

## The Western Campaign

(Continued)

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THROUGHOUT the entire line there has been the almost inevitable daily artillery duel. At many places attacks have been made in smaller force but not pressed home. At other places, as where the plucky Belgian army is entrenched on the Yser, there has been fierce fighting but no change of ground. In four parts of the line definite results have been obtained, on the west front held by the British, in the Champagne and the Argonne region east of Rheims, in the district south of Verdun between the rivers Meuse and Moselle, and in the Vosges mountains on the Franco-German border.

During February and March the French exerted a continual pressure on the Germans in the Champagne at Perthes and Beauséjour, and at Bagatelle and Vauquois in the Argonne. General Joffre has since intimated the purpose of this—to see what could be done against the German positions, and to wear down the enemy's reserves of men and ammunition. These objects were achieved very satisfactorily; positions were taken that the enemy had been fortifying for months, and the foe was compelled to use thirty-three instead of eighteen regiments. The ground gained has been incorporated into the French lines.

The British attack on the Neuve Chapelle front was quietly planned for March 10th. Guns were massed, 350 of all calibres, on a front of about 2,000 yards. A terrific bombardment of half-an-hour was directed on the enemy's position to clear the way. The British then made a fine charge, carrying their line forward about two miles. In the meantime British aviators were destroying railways, thus interfering with the reinforcing of the German line. The battle went on for three days, the German losses being about 18,000 and the British about 13,000. The ground gained would have been more considerable and the losses less severe for the British, had not a battery, losing touch, continued firing, and had not an officer of reserves failed in a part of his duty.

Farther north the Germans had a plan of their own. The British salient at Ypres has been a constant menace to the enemy. As a counter stroke to Neuve Chapelle they now attacked, March 11th, at St. Eloi, where the line turns to the east to go round Ypres. The battle continued for three days with the outcome again favourable to the British. This