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PARIS BEING SHELLED BY TEUTONS

Paris, Mar. 23—The Germans have been firing on Paris with long range guns. Since eight o'clock this morning shells of 240 millimetres have been reaching the capital and suburbs at intervals of a quarter of an hour, killing about ten persons and wounding about fifteen. The shortest distance from Paris to the front is over 100 kilometres (62 miles).

GREAT WEIGHT OF INFANTRY AND BIG GUN ATTACK FORCES THE LINE

British Fall Back In Good Order—Yielding Of Ground Was Not Unlooked For—Positions To The North Continue To Be Firmly Held

After two days' terrific battling in their great offensive on the western front, the Germans have finally succeeded in bringing the action at one point on the front somewhat more into the open. Field Marshal Haig reports that the British defensive system west of St. Quentin, near the southern edge of the fifty-mile front under attack, was broken through by the great weight of the enemy infantry and artillery, and that the British here are falling back in good order. That the yielding of the line at this point had been by no means unexpected and possibly had been foreseen as ultimately inevitable, is indicated by the statement that the retirement is to prepared positions farther west, across the devastated district. There is nothing in the report to indicate that this retrograde movement will affect the strong defensive lines to the north in any way seriously, as it is explicitly stated that these positions continue to be held by the British forces.

THROUGH NEAR ST. QUENTIN

London, Mar. 23—Powerful enemy attacks, delivered with great weight of infantry and artillery, have broken through the British defensive system, west of St. Quentin. The war office so announces. The British troops on the northern portion of the battlefield are holding their positions. The British west of St. Quentin are falling back in good order to positions farther west. Very heavy fighting with fresh enemy forces is in progress. The war office states that there are prepared positions behind the British, to which they are falling back. The statement follows: "Heavy fighting continued until late hours last night on the whole battle front. During the afternoon powerful hostile attacks, delivered with great weight of infantry and artillery, broke through our defensive system west of St. Quentin. Our troops on this part of the battle front are falling back in good order across the devastated area to prepared positions farther west. Our troops on the northern portion of the battle front are holding their positions. Very heavy fighting with fresh hostile forces is in progress. For the first time in the war on the western front, since the opposing armies established themselves in their trench systems, the defensive zone has been broken through. In other great attacks, the British and Germans have been able to break back the line, but not to strike through the zone of defence. Many military critics had reached the opinion that, on account of the strength of the lines, it would be impossible to break them until one side or the other had been worn down to such a point that it would be no longer able to sustain itself strongly. Unless the British are able to restore the situation by a counter attack, withdrawal on a wide front may be necessary, with open field warfare. The point at which the British has been broken is near the southern end of the German attacking front, which extends from Arras to La Fere, fifteen miles. The French, approaching Arras to the east. The German offensive has developed with almost unparalleled rapidity. One reason for this is indicated in Field Marshal Haig's report, showing that the Germans are constantly bringing up fresh bodies of troops. Just what the effect will be upon the Entente line to the south is not yet apparent. The British hold the front to a point some fifteen miles south of St. Quentin, to the River Oise at about the town of La Fere, where the French lines begin. No reports have been received from Paris as to whether the French forces have become involved in the battle. From the nearness of the point of German penetration to their line, however, it would seem probable that they soon will be found taking part in the struggle. There is another factor to be considered also, should the German thrust develop more seriously. There was created last winter by the supreme war council at Versailles an Entente 'Army of manoeuvre,' understood to be made up of troops of all Allies, which was designed to be available for action at any point on the wide front from the North Sea to the Adriatic where it should be needed. It has doubtless not been the Entente's intention to throw this army into action hastily. But it unquestionably stands ready for use in any emergency, and might easily prove the vital factor in any general engagement which the western front fighting should develop. IN GOOD ORDER. The battle is still in progress along the British front with the Germans continuing to show fresh forces into the struggle. It is estimated that fifty German divisions are already involved, with probably twenty-five or more additional divisions in close reserve. Advances from correspondents indicate that wherever the British troops are falling back they are doing so in excellent order and with deliberation, withdrawing voluntarily at some points in order to maintain an unbroken front. PERHAPS NOT SO SERIOUS AS SEEMS. The statement of the British war office that the troops west of St. Quentin are falling back to prepared positions indicates that the Germans, although they have broken through the British defensive system, have not pierced the entire British zone of defence. The allusion in the British statement to the defensive 'army' may be only to the battle front system, behind which other lines have been prepared. If that is the case, the Germans have done little more than repeat what the British did in the battle of the Somme, when they pierced the 'army line' and captured long stretches of it, forcing the Germans to re-prepare positions in the rear. (Continued on page 2, sixth column)

GERMAN GUN-FIRE WAS TERRIFIC

Artillery Preparations Most Violent British Ever Endured

WONDER THEY STOOD UP SO WELL

At One Place a Gun Every Fifteen Yards—Enemy Showed Great Daring Under Our Machine Gun-fire—Valuable Work by the Airmen

London, Mar. 23—The artillery preparations of the Germans in their attack against the British lines which is now in progress, are described by those who took part as the most violent they ever endured, according to the Daily Mail's correspondent on the British front. The thing that stands out as characteristic of the fighting up to the present, says the correspondent, "is that we did so well under the terrific impact." Continuing, "Upon one corps front there was a gun every fifteen yards. The strength of the attack was such that the British were able to stand up in such great numbers, set over such an overwhelming weight of iron and high explosives that in most parts of the front wire ceased to be an obstacle and trenches were obliterated. At the same time all our known battery positions were denuded with gas, but their gas shells failed to reach all our batteries nor did they succeed anywhere in breaking down our wire. At one point where the Germans found our wire unbroken they set to work with axes until they had made a way through, an incident reminiscent of the methods of fighting inculcated by Frederick the Great. All of this was done under our machine gun fire. A curious fact reported by our airmen was that the Germans composing the special assault divisions wore new uniforms. Got on their best clothes for a visit to Paris, commented one of our generals. "Our repelling flying corps did valuable work despite adverse weather conditions. One of our men in the early morning reconnaissance spotted several thousand Germans moving westward south of Bullecourt and another reported that of the enemy in a sunken road in this area waiting to advance. Few enemy machines were seen and they mostly flew low, peppering our trenches with their machine guns. REDMOND'S SON WINS OVER SINN FEINER. London, Mar. 23—Captain William Redmond succeeds his father, John Redmond, Nationalist leader, in parliament. Returns from the election for Waterford 1917, against 763 for his opponent, Dr. White, a Sinn Feiner. The funeral of Miss Teresa Brown took place this afternoon from her parents' residence, Mill street, to Holy Trinity church, where burial services were conducted by Rev. J. Walsh, V. M. M. Internment was made in the new Catholic cemetery.

EXPECTED TO FALL BACK IN PLACES

British Generals Had Prepared For This Eventuality

AS A WHOLE WELL SATISFIED

Great Quantity of Gas Used—Terrible Execution Wrought in Enemy Ranks as Germans Moved to Attack—At Least Forty Divisions Engaged

London, Mar. 23—The British Army Headquarters in France, Friday, Mar. 23—(By the Associated Press)—British troops between the Scarpe and the Oise have fallen back in places, but the British generals had foreseen this eventuality and made preparations accordingly. In the face of the attack it is not only impossible, but quite unadvised to attempt to hold the front line in such places, and the British defensive tactics usually aim at organizing resistance so that the further the enemy advances the stronger will be the opposition he meets. Taking the situation as a whole, the British are well satisfied with the results of the first stage of the fighting. They undoubtedly lost several ruined villages and the Germans probably will make much of their capture, but the defenders have held on amazingly well and worked a terrible slaughter among the attackers. The fighting today was greatest in intensity on two sections—one northwest of Cambrai and the other southwest. The fighting on the northern front was about the southern centre. A bright sun came out at midday and airmen were most active, the British aviators flying at very low altitudes and using their machine guns against the opposing infantry. Before they attacked today on the sector between the Canal Du Nord and the Creteilles, on the northern battle front, the Germans with every conceivable form of late with a gun could throw. They sent the British with every conceivable form of late with a gun could throw. They sent the British with every conceivable form of late with a gun could throw. They sent the British with every conceivable form of late with a gas shells. This proved to be true, although there was nothing new in the type of gas and the British gas masks appear to have been most effective. The British 'Tommyes and their officers fought for hours with their gas masks on, but even this drawback could not dampen their jubilation at the havoc they caused as the German infantry presented itself in the form of point blank targets. Nine German divisions negotiated the assault in this section, but they met with strenuous resistance. British machine gunners and terrible execution as the Germans moved forward. As on Thursday the Germans today depended on tremendous artillery bombardments and massed attacks with great numbers of troops to achieve results. At least forty German divisions have been identified and the German artillery concentration is the greatest that has been seen on the west. It is reported that in one section the Germans came across No Man's Land in regular formation and gaps in the ranks were quickly filled in to present a solid front. The Germans are said to have stopped when they reached barbed wire and to have cut it by hand under heavy fire from rifles and machine guns and artillery. However, the report is not confirmed, but it is certain that the Germans advanced in more dense formations than ever before and naturally suffered great casualties. Six German divisions on Thursday delivered a very heavy attack against the British south of St. Quentin. Despite the fact that the enemy had a superiority in numbers, the British hung doggedly to their posts throughout the day and it was only after the Germans had stopped the assault that the British withdrew their lines somewhat in order to give them protection by means of the Oise river and the flooded ground around it. A further attack here will be extremely costly to the enemy.

All England Supremely Confident In The Army

Must Have Men, Says Lloyd George

Plain Talk to Miners' Federation; Must be Government, Not Anarchy; What if Germans Succeeded and Reached Calais?

London, Mar. 22—Premier Lloyd George in an exceedingly outspoken speech to a deputation of the Miners' Federation yesterday concerning the result of the miners' ballot on the coming act of men for military service, declared that to avoid failure in the field it is absolutely essential to have more men. "I am utterly at a loss," he said, "to know where the men are to be found if first the engineers and then the miners say we will not find the men. Other trades will quickly take the same course. That would mean anarchy, not government. "I have just had news that the Germans have attacked us on a front of nearly sixty miles with overwhelming forces. I am amazed that it should be considered debatable whether the miners and engineers are going to make their contribution to the defence of the country." Premier Lloyd George declared he would be far better that the government should go out of office than to have its decision disobeyed, adding, "If the sanction of the committee is going to decide whether a law should be obeyed then, believe me, you will have a condition of things where the people who will suffer most will not be the people at the top, who are usually able to take care of themselves, but the poor devils at the bottom. It has always been the policy of the government to be better to talk plainly and I am speaking with a great deal of feeling, because I have just heard of this overwhelming attack brought about by the failure of the Russian democracy to have its orders obeyed. "If the attack succeeds, the Germans might be at Calais and the only answer would be to send the men who are in the federal saying they are not prepared to fight. You cannot give that answer." The executive of the federation later passed a resolution advising the men not to resist the coming out of 80,000 men from the mines.

Germany Staking Her All On The West

VIEW OF THE NEWSPAPERS

People Warned Not To Be Too Optimistic But Keep Cool and Not Leap To Premature Conclusions—In German Failure See End of War

London, Mar. 23—The attention of all England was centred today on the western front. There was no boastfulness, but the feeling was one of supreme confidence and pride in the army which stands on the first line of defence between democracy and autocracy. The newspapers were against undue optimism, but they pointed out that the fighting instinct still lives in the British breast, notwithstanding the long years of peace and ignorance of military training, and that when that fighting instinct dies the world will see the death of the British nation. Since it has developed that this is indeed the great heraldic German offensive, the most colossal struggle in the world's history, the public and press are unanimously of the opinion that its failure will mean the end of the war. The Times says Germany evidently is resolved to stake all her chances on the western front, and adds—"She has committed herself to the greatest gamble in history. We believe she will fail, and it is precisely because the failure of the present attack must react disastrously upon Germany that we derive encouragement from the military position as it is disclosed today." The Morning Post cautions the nation "to keep a cool head and allow no plausible argumentation upon scanty facts to persuade it to premature conclusions." The Manchester Guardian says—"If the Germans persist in attacks and lose they will have lost the war." London Opinion. London, Mar. 23—Confidence that the Allied line, though it may bend, will not break, is expressed by the morning newspapers who are unanimously hopeful of the outcome of the desperate fighting between the British and German fronts. The accuracy of the British intelligence service in deriving the enemy's intentions and in forecasting the points and time of attacks. The battles on the western front are only beginning and the newspapers think that the assault on the Cambrai front, which probably was chosen because the undulating land in this region usually recovers from the effects of winter some weeks earlier than on the Franco-Belgian frontier, may not represent the main and ultimate feature of the enemy's offensive. It is felt there may yet be a sudden attack elsewhere, but there is no doubt of the ability of the British troops to hold the enemy just as they barred the road to Ypres. In Germany. London, Mar. 23—The German newspapers reflect a feeling of confidence concerning the present operations in the west, though the seriousness of the moment is recognized, according to the Dutch News Agency, says an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Amsterdam. The German newspapers insist that the military and political leaders of the Central Powers have left nothing undone to spare their people "this terrible blood bath." French Premier. Paris, Mar. 23—Premier Clemenceau appeared for a few minutes in the lobby of the chamber of deputies last night and told the deputies that the news he had received from British headquarters gave him a most satisfactory impression. DESARDINS AND LALUMIERE BOTH GUILTY, IS JUDGE'S VIEW. Montreal, Mar. 23—in his charge to the jury in the case of the alleged dynamite last evening Mr. Justice Pelletier expressed the opinion that Detective Charles Desjardins and Elie Lalumiere were guilty of having conspired to blow up Lord Atholstan's summer residence at Cartierville last August and to kill Lord Atholstan and his family. There was absolutely nothing in Lalumiere's favor, His Lordship said, while the conduct of Desjardins, as a government detective, was shameful. As to Joseph Tremblay, who had confessed that he had taken part in the dynamiting of the Atholstan residence, the judge said Tremblay had rendered a great service to the public by giving evidence against his companions. The judge said the evidence against Chagnon, Cyr, Goyer, Bolduc, Paquet and Wislinter was weak. His Lordship's address was in French. Today he will address the jury in English.

SAID THEFTS OF WOOL WERE GOING ON THREE YEARS

One Fellow Got an Automobile Out of It is Statement

Telegram From 'T. M.' to Hartin in Montreal Produced in Court—Advised Him to Keep Going as 'They're Wise to Everything'

That the theft of wool from the Colonial Hide Company had been going on for three years and that "one man had made an automobile out of it" was suggested by an interesting conversation between Detective Bidescombe and his prisoners according to this morning's testimony in the police court. The detective told of the arrest of George Drew, Stanley Hartin and John P. Barry, E. J. Henchery and U. J. Sweeney, counsel for the defendants one after another objecting to statements by the prisoners being given in evidence when there had been no warning. Magistrate Rickals, however, held that such evidence was admissible at a preliminary hearing, although not at a trial. The witness said that on the train to St. John Hartin remarked to Hayes, "It's a darn shame that us fellows should be brought up for this and so many other fellows get free th'at's getting so much more out of it." "Yes," was the reply, "One fellow got an automobile out of it." The honor here asked if the name had been mentioned and the detective replied in the affirmative. He was then told to inform the authorities of it in private. The witness continued: "I suggested that they should give King's evidence and they appeared to agree to do anything they could. They told me that a man locked up at St. John knew everything about the business which had been going on for three years, and that if I would lock them up with him they would try to get the information for me. I said if they would do this, I would do everything for them in my power." Mr. Ryan—Was there any discussion about a telegram? A.—Yes there was. Q.—Where did you get this telegram? A.—From the dominion police. It was taken from Stanley Hartin. (Continued on page 2, seventh column).

WEATHER REPORT. Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. Synops: Pressure is low over the maritime provinces and in the north-western portion of the continent and decidedly high over the great lakes. Snow and rain has occurred in the maritime provinces, and rain on the British Columbia coast. Colder weather has spread to Ontario and Quebec. Forecasts. Ottawa, Valley and Upper St. Lawrence.—Fine and cool today and on Sunday. Lower St. Lawrence, Gulf and North Shore.—Strong northerly winds, fine and cold today and on Sunday. Maritime.—Northwest to west gales, decreasing tonight, fair and colder; Sunday, fair and cool. were quickly filled in to present a solid front. The Germans are said to have stopped when they reached barbed wire and to have cut it by hand under heavy fire from rifles and machine guns and artillery. However, the report is not confirmed, but it is certain that the Germans advanced in more dense formations than ever before and naturally suffered great casualties. Six German divisions on Thursday delivered a very heavy attack against the British south of St. Quentin. Despite the fact that the enemy had a superiority in numbers, the British hung doggedly to their posts throughout the day and it was only after the Germans had stopped the assault that the British withdrew their lines somewhat in order to give them protection by means of the Oise river and the flooded ground around it. A further attack here will be extremely costly to the enemy.

GOES TO JAIL

Former Major in Winnipeg Sentenced to Year and Eleven Months—Restitution Made. Winnipeg, Mar. 23—Geo. H. Welsby, formerly major and assistant paymaster for military district No. 10, was this morning sentenced to serve one year and eleven months in the city jail. He pleaded guilty to theft of \$11,000, the property of the Dominion of Canada. The thefts were committed during a period covering two years. Complete restitution has been made.