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MONDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 26 1917—SIXTEEN PAGES.

VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,256

**PROBS**—Strong winds; fair and mild; local snow  
or rain; colder again at night.

# TWO BIG GAINS ARE MADE

## TWO VILLAGES TAKEN IN A BRITISH ADVANCE

**Petit Miramont and Serre,  
as Well as Other Important  
Points on Wide Front  
on the Ancre, Wrested  
From Germans by Steady  
Pressure.**

Special Cable to The Toronto World.  
London, Feb. 25.—Serre Village, Petit  
Miramont and several other important  
points on a wide front have fallen  
into British hands as a result of the  
strong pressure exercised in the past  
few days. The strong pressure began to give  
results on Saturday, when the Ger-  
mans vacated important positions on  
both sides of the stream. They then  
advanced on a front of a mile and,  
making considerable progress, entered  
the Village of Petit Miramont.  
South and southwest of Serre the  
British began to advance on Satur-  
day, and by nightfall had made con-  
siderable progress. They continued  
their pressure and the Germans were  
forced to yield ground. They made  
little opposition to the British and  
small bodies of Haig's troops pushed  
forward on a wide front, occupying  
Serre Village and several other im-  
portant points further east.  
The other important event on the  
British front today comprised a suc-  
cessful raid against Vierstraet, in Bel-  
gium, on a front of 500 yards. The  
British remained in the German  
trenches for an hour, doing much dam-  
age and taking 55 prisoners.  
**Official Statements.**  
The official report from British  
headquarters in France tonight reads:  
"During the past 24 hours the en-  
emy continued to yield ground along  
the Ancre. Meeting with little oppo-  
sition, small bodies of our troops pushed  
forward on a wide front, occupying  
Serre Village and several other im-  
portant points further east.  
"We successfully raided last evening  
east of Vierstraet, Belgium, on a front  
of 500 yards. Our troops remained in  
the German trenches for an hour, in-  
flicting heavy casualties, destroying  
several dugouts, a mine shaft and three  
machine guns and captured 55 prison-  
ers and one machine gun. We also  
entered the enemy's positions during  
the night east of Armentieres.  
"A hostile raiding party reached our  
trenches early this morning east of  
Ypres, under cover of a heavy bom-  
bardment. The raiders were immedi-  
ately detected with loss. The enemy  
blew a mine this morning east of  
Ypres. There was considerable arti-  
llery activity again on both sides south  
and north of the Somme.  
"The village of Petit Miramont south  
of the Ancre, in France, has been en-  
tered by British troops as an advance  
on the front of Serre. The official  
statement from the war office Saturday night. The British  
south of the Ancre, has been pushed  
forward on a front of over a mile and  
a half.  
"The text of the statement reads:  
"As a result of the unceasing pres-  
sure of our troops the enemy today  
vacated further important positions on  
both banks of the Ancre. We made  
considerable progress south and south-  
east of Miramont on a front of a mile  
and entered the Village of Petit Mira-  
mont. We also advanced our line on  
a front of over one and one-half miles  
south and southeast of Serre.  
"During the night the enemy pushed  
one of our posts west of Lens. We  
recovered the post by an immediate  
counter-attack.  
"There has been considerable mutual  
artillery activity at Armentieres during  
the day and night on both banks of  
the Somme, southwest of Arras and  
south of Ypres."

## Germans, Forced to Shorten Lines on the Ancre, Retreat to a Depth of Three Miles, Taking Guns and Ammunition.

London, Feb. 25.—Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters in  
France sends a description of how the Germans are shortening their line  
in the Ancre Valley. He says the decision to do this evidently was ar-  
rived at some time ago and that the recent German activity during the  
long spell of hard frost meant that the Germans were stealthily with-  
drawing their guns and breaking up their ammunition dumps near the  
front line. The correspondent adds that apparently the German retreat  
was carried on to a depth of about three miles and that they employed  
obstructive tactics without resorting to rear guard actions.



HIS EXCELLENCY THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE BEING SHOWN AROUND  
EXHIBITION CAMP ON SATURDAY BY GEN. LOGIE.

## ATTACKS OF AUSTRIANS AGAINST ITALIANS FAIL

Ally's Aviators Engage in Succes-  
ful Fights With Enemy.

Rome, Feb. 25, via London.—Several  
attacks were made by the Austrians  
yesterday, but, according to today's  
official report, they were defeated by  
the Italians. The announcement fol-  
lows:  
"The artillery was more active in  
the Astico and Travignole valleys, at  
the head of the Cordevele and But  
torrents, and in the area east of  
Gorizia. The enemy attempted to at-  
tack our positions on Monte Mosclagh,  
on the Asiago plateau, in the Grande  
valley, on the upper But and in the  
Pontebana valley, but was repulsed  
everywhere.  
"The weather was favorable for  
aerial activity. Our aviators, sup-  
ported by the artillery, put hostile  
aeroplanes to flight."

## POWERFUL APPEAL TO RETURNED MEN

Their Great Influence is Need-  
ed in Work for Coun-  
try's Good.

## ARE PROVEN PATRIOTS

Preacher at Yesterday's Ser-  
vice Tells of Their Gifts  
to the Nation.

British flags draped above the al-  
tar, British hymns from the throats  
of more than 4000 soldiers and citi-  
zens, British bands stirring patriot-  
ism in the blood, ringing words of  
British loyalty and heroism, the spirit  
of the Canadian army evident in the  
hearts of all and the pressure and  
stress of a grave national crisis ever  
in their minds.  
These characterized probably the  
most impressive church service ever  
held in Toronto, when Archdeacon  
Cody, in a brief, pointed, yet eloquent  
address to 1100 veterans of the Great  
War inaugurated the campaign to  
raise a draft of 250 men thru the  
10th Regiment, Lt.-Col. W. S. Din-  
nick, commanding, to be known as  
the Great War Veterans' Overseas  
Company. The service was held in  
St. Paul's Anglican Church, Bloor  
street. Among those present were the  
Duke of Devonshire and vice-regal  
party; Sir John Hendrie, lieutenant-  
governor of Ontario; Sir William Mu-  
lock, Mayor T. L. Church and Gen.  
W. A. Logie.  
Rev. Russell Maclean, chaplain of  
the 10th Regiment, read the prayers.  
Proclaiming the ideals of Canada and  
sketching the need of further sacri-  
fices, Archdeacon Cody called upon

## WAR SUMMARY THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

At the eastern extremity of the far-flung British battle line, in Mesopotamia, the British have crossed and bridged the Tigris River, up-  
stream from Kut-el-Amara, and they are now proceeding to surround  
the fortress and lock up in it the Turkish forces defending this im-  
portant region. The crossing took place at the Shumran bend, and the British  
did it quite neatly by distracting the attention of the Turkish command  
with their attacks on the Sannaiyat position, fifteen miles downstream  
from the city. The first parties of Britons crossed the river in boats and  
secured a solid footing on the right bank. Then they proceeded with the  
construction of the bridge. They finished this work by nightfall on Fri-  
day, and they called their troops across it to the right bank at any  
time in order to invest the town. Five hundred and forty-four prisoners  
and five machine guns fell into British hands in the fighting on the right  
bank.  
Having thus confused the Turkish command, the British also suc-  
ceeded in extending their gains at Sannaiyat. They had previously taken  
two lines of Turkish trenches in the southern portion of this Sannaiyat  
position on a frontage of 450 yards and to a depth of 100 yards. Six  
Turkish counter-attacks failed to turn them out, and on Thursday after-  
noon they launched a further assault. This onset succeeded in its objects,  
it extended the gap in the first and second lines of Turkish trenches from  
450 yards breadth to 900 yards. The next day, Friday, while they were  
securing their crossing from the Shumran bend, they also resumed their

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1 and 2)

## GERMAN SAILORS ON MARCH INTO BRAZIL

Men Break From Interment in  
Argentina, It is Reported.

London, Feb. 25.—A dispatch to The  
Sunday Observer from Rio Janeiro  
says it is reported that bands of armed  
Germans have crossed the Brazilian  
border at Rio Grande do Sul and are  
proceeding in the direction of Santa  
Catharina. It is believed, the report  
adds, that they were sailors who have  
been interned in the Argentina.

A despatch from Rio Janeiro on Feb.  
25 said that former Deputy Governor  
Freitas, in an interview in the news-  
paper A Noite, had denounced opera-  
tions carried on in southern Brazil in  
connection with the Hamburg Coloniza-  
tion Company. The reports which  
caused the protest, the despatch added,  
were to the effect that this company  
proposed to colonize a portion of the  
country between the states of Santa  
Catharina and Rio Grande do Sul, to  
which only colonists of German na-  
tionality would be admitted.

## HUN ATTACK ON SEVEN VESSELS AROUSES DUTCH

Three Torpedoed Outright and  
Four Badly Damaged by  
Bombs.

## BRITAIN NOT BLAMED

Belief That Safe Conduct Had  
Been Granted Led to  
Disaster.

London, Feb. 25.—German submarines  
attacked upon a fleet of seven Dutch  
steamers, resulting in the sinking of  
three and severe damages to the re-  
maining four, have stirred public feel-  
ing in Holland to a high degree. De-  
spatches from the Hague and Amster-  
dam indicate that public clamor is so  
great that the government is being  
likely to be silenced by mere lodging  
of a formal protest.  
From Dutch sources the Reuter Tele-  
graph Co. learns that it was the sub-  
marine U-23 which attacked all seven  
Dutch steamers. Three were torped-  
oed outright while German sailors  
boarded the other four and placed  
bombs, which were exploded. So far  
as known these four did not sink, but  
their whereabouts have not been ascer-  
tained, with the exception of one, the  
Menado, which was towed into harbor  
by a British trawler.  
The crews of the Dutch vessels rowed  
to the Scilly Islands, believing that all  
ships had been sunk.  
Dutch Feeling Bitter.  
A Hague despatch says: "While offi-  
cial circles remain gravely calm there  
has been an inevitable outburst of  
deep indignation on the part of the  
Dutch newspapers. What 'The Am-  
sterdam Telegraaf' calls 'a blow in our  
face and the greatest humiliation to  
which a neutral state has been sub-  
jected'.  
The paper adds: "We confess inabil-  
ity to see how the honor of our nation  
can further be maintained by protests."  
Other less bellicose organs reflect  
hardly less embitterment on the part  
of the whole nation against the latest  
example of German ruthlessness, while  
(Concluded on Page 2, Column 5).

## LIBERALS WIN IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Majority of Two With Four  
Seats Still to Be  
Filled.

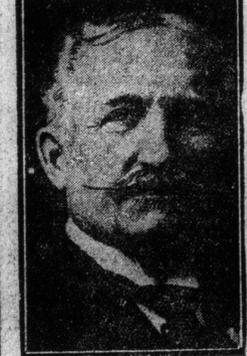
## MINISTERS DEFEATED

Foster, Opposition Leader,  
Also Beaten in St. John's  
County.

St. John, Feb. 25.—The Murray govern-  
ment of New Brunswick was de-  
feated Saturday. The Liberal opposi-  
tion, going to the country with three  
seats in the legislature, carried 25 out  
of 44 seats balloted for and, on the  
strength of north shore returns, have  
prospects of taking all four in Glou-  
cester on Monday. This would give  
them 27 seats in a house of 48, or a  
comfortable working majority of five,  
after election of a speaker.  
Should the Murray government carry  
Gloucester, which appears unlikely,  
the 10th Regiment, read the prayers.  
Proclaiming the ideals of Canada and  
sketching the need of further sacri-  
fices, Archdeacon Cody called upon  
(Concluded on Page 2, Column 7).

## BRITISH CROSS TIGRIS TURK RESISTANCE FAILS

### SIR LYMAN MELVIN JONES



Who is reported to be slowly recover-  
ing from the results of a surgical  
operation. He was reported to be  
not so well Sunday, having con-  
tracted influenza.

### PROTEST BY HOLLAND OVER AERIAL INVASION

German Aviator, Who Flies Over  
Dutch Territory, is Fired  
Upon.

The Hague, via London, Feb. 25.—  
Baron Gevers, the Dutch minister at  
Berlin, it is officially announced, has  
handed to the German Government an  
earnest remonstrance against the act  
of a German aviator in flying over  
Dutch territory last Saturday. The  
airship was fired upon at several  
places, as it did not fly a signal of  
distress, which Holland and Germany  
agreed upon recently as the only ex-  
cuse for flying over Holland.

## Enemy's Attention Drawn Towards Sannaiyat, and Under Cover of Artillery and Machine Guns, Landing is Made, Many Prisoners Taken and Bridge Built in Nine Hours—Simultaneously, Third and Fourth Lines of Turkish Trenches at Sannaiyat Are Taken on a Front of 1050 Yards.

London, Feb. 25.—The following official communication, dealing with  
the operations in Asiatic Turkey, was issued by the war office this  
evening:

"The southern portion of the Sannaiyat position captured in the first  
assault Thursday consisted of two lines of trenches on a frontage of 450  
yards and to a depth of 100 yards. The Turks delivered six counter-  
attacks, but, although one of them was temporarily successful, we secured and  
consolidated all our gains.

"On the afternoon of Thursday a further assault was launched against  
the Turkish first and second lines to the north, and in prolongation of  
those secured in the morning, and our whole objective was gained. Heavy  
Turkish counter-attacks temporarily retarded our progress, but we finally  
consolidated our gains, and at the end of the day the first two lines of  
trenches on a front of 900 yards were firmly in our hands."

Crossed the Tigris River.  
"These operations, having drawn the enemy's attention in the direc-  
tion of Sannaiyat, it appeared possible that a crossing of the Tigris might  
be effected at the Shumran bend. Therefore, just before daybreak Fri-  
day, the first covering parties were ferried across, followed at intervals  
throughout the day by other parties. These coverers firmly established them-  
selves on the left bank, securing the landing and taking many prisoners.  
Immediately landings were secured and sufficient clearance was obtained,  
the construction of a bridge was commenced and completed in nine hours,  
and by nightfall the position on the left bank was secured and consolidated.

"The Turks offered stubborn resistance to our progress in the Shum-  
ran Peninsula, but, thanks to the efficient disposition and handling of our  
covering artillery and machine guns on the right bank, this resistance failed  
to stop our advance.

"Simultaneously with the crossing of the river the assault on the  
Sannaiyat position was resumed. The third and fourth Turkish lines of  
trenches were captured on a front of 1050 yards.

"It is impossible yet to give a full account of the operations, but the  
prisoners taken on Friday in the Shumran area numbered 11 officers  
and 533 men. Five machine guns were also captured.  
"Two enemy aeroplanes were shot down recently."

## GERMANS IN RETREAT BEFORE BRITISH ARMY

Foe Carries Out Greatest Retirement Made on Western Front in Past  
Two Years—British Seize Villages of Pys, Serre, Two  
Miramonts With Butte de Warlencourt—Patrols  
Pursue Enemy in All Directions.

### FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

British Headquarters in France,  
Feb. 25, via London, Feb. 25.—On one  
portion of the British front at least,  
the war today became a war of move-  
ment. Under cover of fog and mist,  
which have been particularly heavy  
in the past 48 hours, the Germans  
carried out the greatest retirement  
they have made on the western front  
in the last two years, and the British  
have swept into possession of Pys,  
Serre, Miramont and Petit Mira-  
mont, including the famous Butte de  
Warlencourt, which has been the  
scene of some of the fiercest fighting  
of the war, and in places is deep with  
the bones of dead men.  
The exact extent of the German  
retirement is not known tonight, but  
it is estimated that it approaches a  
depth of three miles at some points.  
British patrols are out in all direc-  
tions, harassing the Germans and  
keeping in touch with their move-  
ments. Until they report it will not  
be possible to say just where the  
Germans have determined to fix their  
next line of resistance.  
To Force Bapaume.  
Nevertheless, it can be stated that  
the British now, or soon, will be in a  
position possibly to force the evacua-  
tion of Bapaume, which has been the  
key to the German position since the  
beginning of the battle of the Somme.  
The points which already have fallen  
into the British hands have stood out  
in the history of the fighting on this  
front and had been most stubbornly  
defended. Only a week ago, when the  
British attacked on a two-mile front

east and south of Miramont and  
Pys, the German resistance was bit-  
ter and the high ground desired was  
won only after desperate hand-to-  
hand encounters and the taking of  
more than 800 German prisoners.

The British had been waiting for a  
clearing of the foggy weather before  
pressing the advance, but meantime it  
is apparent that the German high  
command decided to retire without any  
further fighting to stronger positions  
prepared well to the rear. Friday  
night fires were observed in the Ger-  
man front line trenches. They were  
only dimly visible thru the thick mist  
of the particularly black night, but  
it was discovered that the flames is-  
sued from burning dugouts. Patrols  
sent forward reported the evacuation  
of the German outposts. Similar re-  
ports came from north of the Ancre,  
and by nightfall yesterday the British  
had established themselves in Petit  
Miramont and advanced all along the  
line, meeting only with sniping resis-  
tance here and there. Today the  
British patrols pressed forward, keep-  
ing in close contact with the Ger-  
mans, who had retreated a further  
2000 yards during the night. Thus  
the way was opened to the ground  
which for months had been contested.

### Explode Mine in Miramont

There were bursts of stiff resistance  
from German obstructing parties,  
which had been scattered in the rear  
of the retiring columns. Early today  
a big mine was exploded in the main  
street of Miramont just before the  
British advanced patrols entered.  
It is evident now that the Germans,  
140 Yonge street,

### To Lift Blockade of Greece When Constantine Acquiesces

Paris, Feb. 25.—Definite announce-  
ment was made here today that the  
blockade of Greece will be lifted when  
King Constantine gives complete  
satisfaction to the demands of the  
entente allies.

### NEW STYLES IN MEN'S HATS.

Dineen's styles in  
hats for men have  
arrived at Dineen's.  
All the famous Eng-  
lish makers are re-  
presented in the as-  
sortment. Dineen,  
140 Yonge street,

