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FRIDAY MORNING JULY 19 1918

VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,764 TWO CENTS

COUNTER-ATTACK SUCCEEDS

Allied Advance on Wide Front Threatens to Cut Off Large Army of Crown Prince---French in Capturing High Ground Get Within One Mile of Soissons.

ALLIED ATTACK CRUMPLING UP GERMAN LINE

Many Thousands of Prisoners Fall Into Attackers' Hands.

SIX-MILE PENETRATION

French Threaten Territory of Vital Importance to Enemy.

From the region west of Soissons to the northwest of Chateau Thierry French and American armies have begun a strong offensive against the Germans which possibly may have a marked influence on the future of the world war. In its initial stage the movement has been rewarded with great success.

All along the 28 miles the allied troops have dashed in brilliant fashion across positions held by the Germans, killing, wounding or capturing thousands of the enemy and taking towns, villages, and large quantities of guns and other war supplies.

Nowhere, according to last reports from the front, has the enemy been able to stay the progress of their assailants, altho counter-attacks were resorted to on some important sectors after the first stages of surprise occasioned by the unexpected attack had worn away.

Four Thousand Prisoners.

To the Americans alone in the region west of Soissons came 4000 prisoners, 30 guns and much war material. Additional large number of captives and further greater stores of guns, ammunition and other war necessities were taken by the French. Before all the positions of the Americans and the French, their guns and machine guns cut to pieces fleeing hordes of the enemy or bands which tried to withstand the onrush.

The blow, probably long in its inception, is being aimed at territory vital to the Germans—territory the capture of which not alone would mean the forced retirement of the Germans from the entire salient extending southeastward across the occupied region from Soissons to Rheims with Chateau Thierry its southern apex, but possibly would result in the capture of thousands of Germans operating there, many of them comprising the best soldiers of the German emperor's armies.

Important Roads Seized.

So fast has the advance progressed that already French and American troops have reached or are astride several of the important roads of supply for the German armies in the south, particularly the line running from Soissons to Chateau Thierry. It is not improbable by reason of this fact and the inability of the enemy instantly to remove them that further large quantities of supplies will be taken.

Six miles apparently was the deepest point of penetration made by the allied troops in the first day of fighting. This was at Buzancy, south of Soissons, which they captured and passed thru eastward. At several other points distances of from four to five miles were reached from the original starting line. At Soissons the Americans and Frenchmen came to within a mile of the city. Altogether more than 20 villages fell into the hands of the allies all along the battleline.

Continue to Hold Germans.

All along the front on both sides of Rheims the entente troops continue to hold the Germans wherever they have seen fit to launch attacks. East of Rheims the French have recaptured Prunay, but south of the Marne in local fighting they have lost some further ground. The German official communication asserts that in this region success attended the German efforts.

Southwest of Villers-Bretonneux, in the Amiens sector, the Australians again have smashed into the German line—this time on a front exceeding a mile in length, capturing guns and prisoners. East of Hebuterne the British also improved their positions. The Germans are continuing the bombardments of various sectors held by the British in France and Flanders.

OVER ISLE OF THANET.

London, July 18.—A German airplane appeared over the Isle of Thanet on the northeast extremity of Kent County, this evening. An official announcement says that anti-aircraft guns fired on the machine which turned to the eastward and proceeded out to sea.

Bridge Collapses Engulfing Convoy

French Air Forces Inflict Heavy Losses on Germans in Attacks on Marne Pontoons---Violent Explosion at Station.

Paris, July 18. — The work of the French air forces in the operations is described in an official communication issued tonight as follows:

"Our aerial forces have continued to play a brilliant part in the battle. On July 16 and 17 our bombing escadrilles attacked without cessation the bridges over the Marne, obstructing the passage of enemy troops. These troops, attacked by machine gun and bombs at the moment of debouching on the north and south banks of the river, suffered serious losses and were obliged to disperse several times.

"A bridge thrown across the river by the enemy in front of Dormans was copiously sprinkled with projectiles and collapsed; a convoy which was crossing it was engulfed in the river.

"Our bombing machines likewise carried out expeditions against cantonments, railway stations, munition depots and concentration places in the enemy rear areas.

"Twenty-one tons of explosives were dropped during the day and fourteen during the night, doing much damage.

"A violent explosion occurred in the station at Maison Bleu. Fire broke out in the stations at Coucy, Les Etapes and Bazoches.

"Our airplanes, with the usual dash, have engaged in numerous combats over the enemy lines. Twenty-nine German machines were brought down or put out of action and five captive balloons were set afire. Yesterday, despite the violent wind and torrential rains, our squadrons took the air and obtained good results. Twelve German airplanes were brought down and four captive balloons were destroyed.

"In the attacks on the Marne crossings 5,600 kilos of explosives were used."

FOLLOW THE LEAD OF UNITED STATES

Government Passes Order Placing Certain Commodities Under License to Save Tonnage.

Ottawa, July 18.—Upon the recommendation of the minister of finance two important orders-in-council have been passed by the Dominion Government governing the import and export commodities embraced in the list which the United States Government has placed under license for the purpose of conserving ocean tonnage in order that additional shipping may be made available for the transportation of troops and supplies to Europe.

It is desirable that Canada should co-operate with the United States and the other allies to this end, as evasion of the American regulations has occurred thru the importation and exportation of restricted articles into and from the United States thru Canada, to whose trade the American restrictions have not hitherto applied. The orders-in-council provide that the import and export of the list of commodities in question shall be prohibited except under license from the war trade board.

By reason of the fact that communication between Canada and the United States is chiefly by rail it is not intended that there shall be any restriction under the new order upon Canada's imports and exports from and to the United States, and the war trade board has advised the department of customs that, until further notice, they approve of the import and export of a list of commodities without license. All previous orders-in-council restricting imports or exports, except under license still remain in effect.

RAILWAY INCREASES.

McAdoo Award Goes Into Effect on August First.

Ottawa, July 18.—An announcement by the war labor board respecting application of the McAdoo award, was given out today. This award provides for increases ranging from 43 per cent. down. These increases will be effective on Aug. 1, for all employes, except those belonging to organizations whose agreements with the various companies have expired, for whom the effective date back earlier than May 1, 1918.

Human Courage at the Peak.

You can feel in your bones as you read the war despatches and catch the spirit of the allies reflected in press and public men, by women, children and those at home, that the courage of the soldiers at the front fighting for liberty is at a pitch higher than ever before recorded in the history of warfare. The danger is greater, the load on nerve and brain and body is at the peak, and were it not for the great advances in war rationing, clothing and sanitation many would go to pieces under the strain. But a super courage seems to pervade all the men; all are in good heart, humor prevails, and the Sammies appear to revel in their new experience. And courage in the sorrows of the war was never higher.

300,000 WOMEN ON LAND IN BRITAIN

More Than Three Times as Many as Were Employed Last Year.

London, July 18.—More than 300,000 women are at present engaged on land in Great Britain compared with 91,000 last year, Robert E. Prothero, president of the board of agriculture, told the house of commons today in discussing the estimates of the agricultural department. There is also a large increase in the number of soldiers, German prisoners and interned aliens, doing agricultural work. The speaker added thaat the difficulty was that, while the shortage of labor might be made good to some extent, the quality could not be made good.

"Instead of a considerable decline, as in 1916," said the minister, "we have increased the arable area of the country by 2,412,000 acres. We have an increase of the wheat area of 752,000 acres; barley, 158,000 acres; and oats, 735,000 acres. We have not neglected crops for livestock. These crops have increased by 280,000 acres. Potatoes have increased by 217,000 acres, an increase of 50 per cent., or 27 per cent. above the highest on record."

The position of the allies with regard to food, subject to the harvest being an average one, said the minister, was decidedly better than in 1917 or 1916, and the relief to British tonnage by not having to bring supplies from America was also of the greatest material assistance.

GRAND FRENCH ATTACK IS FULL DRESS SHOW

London, July 18.- All the way from Belleau to the Aisne the French attack was launched at daybreak today.

It was what the British call a "full dress show," with every department, every weapon available, in play, including the new French mosquito tanks.

These tanks did excellent work at some of the most difficult points.

These Are the Big Days in Haying.

Thursday was a real haying day, bright warm sun to dry what had been already cut, and gets to the barn; still better, to cut what in all likelihood will be ready to team on Friday. But it is in the hayfield, especially after a rainy day, that the daylight saving plan gets its first jolt. Everyone is up and ready, but the hay isn't always dry, and it is almost noon before the first load is in. But there's an easy way of curing that: to work for a couple of hours after supper. And that's what many of us will have to do this harvest.

There is still a lot of haying to be done on the big farms; to farms that take off two to three hundred loads, with not a fourth of it yet in. Today and tomorrow are likely to be top-notch days.

The showers of the week reflected themselves in the great advance, first of all in fodder corn, now thirty inches high, and then in the grain crop. Spots in wheat fields were taking on a golden glow, the first sign of a coming harvest of sheaves.

But let everyone get after the hay from now on, for hay is all the more to be desired with the certainty of a short and cobless corn crop.

TWENTY VILLAGES RECAPTURED IN ALLIED COUNTER-ATTACK

Drive Against Twenty-Eight Mile German Front, Between the Marne and Aisne, Achieves Remarkable Progress, Including Occupation of Plateaux Dominating Soissons Junction---French Guns Now Command Railway Centre on Which German Armies Depend.

Paris, July 18.—More than twenty villages have been recaptured by the French and American troops in the offensive begun this morning, according to the war office announcement tonight, which reports also the occupation of the plateaux, dominating Soissons on the southwest. The statement says:

"After having broken the German offensive on the Champagne and Rheims mountain fronts on the 15th, 16th and 17th, the French troops, in conjunction with American forces, attacked the German positions on the 18th between the Aisne and the Marne on a front of 45 kilometres (approximately 28 miles). The front comprises Ambleny, Longpont, Troesnes and Bouresches.

"We have made an important advance into the enemy lines and have reached the plateaux dominating Soissons on the southwest and the region of Chaudun.

"Between Villers-Helon and Noroy-sur-Ourcq violent engagements have been in progress. South of the Ourcq our troops have gone beyond the general line of Marizey, St. Genevieve, Hautevesnes and Belleau.

"More than twenty villages have been retaken by the admirable dash of the Franco-American troops, as well as several thousand prisoners and important war material."

Extremely Well.

London, July 18.—The great counter-attack in which the French and American troops are participating between the Aisne and the Marne has succeeded extremely well, according to latest advices received here tonight, and the situation for many reasons is considered extremely promising.

Owing to the fact that there was no artillery preparation, the action was a complete surprise for the Boche, and the enemy artillery reaction was very weak. On the other hand, the French counter-battery work was exceedingly effective. Enemy aviators entered into the action and attempted to impede the advance, using their machine guns at a low altitude.

Notwithstanding this, the counter-attack was noteworthy for the reason that the French offensive accomplished a great deal more than was achieved by the German drive on both sides of Rheims. The length of the front over which an advance was made was practically the same, and the French and Americans working together advanced in six hours virtually double the distance covered by the Germans in three days.

Junction Under Fire.

So far as is known at present, the junction line between Soissons and Outchy-le-Chateau and also the junction line between Soissons and Fismes are under direct observation and fire from the new French positions on the Crise Ravine. These two lines are the only lines by which the Germans in this salient between Soissons and Rheims can be supplied. It is possible, however, that the Germans may have succeeded in connecting up their lines in another way.

The French counter is regarded here as one of the most brilliant pieces of work in the war and it is believed that the results will prove extremely valuable, as the French have obtained most important strategic positions.

Puts End to Offensive.

In London the view is held that the advance has put an end to the German offensive for the present and that Rheims can be considered comparatively safe. The French have reached all their first objectives. South of the Marne much local fighting is reported. The French have lost ground, but are still within effective range of the German bridges across the river, tho it is possible that they may have lost direct observation. Further to the east the allies have regained ground in a good many sectors, especially in the sector west of Massiges.

Gain Crise Ravine.

London, July 18. — French troops have gained the ravine at the River Crise running into Soissons on a five-mile front down to the east of Buzancey, which means a maximum advance at this point of five miles, according to news received in London tonight.

Up to 1 o'clock this afternoon French troops had captured the heights overlooking Fontenoy on the extreme left, and had progressed to Monte de Paris, within a mile of the City of Soissons.

The French are on the western outskirts of Chouy and Neuilly-St. Front, and from there to Belleau Wood the average depth of the advance is about three miles.

East of Rheims the allies have captured Prunay.

An American division co-operating with the French troops in their counter-attack today captured the Town of Vierzy, about six miles south of Soissons, and have advanced three miles beyond the town, the advices add. The Americans operating in the region west of Soissons, the despatches add, have taken 4,000 prisoners, 30 guns, and much other material which has not yet been estimated.

South of Vierzy, on the heights north of the River Ourcq valley, the Germans hastily counter-attacked, and the situation at that point still is obscure.

Weak Resistance

London, July 18—Reuter's correspondent at French headquarters in France suggests that the complete surprise of the enemy by the Franco-American attack was due partly to lack of vigilance, owing to violent thunderstorms and the rain and wind which swept the whole country between the Aisne and Marne during the night The German first lines, the correspondent says, made weak resistance and many prisoners were taken in the first hour of the attack.

The correspondent predicts stiffer fighting Friday, when he believes masses of unused German troops beyond the Aisne will be brought up.

"The operation may be regarded as a big diversion on the flank of the enemy salient between the Aisne and the Marne with a view to arresting his advance toward Epernay and the mountain of Rheims," says the correspondent.

"It was the first time since the German offensive began March 3 of the development of an independent manoeuvre which obliged the Germans to give battle on ground of General Foch's choosing. The changed situation is largely due to the progressive diminution of the enemy's superiority since March and the arrival of a powerful American contingent on the allied front."

Shouted "Kamerad."

On the French Front in France, July 18.—When the entente allies' attack began at dawn today the Germans were surprised and offered slight resistance in the advanced lines, many immediately throwing up their arms and shouting "Kamerad."

The barrage fire preceded the waves of infantry, but one of the heaviest storms of this year drowned the noise of the shells.

Most of the Germans had taken shelter in their dugouts from the de-

LORD ROBERT CECIL RETIRES AS BRITISH MINISTER OF BLOCKADE

Sir Laming Worthington-Evans Accepts Portfolio---Predecessor Becomes Assistant Foreign Secretary.

London, July 18.—Lord Robert Cecil, minister of blockade, has relinquished his post and will become assistant secretary of state for foreign affairs.

Sir Laming Worthington-Evans, who has been parliamentary and financial secretary to the ministry of munitions, has been appointed to succeed Lord Robert as minister of blockade.

TORONTO TO HAVE BAPTIST CONVENTION AFTER MUCH DEBATE

Executive of Union Rescinds Former Decision in Consequence of Protests.

CHURCH NOT SELECTED

Gathering, Set for October, Expected to Be One of Biggest Held.

Toronto is to have the largest and most important Baptist convention in the Canadian history of the denomination. The convention will be held in October. This is a sensational change of program as the convention had been officially called off by the unanimous vote of the executive committee of the Baptist Union of Ontario and Quebec, as a result of a referendum vote given by a portion of the local churches which was two to one against the convention being held. The announcement of the calling off of the convention aroused a storm of protest from the leading city Baptist churches, especially of Toronto and Montreal. The Toronto Baptist Association passed a strong resolution calling for the holding of the convention, and vehement protests were publicly made by Rev. C. J. Holman, Rev. Dr. Wallace and other Baptist leaders.

A substitute proposal of a special week of meetings during the convention dates added fuel to the fire, and was rejected with some vigor by the Toronto Baptist Churches.

Hold Emergency Meeting.

So high and sweeping became the pro-convention sentiment that the executive held an emergency meeting and yesterday issued the following official announcement "Upon motion of Rev. W. B. Merrill, seconded by Rev. Dr. W. J. McKay, the resolution to cancel the convention this year was rescinded."

A sub-committee of the Baptist Union executive was appointed to report upon which invitation from the leading Toronto Baptist churces would be accepted.

Unanimous Decision.

Rev. Dr. W. J. McKay said the motion to call the convention was "heartily and unanimously adopted. The nearly two months have been lost in the preparation of the program. I do not expect a convention less in size, inspiration and purposeful results. It will rest largely with the pastors, churches and delegates to leave nothing undone that is necessary to make a successful gathering.

"These are days of expansion in many directions, and the prominent thought in the convention will probably be thaat of advance in every department of the work of the denomination. There must be no standing still."

MORE DINEEN IMPROVEMENTS.

The Dineen store on Temperance and Yonge streets is to be greatly improved by the extension of display rooms on the second floor, adding more fitting rooms in the ladies' ready-to-wear and dress department. Dineen customers will appreciate this change as more space is given to the display of dresses, coats, suits, waists, sweater coats and summer furs.

FRANCE'S CAVALRY POUR THRU GAPS

Allied Horse Pass Beyond Soissons-Thierry Road in Stirring Ride Onward.

With the American Army in France, July 18.—French cavalry has crossed beyond the Soissons—Chateau Thierry Road to openings made by the Franco-American forces.

The greatest progress made up to latest reports was about ten kilometres, or a little over six miles.

After passing the third objectives set for the operations of the morning, the French and Americans south of Soissons launched a powerful attack at noon.

The American troops went forward swiftly and fought with fury. Nothing seemed to stop them, especially in the region of Soissons and to the south of that city. Light and heavy pieces were moved up as the troops advanced, and soon after each barrage ended, shells from the allied guns were deluging the enemy's rear areas, playing havoc with his forces, whether those in retreat or reserves endeavoring to come up.

It was open warfare with all the attending excitement, and thru the gaps made by heavy guns and infantry the French cavalry dashed, beating down those in their path. Terrific losses were inflicted at all points on the enemy. The tanks did all that was expected of them. The great lumbering engines rolled along in front of the infantry driving the Germans before them with streams of bullets and clearing away many obstructions that had escaped the artillery.

The enemy early began to bring up strong reinforcements. Fresh troops have appeared at various points, and a heavy counter-attack will probably have to be withstood.

So far has the attack progressed that tonight the enemy in the vicinity of Chateau Thierry is considered to be in a somewhat dangerous position—one where he will have to act quickly.

FRENCH CARRY PEAK IN ALBANIA ADVANCE

Paris, July 18.—A French official communication says: "Eastern theatre, July 17.—On the Struma patrol encounters took place, in the course of which the Greek troops captured prisoners.

"In Albania our advanced guards pushed forward on the Gora Top Ridge to Col de Lunga. Allied aviators bombed airdromes at Hudova and Nanatlarol. In the course of aerial combats one enemy airplans was brought down and two others were forced to land."

GENERAL MANGIN LEADS BIG COUNTER-ATTACK

Paris, July 18.—"The front upon which General Mangin attacked this morning measures about 21 miles," says The Temps. "The enemy was totally surprised.

"The attack was made virtually without artillery preparation. Our infantry, supported by many tanks, advanced rapidly under the protection of a barrage fire, which was extended before the advancing infantry.

"The forest of Villers-Cotterets is now virtually cleared."

ATTEMPT TO RAID PARIS.

Paris, July 19.—Several enemy airplanes attempted to raid the Paris district last night. The air defences were put into action immediately, says the official statement, and the batteries opened fire. The alarm was given at 11.55 and "all clear" at 12.40 a.m.