Arcadie, N. S. W. C. Sloan, Windsor, N. S.
Wounded—J. P. Foley, Caraquet, N. B.

MONCTON MAN IS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

Moncton, April 16.—W. J. McBeath today received word from Ottawa that his son, George McBeath, had been seriously wounded in France. Private McBeath went overseas with Lieut.-Col. Geo. W. Fowler. He has two other brothers at the front with a famous New Brunswick battalion.

TO GIVE BUT SHORT SHRIFT TO TRAITORS

Uncle Sam Will Deal Vigorously with all Guilty of Treason.

PRESIDENT ISSUES DEFINITE WARNING

Bomb Plotters will be Gripped with Iron Hand and no Mercy for Those Shielding Conspirators.

Washington, April 16.—All persons in the United States, citizens and aliens, are warned in a proclamation issued today by President Wilson, that reasonable acts or attempts to shield those committing such acts will be vigorously prosecuted by the government.

BRITISH GIVE HUNS ONE SMALL TASTE OF THEIR OWN MEDICINE

In Reprisal for Submarine Attacks on Hospital Ships British Airmen Drop Bombs on Fribourg.

London, April 16.—A British admiralty statement issued tonight says: "In consequence of German submarine attacks on British hospital ships, in direct and flagrant contravention of the Hague convention, a large squadron of British and French airplanes carried out a reprisal bombardment on the town of Fribourg on Saturday. Many bombs were dropped with good results.

DENIES REPORT THAT GERMANS SEIZED FOOD

Director of American Belgian Relief Commission Says Story from Lens was Erroneous.

London, April 16.—W. D. Gregory, director of the Brussels office of the American Commission for Relief in Belgium who has arrived here by way of Switzerland, stated today that the report that the Germans had seized a three months stock of relief commission rations in Lens was erroneous, as the commission under the advice of the German authorities, removed all food from the warehouses there six weeks ago to a place a few miles within the Belgian border. The Germans, according to Mr. Gregory, removed the civilian population of Lens three weeks ago.

HOW UNCLE SAM CAN BE A MOST VALUABLE AID

Admiral Sir John Jellicoe Makes Statement to Associated Press.

SEND SMALL CRAFT HE TELLS AMERICA

German U-Boat Must be Fought in European Waters as None are Likely to Cross Atlantic.

London, April 16.—Admiral Sir John R. Jellicoe, former commander of the British grand fleet, and now first sea lord, informed the Associated Press, during the course of an interview today that anything and everything in the way of small craft, from destroyers to tugs, would be the most useful contribution which the United States could make to the war against German submarines. In this connection the first sea lord asserted that the best hunting ground for raiders is on this side of the water, as the possibility of German submarines operating on the American coast is almost negligible unless they have a base on that side.

"I have no desire to minimize to the American people," said the admiral, "the serious situation prevailing as a result of the illegal use of submarines by the Germans. Neither is it easy for us to take them into our confidence and tell them what we are doing to cope with the evil, without providing the Germans with useful information. No methods existed in the past for fighting the submerged submarine and the new inventions and processes for that purpose take time to develop. We are giving your navy all the information in our possession, and knowing its record, we have great confidence that American inventive genius will supplement it.

Assisting with Foods.

"As far as the feeding of the allied populations is concerned, our efforts must be concentrated on saving tonnage, while bringing in the necessary food, in order to minimize the effect of the submarine warfare. As you probably know, we have bought large quantities of wheat in Australia, but as that voyage is four times as long as that to America the bringing of this wheat takes four times as much tonnage as the carrying of American wheat to the allied powers. We therefore require all the wheat we can obtain from the United States and Canada.

Submarines More Cautious.

"The increasing armament of our mercantile marine has made submarines far more cautious and more submerged attacks are taking place. Of course this has one advantage, inasmuch as the raiders must depend upon their torpedoes for such attacks, and, being able to carry only a limited number, must return to port sooner than when they made their attacks from the surface. Your navy department knows just how many submarines we have sunk, but the exact number of U-boats which have actually never returned to port is known only to the German admiralty, which, naturally, does not give us this information.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO PUT WHEAT AND FLOUR ON THE FREE LIST; FARMERS TO BENEFIT

American Wheat and Flour Will Also be Admitted to Canada Duty Free—War Has Changed Situation and Free Wheat is Now of Value to Canadian Producers.

WASHINGTON'S VIEW IS THAT CANADA WILL BENEFIT MOST.

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, April 16.—The most important decision since 1911 was made this afternoon by Sir Thomas White, when he announced that the government has decided to take advantage of the clause in the Wilson-Underwood tariff and place wheat, wheat flour and semolina and wheat products on the free list.

NEARING FAMINE IN GERMAN CITIES?

Further Reduction of Bread Rations Causes Discontent and Suffering.

Copenhagen, via London, April 16.—The reduced bread rations in Germany have now gone into effect. Judging from the tone of the press and the news items in German newspapers it appears that the reduction has caused great discontent among workmen, and even threats to retaliate by strikes.

LIMITED OPERATIONS IN TRENTINO REGION

Bad Weather Operated Against Heavy Fighting on Italian Front.

Rome, April 16, via London, 6:15 p. m.—The following statement was issued by the war office today: "Owing to persistent snowstorms in the Trentino, operations yesterday were limited to patrol encounters which resulted in our favor. In the Upper But at dawn today a detachment of our troops after tunnelling through the snow entered the enemy entrenchments north of Monte Preti, and inflicted some casualties and captured arms and ammunition.

THE "DIVINE" SARAH IS IMPROVING

New York, April 16.—Sarah Bernhardt, the actress, who was removed from her hotel here yesterday, was said by her physicians tonight to be showing "signs of improvement." A consultation was held during the afternoon, but it could not be learned whether an operation would be performed.

ALL VESSELS FLYING THE UNION JACK WILL BE TAKEN.

New York, April 16.—The Associated Press today carries the following: Official notice of the requisitioning by the British government of all ships under the British flag in accordance with the announcement of Premier Lloyd George some time ago, has been received by the International Mercantile Marine. The order becomes effective beginning with the arrival of vessels at home ports which left their port of departure on or after March 21. They are requisitioned at so-called "blue book rates," fixed by the government, and somewhat lower than private rates for cargo space recently current. More than 80 per cent of the tonnage of the International Mercantile Marine is under the British flag.