

OFFICES FOR RENT

C. F. R. BUILDING King and Yonge Streets. Excellent service. Reasonable rent. Apply H. M. WILLIAMS & CO. 38 King St. East. Main 5450

Senate Reading Room 110-111 Parliament Buildings, Ottawa

FRONTS—Easterly winds; fair at first, then showers before night; higher temperature.

The Toronto World

FOR RENT

Ground and first floor over 27 King Street West. 27 x 52. Steam heat. Lease for five or ten years. Immediate possession. Apply H. M. WILLIAMS & CO. 38 King St. East. Main 5450

TUESDAY MORNING APRIL 17 1917—FOURTEEN PAGES

VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,306

FRENCH OFFENSIVE HAS COMMENCED BRITISH HAVE 14,000 PRISONERS

Gen. Nivelle Commences His Advance Towards Laon on 25-Mile Front by Hammering at the Southern End of Hindenburg Line and Taking German Positions in Several Places

By R. T. Small, Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.

London, April 16.—French armies took up the burden of the allied offensive in the west today. General Nivelle struck on a front of twenty-five miles from Soissons to Rheims, sweeping across the enemy's trenches every where and in many places penetrating the hostile lines to a depth of two miles. More than ten thousand German prisoners have already been counted and caged.

Hindenburg was not unprepared. For ten days the thunder of French artillery has heralded the attack and for the last four days the hurricane fire of the big guns has surpassed in violence all previous bombardments of the war. Along the whole front the German command had grouped what the Paris night communique describes as "very important forces and numerous artillery."

But the French fire had done its work. The enemy's forward defenses lay in wide rolling furrows of lashed-up mud and scarcely a machine gun remained in place to check the charging battalions hurrying forward along both banks of the Aisne River. From beyond Soissons to Craonne the whole German system of first line trenches was overrun. In the dip eastward to Juvincourt the success was as great and south of Juvincourt the German second position was occupied. Turning southeastward along the old French line Nivelle's forces drove forward as far as the outskirts of Bernencourt and Courcy, a little less than five miles north of Rheims.

German defenders recovered quickly from the first shock and on fought with fury. Where the line eased between Craonne and Juvincourt, almost before the French had time to establish themselves, Hindenburg's supports flung forward in a counter-attack, following it up again and again as they were thrown back by big gun barrage and machine gun bullets.

Berlin admits the ferocity of the attack and says "a bitter fight is proceeding around our foremost positions." Paris credits the defenders with tenacity and energy. It is evident that the battle is in its earliest stages and that Hindenburg is prepared to exact the full blood price for every foot of territory wrested from him.

Threatened Lower Hinge. This he must do, for the French are thrusting at the Craonne Plateau, a position even more formidable than the famous Vimy ridge, near the other end of the far flung battle line and now in the hands of the British. It is the lower hinge of the Hindenburg line, the southern pier upon which he hangs his precarious suspension bridge during the great retirement. But the highland rises abruptly to a commanding height along its western slope and is considered impregnable to a frontal assault. The French are trying to sweep northeastward, past and around it so that they may bring their guns to bear upon its gentler slope. However, the Craonne Plateau proved too great an obstacle even for Napoleon. It was here that the Prussians, under Blucher, threw him back in the Marne campaign of more than a century ago.

Thus the interest of the vast drive the allies are carrying against the entrenched Germans over a front that in skyline alone covers more than a hundred miles, shifts from the slag heaps of Lens to the rolling uplands and canal country thru which the French are smashing. If Nivelle's forces meet with the same success that rewarded the British in the Arras sector, Field Marshal von Hindenburg faces a critical week. Indeed, the German Empire faces a critical week, for it is recognized that this extending battle may well be the deciding engagement of the war. That the German high command realizes it is no mere series of attack upon first line trenches for purely tactical successes is indicated by the Berlin night bulletin, which refers to "a great French attempt to break thru with a far-distant object."

A Thrilling Start. Observers with the French armies report the beginning of the offensive as thrilling in the extreme. The day broke under heavy clouds. The mass fire of the guns, which had never broken for ten days, rose steadily to a nerve-shattering pitch. Suddenly, all along the line, as though by a stop-watch, the continuous clang ceased. The next minute Papa Nivelle's little soldiers, thousands and thousands of them, mile after mile of them, were over the trenches and trotting into the open. Black patches of bursting German shell rained over them but still they pressed on, dropping here and there, until their gray-blue uniforms were part of the grayness of the day. The fighting in the churned up trenches, once the first lines were passed, was a matter of man to man and of the most savage nature. In a short time German prisoners, singly and in groups, began to stagger back to the French positions. All of them caked with mud and trench filth, and many of them were bloodsoaked. Their headquarters commenced to receive reports of captured booty and guns. The Paris night statement asserts that a great deal of important material was taken which has not yet been inventoried.

There are indications tonight that the region of the fighting in this southern sector, is to extend just as the British drive in the north spread, mile by mile. The French offensive did not slow down the artillery fire either to right or to left of it. Below St. Quentin the guns were unceasingly at work as they were thruout the Champagne. Nivelle is giving Hindenburg no chances to denude his trenches in other sections of the line. During the day there were strong French thrusts below Cossey Forest and progress was made on the plateau east of the Barisis-Quincy-Basse line. On the Aisne plain, too, French troops penetrated the enemy's second line at several points and counted many German dead.

British Still go on. Nor have the British relaxed their pressure. The announcement is made tonight that since Monday, 14,000 German prisoners have been sent back to the cages, fully a third of them Bavarians, and that 194 captured guns have been paroled. The losses of the Bavarians is emphasized in the British report. It was the third division of Prince Rupprecht's command which was called on to counter-attack at Lagnicourt, the same troops which had suffered so heavily in the battle of Loos in 1915, and again at High Wood on the Somme.

The Berlin day report claims the capture of 475 prisoners and the destruction of 22 British guns as well as sanguinary losses inflicted on the Australians. But the Germans did not stay long in Lagnicourt. The British counter-thrust was reminiscent of the days before trench warfare, one company advancing, firing and falling, while another company fired over their heads. It proved highly successful—1500 German dead were found when the field was cleared.

Thru the pouring rain this afternoon the British advanced at both ends of their line, making more progress to the northwest of Lens, and capturing Villaret, near Hargicourt, and the Butte known as "The Three Savages" east of Gricourt, just above St. Quentin. Lens, indeed, seemed about to fall entirely into British hands. British patrols are well within the environs and pressing into the city itself. The work of German destruction is still going forward, but the British bombardment is only centred on certain parts of the city. It is evidently Gen. Halg's intention to save as much of the town as possible and to drive out the German bombing parties "by hand" rather than by heavy explosives. The British statement tonight enumerates a long list of enemy material gathered around the mouths of mines and behind the slag pyramids thus far cleared out. Active artillery fighting is reported over the whole Belgian front.

TO PLANT MORE WHEAT. Washington, April 16.—Farmers of the spring wheat belt, particularly those of North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Washington, Montana and Idaho, were called upon by Secretary Houston today to plant more wheat immediately to make up the serious shortage threatened by the unpromising condition of the winter wheat crop.

Gen. Nivelle Commences His Advance Towards Laon on 25-Mile Front by Hammering at the Southern End of Hindenburg Line and Taking German Positions in Several Places

Paris, April 16.—The French began an attack this morning, after several days' artillery preparation, between Soissons and Rheims. Several German lines were carried and more than 10,000 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 thruout the day. South of the Oise we made new progress on the plateau east of the line of Barisis-Quincy Basse."

"Between Soissons and Rheims, after artillery preparation which lasted several days, we attacked this morning the German lines along an extent of about 40 kilometres. 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.

"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 the outskirts of Bernencourt and up to the Aisne Canal at Loivre and Courcy.

"Violent counter-attacks launched several times north of Ville-au-Bois were broken down by our fire, with considerable losses to the enemy. "The number of prisoners made by us up to the present exceeds 10,000. Likewise we captured important material, which has not yet been inventoried.

"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."

Wood during the Somme battle in 1916, was again hurried down to reinforce the divisions already in line. It is still ordered to retake Monchy le Preux at all costs.

"Its losses in this fruitless attack were exceptionally heavy, as has been the case with all the Bavarian troops thruout the whole recent operations. Of the prisoners taken by us since the 9th, more than one-third are Bavarians."

The new party that The World spoke of is taking shape in the grain growers' party in the west; it will include the labor party that was floated out in Toronto on Saturday last, and will sweep this city and all the Hamilton and Niagara district, not to mention the rest of the towns and cities of Ontario, and the mining country to the north.

And we're going to take the civil service out of politics—no political pull in the postoffice, custom house, government railways, every limb and every branch.

And The World's national currency, national banking, national system of loans to farmers, are all on the way.

And The World has something new for Toronto in a short time that the citizens will accept gladly. Toronto has to be given a fresh new start, and she will go to a million people. But the West's best methods must first be buried. The funeral is ordered and The World will see that the corpse is ready."

TEN THOUSAND PRISONERS TAKEN IN FRENCH ADVANCE

German Lines Attacked Between Soissons and Rheims and Whole Positions Fall to French, Who Also Advance to Outskirts of Bernencourt, Capturing Thousands of Men and Important War Material.

Paris, April 16.—The French began an attack this morning, after several days' artillery preparation, between Soissons and Rheims. Several German lines were carried and more than 10,000 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 thruout the day. South of the Oise we made new progress on the plateau east of the line of Barisis-Quincy Basse."

"Between Soissons and Rheims, after artillery preparation which lasted several days, we attacked this morning the German lines along an extent of about 40 kilometres. 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.

"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 the outskirts of Bernencourt and up to the Aisne Canal at Loivre and Courcy.

"Violent counter-attacks launched several times north of Ville-au-Bois were broken down by our fire, with considerable losses to the enemy. "The number of prisoners made by us up to the present exceeds 10,000. Likewise we captured important material, which has not yet been inventoried.

"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."

Wood during the Somme battle in 1916, was again hurried down to reinforce the divisions already in line. It is still ordered to retake Monchy le Preux at all costs.

"Its losses in this fruitless attack were exceptionally heavy, as has been the case with all the Bavarian troops thruout the whole recent operations. Of the prisoners taken by us since the 9th, more than one-third are Bavarians."

The new party that The World spoke of is taking shape in the grain growers' party in the west; it will include the labor party that was floated out in Toronto on Saturday last, and will sweep this city and all the Hamilton and Niagara district, not to mention the rest of the towns and cities of Ontario, and the mining country to the north.

And we're going to take the civil service out of politics—no political pull in the postoffice, custom house, government railways, every limb and every branch.

And The World's national currency, national banking, national system of loans to farmers, are all on the way.

And The World has something new for Toronto in a short time that the citizens will accept gladly. Toronto has to be given a fresh new start, and she will go to a million people. But the West's best methods must first be buried. The funeral is ordered and The World will see that the corpse is ready."

TEN THOUSAND PRISONERS TAKEN IN FRENCH ADVANCE

German Lines Attacked Between Soissons and Rheims and Whole Positions Fall to French, Who Also Advance to Outskirts of Bernencourt, Capturing Thousands of Men and Important War Material.

Paris, April 16.—The French began an attack this morning, after several days' artillery preparation, between Soissons and Rheims. Several German lines were carried and more than 10,000 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 thruout the day. South of the Oise we made new progress on the plateau east of the line of Barisis-Quincy Basse."

"Between Soissons and Rheims, after artillery preparation which lasted several days, we attacked this morning the German lines along an extent of about 40 kilometres. 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.

"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 the outskirts of Bernencourt and up to the Aisne Canal at Loivre and Courcy.

"Violent counter-attacks launched several times north of Ville-au-Bois were broken down by our fire, with considerable losses to the enemy. "The number of prisoners made by us up to the present exceeds 10,000. Likewise we captured important material, which has not yet been inventoried.

"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."

Wood during the Somme battle in 1916, was again hurried down to reinforce the divisions already in line. It is still ordered to retake Monchy le Preux at all costs.

"Its losses in this fruitless attack were exceptionally heavy, as has been the case with all the Bavarian troops thruout the whole recent operations. Of the prisoners taken by us since the 9th, more than one-third are Bavarians."

The new party that The World spoke of is taking shape in the grain growers' party in the west; it will include the labor party that was floated out in Toronto on Saturday last, and will sweep this city and all the Hamilton and Niagara district, not to mention the rest of the towns and cities of Ontario, and the mining country to the north.

And we're going to take the civil service out of politics—no political pull in the postoffice, custom house, government railways, every limb and every branch.

And The World's national currency, national banking, national system of loans to farmers, are all on the way.

And The World has something new for Toronto in a short time that the citizens will accept gladly. Toronto has to be given a fresh new start, and she will go to a million people. But the West's best methods must first be buried. The funeral is ordered and The World will see that the corpse is ready."

BRITISH DRIVE TURKS TO HILLS

Gen. Maude's Forces Make Progress Along West Tigris Bank

London, April 16.—A continuation of the official communication of last Saturday, dealing with Gen. Maude's operations against the Turks in Mesopotamia, was received here this afternoon. The Saturday communication told of the fighting from April 10 to the British along the west bank of the Tigris, toward the Dala and a withdrawal of the Turks from various points. The delayed portion of the communication, received tonight, says: "Gen. Maude's forces continued to drive back the Turkish troops during the 13th, making eighty prisoners. The great heat rendered the task of keeping in touch with the retreating enemy difficult. No respite was allowed the Turks, however, and on the 10th, Gen. Maude reported that they were back in their positions in the Jebel Hamrin Hills, whence they started on the 9th.

"The 13th Turkish Army Corps, which was the force engaged in these operations, has suffered very severe losses. Three hundred and five dead, and not 200 as was previously stated, were found on the battlefield April 11 alone."

The Jebel Hamrin Hills are situated between the Tigris and Dala Rivers, where the Turks have been making vigorous efforts recently with the aid of reinforcements, to stay the advance of the British and Russians. On Saturday the British war office announced that the Turks had been driven from their positions near Ghalilyeh, about 45 miles above Bagdad, and were withdrawing toward Dely Abbas, which is at the base of the Jebel Hamrin Hills.

"The prices that prevailed for the Dineen Fire Sale are still in force. There is a delay in getting the premises into condition for regular business, and as we cannot invite you to a well furnished store we make the prices the attraction. All our spring importations set out at Fire Sale prices. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

"The prices that prevailed for the Dineen Fire Sale are still in force. There is a delay in getting the premises into condition for regular business, and as we cannot invite you to a well furnished store we make the prices the attraction. All our spring importations set out at Fire Sale prices. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

"The prices that prevailed for the Dineen Fire Sale are still in force. There is a delay in getting the premises into condition for regular business, and as we cannot invite you to a well furnished store we make the prices the attraction. All our spring importations set out at Fire Sale prices. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

"The prices that prevailed for the Dineen Fire Sale are still in force. There is a delay in getting the premises into condition for regular business, and as we cannot invite you to a well furnished store we make the prices the attraction. All our spring importations set out at Fire Sale prices. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

"The prices that prevailed for the Dineen Fire Sale are still in force. There is a delay in getting the premises into condition for regular business, and as we cannot invite you to a well furnished store we make the prices the attraction. All our spring importations set out at Fire Sale prices. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

"The prices that prevailed for the Dineen Fire Sale are still in force. There is a delay in getting the premises into condition for regular business, and as we cannot invite you to a well furnished store we make the prices the attraction. All our spring importations set out at Fire Sale prices. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

"The prices that prevailed for the Dineen Fire Sale are still in force. There is a delay in getting the premises into condition for regular business, and as we cannot invite you to a well furnished store we make the prices the attraction. All our spring importations set out at Fire Sale prices. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

"The prices that prevailed for the Dineen Fire Sale are still in force. There is a delay in getting the premises into condition for regular business, and as we cannot invite you to a well furnished store we make the prices the attraction. All our spring importations set out at Fire Sale prices. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

"The prices that prevailed for the Dineen Fire Sale are still in force. There is a delay in getting the premises into condition for regular business, and as we cannot invite you to a well furnished store we make the prices the attraction. All our spring importations set out at Fire Sale prices. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

"The prices that prevailed for the Dineen Fire Sale are still in force. There is a delay in getting the premises into condition for regular business, and as we cannot invite you to a well furnished store we make the prices the attraction. All our spring importations set out at Fire Sale prices. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

ALLIES BOMB FREIBURG AS ACT OF REPRISAL

Many Bombs Dropped With Good Results—Three Machines Missing.

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 of the town of Freiburg Saturday. Many bombs were dropped with good results.

"Despite a large number of air fights with hostile airplanes, all our machines except three returned safely."

Thousands Seek to Attend Service in Honor of U. S. London, April 15.—More than 10,000 applications have been made for admission to St. Paul's Cathedral April 20, on the occasion of the service to be held in commemoration of the entrance of the United States into the war. The cathedral accommodates only 3500.

The Duke of Connaught, former Governor-General of Canada; Princess Mary, daughter of King George, and other members of the royal family, and Premier Lloyd George will attend the function.

The Duke of Connaught, former Governor-General of Canada; Princess Mary, daughter of King George, and other members of the royal family, and Premier Lloyd George will attend the function.

The Duke of Connaught, former Governor-General of Canada; Princess Mary, daughter of King George, and other members of the royal family, and Premier Lloyd George will attend the function.

The Duke of Connaught, former Governor-General of Canada; Princess Mary, daughter of King George, and other members of the royal family, and Premier Lloyd George will attend the function.

The Duke of Connaught, former Governor-General of Canada; Princess Mary, daughter of King George, and other members of the royal family, and Premier Lloyd George will attend the function.

The Duke of Connaught, former Governor-General of Canada; Princess Mary, daughter of King George, and other members of the royal family, and Premier Lloyd George will attend the function.

The Duke of Connaught, former Governor-General of Canada; Princess Mary, daughter of King George, and other members of the royal family, and Premier Lloyd George will attend the function.

The Duke of Connaught, former Governor-General of Canada; Princess Mary, daughter of King George, and other members of the royal family, and Premier Lloyd George will attend the function.

The Duke of Connaught, former Governor-General of Canada; Princess Mary, daughter of King George, and other members of the royal family, and Premier Lloyd George will attend the function.

The Duke of Connaught, former Governor-General of Canada; Princess Mary, daughter of King George, and other members of the royal family, and Premier Lloyd George will attend the function.

unks \$4.95
le wood slats,
od lock and
deep tray with
32, 34
oday... 4.95
chiefs
Girls
kerchiefs, nar-
kerchiefs, also
bordered. To-
... 25
kerchiefs, with
4 for... 20
awn Handker-
y, 6 for... 25
Children, white
initial. Today,
... 29
s
vory
ory Now
ance
plete stock of
ie city. We
ate—and our
ause of our
ion with the
ebrated ware,
o keep a com-
nd.
is stamped on
... 4.50 to 5.00
... 5.50 to 8.50
... .55 to 1.25
... 3.00 to 6.00
... 2.50 to 3.25
... 2.25 to 2.75
... 4.50
... 1.50
... .75 to 2.50
... 1.75
ivers 2.25 to 3.00
... 1.00 to 1.75
... .85 to 1.50
... 1.50
n Hooks, Cuticle
ach... 75
ON Limited