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VOL. XXXVI.-No. 12,891

IOST SANGUINARY BATTLE IN WORLD'S HISTORY RAGES

rench Gain in Champagne---Fall of Fort Douaumont Unconfirmed by the French Report

GERMANS CONTINUING ATTACK WITH AN UNDIMINISHED FURY

rench Official Statement Claims That Lines Are Being Held, Notwithstanding Fact That Teutons Are Making Great Sacrifices in Effort to Pierce Them.

The loss of this outlying fortification, however, is not admitted in today's French official statement, which declares that despite the desperate German assaults the French have maintained their positions.

While the German wing on the east has been driving at Fort Douaumont and its protecting trenches the centre of the crown prince's forces has worked down the Meuse Valley until it is hammering at the ridge of La Cote Du Polyre, just south of Louvemont, and about four and a half miles north of the main fortress.

about four and a haif miles north of the main fortress.

All along the Verdun front the Ger-mans are hurling their men against the French lines without regard to sacrifices, Paris declares, the fighting heing particularly desperate in the re-gion of Beaumont, almost directly north of Verdun.

north of Verdun.

Accounts from various sources agree that the fighting has been of a degree of intensity virtually unparalleled in the war. Especially is this true of the artillery work, the Teutons having brought up many massive 12-inch and 17-inch guns from the Serbian and 18-inch guns from the Serbian and 1 the French positions with a pitiless combardment of high explosive shells

these large calibres.
The rain of shell fire in the Septemar offensive of the allies was, at the me without precedent, but correspondents near the front declare that it is the declared th feeble in comparison with the de-se of projectiles which at present is ne poured on the French trenches dertifications from the massed bat-

and fortifications from the massed batteries of the Germans.

The progress of the German drive is being watched with intense interest in the allied capitals. The latest Paris advices reflected the opinion of military observers that the French lines would hold until a counter offensive was ready to be launched. A London despatch said that further news of the stration portheast of Verdun, where patch said that turning the capture of Fort Germans claim the capture of Fort Douaumont, was being anxiously of Marphovilte (Marcheville), to the swaited, as the strategic importance of this fort was recognized.

Late advices from Albania, thru Ger
(Continued on Page 12, Column 1).

LONDON, Feb. 26.—The tremendous German drive for Verdum is continuing with undiminished fury.

Berlin today claims the breaking of
the cordon of protecting forts by the
capture of Fort Douaumont, four miles
to the northeast of Verdun.

The loss of the curvency fortified.

man sources, predicted the early fall
of Durazzo, as the result of a defeat
of the Italian and Albanian forces by
the Austrians and Germans. The Italiens were declared to be hurriedly embarking their troops from the port.

Claim Advances.

An official statement issued here to-

An official statement issued here to-day says that considerable advances have been made east of the Mense, in

the region north of Verdun, in presence of Emperor William.

made an attack south of the captured on a-Py position, which we captured on Feb. 12. They succeeded in penetrating our first line trenches over a width of about 250 yards.

Width of about 250 yards.

width of about 250 yards.

"East of the Meuse considerable advances were made on the battle-front in the presence of the king-emperor. Our brave troops gained possession of the hills southwest of the Village of Louvemont, and the group of fortified positions situated to the east thereof. In the fierce rush forward, Brandenburg regiments pushed on as far as the village and armored fort of Dougumont, which they carried by storm."

the village and armored fort of Dou-aumont, which they carried by storm."

"In the plain of the Woevre the en-emy's resistance broke down. Along the entire front as far as the neighborhood of Marphovilte (Marcheville), to the south of the national high road from

WAR SUMMARY

THE WEEK'S EVENTS REVIEWED

BY W. H. STEWART.

THE chief event of the past week is the great battle which the Germans have forced on the French about five to eight miles

among the most commonly accepted being the taking of Verdun by

storm, if the Germans can burst thru the several strongly built

defensive lines which the French have drawn in four or five ribbons

across the roads and lanes leading south. The enemy in selecting a point for the opening of his offensive, which is hailed as his expected spring offensive on the western front, chose the easiest point for his first attacks. This point was on the eastern bank of the

Meuse and a stretch of front of eight miles, which being at right

At least 300,000 troops were brought into the fight on Monday,

no fewer than seven army corps, as revealed by prisoners, being

thrown against the defences of the French on Tuesday. The first notice of the beginning of this battle was the commencing of a heavy bombardment of the French positions with guns of heavy calibre. The Germans at the first blow managed to capture a wood which jutted into their lines in a salient, but tho the French were forced to

withdraw a little from other points, owing to the destruction of their

trenches, they were able to do so in good order, being well protected by their artillery, which drenched any German units which attempted

The effect of the heavy bombardment has been to obliterate the

front line trenches and to bring the battle more into a contest in the

open field. This being a war of extermination, the French are not

battling so much as to hold a particular point here, or a particular

point there, but to kill and maim as many Germans as they can. It

is hinted from Paris that the Germans have been forced to begin this

fight for dynastic reason, the stock of the Hohenzollerns becoming

depressed on the German market of public opinion. Paris is said to be extremely confident and serene as to the outcome and, indeed,

is said to welcome the struggle as giving the French a chance to even

up old scores with the enemy. The only thing that is feared, and

that only slightly, is that the Germans will spring some form of sur-

prise in the way of scientific deviltry, but even this would probably

give them only the first and second line of French positions, and they

have five other lines, stronger than the first yet to force before they

(Continued on Page 11, Columns 3 and 4).

While the German artillery keeps violently bombarding the French position on a front of eight miles, the French guns amply pay

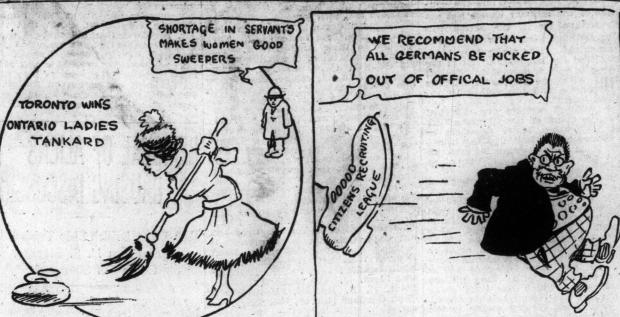
to get near them with a shower of shells.

would be in a position to assault Verdun.

angles to the course of a river, is the hardest for any army to hold.

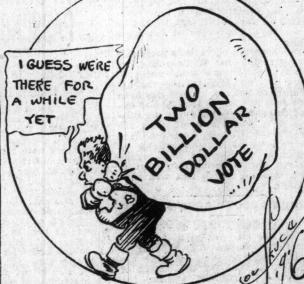
north of Verdun, which has variously supposed objectives,

Events of the Week : : By Lou Skuce









GERMAN NEWSPAPERS ADMIT TEUTONIC LOSSES ARE HEAVY

ZURICH, Feb. 26.—(Via London, 4.36 p.m.)-German newspapers received here admit that heavy losses are being sustained in the Verdun offensive and warn the public against extravagant hopes. The Frankfurter Zeitung declares that the German regiments are "fighting in a sea

TORONTO'S PERCENTAGE **EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH**

The war office also announced the capture of the hills southwest of the Village of Louvemont, and the fortified positions to the east thereof.

Twenty thousand Toronto candidates Majesty was for distinguished services for enlistment with various battalions in France. A report is in circulation that of infantry and other branches of the Canadian Military Hospital Staff Canadian expeditionary forces have at Cairo, Figure 19 Majesty was for distinguished services for enlistment with various battalions in France. A report is in circulation that Canadian expeditionary forces have at Cairo, Figure 19 Majesty was for distinguished services for enlistment with various battalions of the Canadian Military Hospital Staff Resistance of the French broke down on the Woevre plain along the entire front to Marphoville, south of the high road from Paris to Metz."

"We are pursuing the retreating enemy," the statement says.

The French forces in the Character of the Montreal Ottoms of the Canadian Military Hospital Staff the Canadian Military Hospital Staff at Cairo, Egypt, is likely to be transferred shortly to the field of operations in northern France.

Sapper H. Woolf, formerly of the Toronto Sunday World staff, in a letter just received the field of operations in northern France.

Resistance of the Weevre plain along the down on the Weevre plain along the down of the High road from Paris to Metz."

"We are pursuing the retreating remmy," the statement says.

The French-forces in the Champagne have made an attack on the German positions south of St. Marie-dary. The war office statement to grow and south of St. Marie-dary. The war office statement of about 250 yards.

"Western front: On the night of Fench success."

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"The fighting is still being carried at takes and tremindous slaughter.

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"The fighting is still being carried at the session. Brunner also Grath the medous fall at that seeds of the first form the front to the statement follows:

"The fighting is anything of that kind at that seeds of the medous fall at the statement follows:

"The fighting is an state of the statem the high road from Paris to Metz."

"We are pursuing the retreating enemy," the statement says.

The French forces in the Champagne have made an attack on the German positions south of St. Mariea. Py. The war office statement today says the French penetrated the first German trenches over a distance of about 250 yards.

The statement follows:

"Western front: On the night of Feb. 25 an advance by a British deservations."

Since the war began. Added to the men accepted for Toronto regiments, or drafted off to Montreal, Ottawa and Kingston, an aggregate is made of sixty thousand Toronto men, who have offered to join the colors. This exceeds Toronto's population of the full half million. If the Dominion at large would have already had offers for overseas service from a million men. Toronto's example is being extolled in Epitish military journals.

Onslaught, Regardless of Sacrifice.

BATTLE STILL RAGING

Taken Most Sanguinary Aspect.

PARIS, Feb. 26, 2.35 p.m.—The Gernans are continuing their violent attacks north of Verdun without regard to their sacrifices, the war office an-

hounced this afternoon. The German attacks in the region failed, the war office said, notwithstanding repeated attacks and tre-

Teutons Continuing Violent Declares He Was Aware of it One of Fortifications of Ver-Before Session of Nineteen-Thirteen.

HE WARNED THEM OFF

In Region of Beaumont it Has Asked Witness, and Grant London Advices Say Gain is Waddell to Attempt Nothing • That Session.

REGINA, Sask, Feb. 26.—Before the select committee investigating the Bradshaw bribery charges this morning, Frank Brunner again took the stard, and testified that Hon. J. A. Calder knew all about the bribery in of Douaumont, east of the Meuse have 1913, before the government introduced its liquor legislation, and wanted Brunner and Grant Wadell not to at-

lers' Association, on the stand insisted that they did not know when Brunner and Peterson were given full power to draw funds that such money was to be used in bribing members.

Confidently Stated in Ottawa That He is Making Preparations to Go.

ORGANIZATION COMPLETE

Canadian Militia Department Now in Position to Let Minister Proceed to Europe.

There has also been a loud call from the soldiers at the front for General

Gen. Hughes has firm confidence in the ability of the French to defend Verdun. He is quite ready to express these views also.

No doubt Senator Loughead will be acting minister of militia while Gen. Hughes is in Europe.

Deyond Douaumont, with his powerful fortress and its field works giving steady support.

The Pall Ma'l Gazette says the French are sustaining an assault equal ing. In the list, who nottest engagements of the entire war.

The Westminster Gazette expresses confidence that the main fortress is

SUNDAY WEATHER

dun Four Miles East of It.

LACKS CONFIRMATION

Important if Report is True.

BERLIN, Feb. 26, via London, 11.51

a.m.—It is officially announced that Fort Douaumont, one of the fortifications of Verdun, was taken by storm vesterday afternoon and is now firmly held by the Germans. The official announcement is as fol-

lows: "The armored Fort Douaumont, the northeastern corner pillar of the

cussed plans for opposing, the association should "get hold of good members to look after their interests" and of course they might have to pay them a little for their trouble, R. J. Barry, which has scored the greatest advance in the assault on the French positions. Douaumont is somewhat to the east of what has hitherton formerly of Saskatoon, and George been the principal line of progress, Sharp of Gull Lake, also members of being situated four miles east of the the executive of the Licensed Victual- Meuse River. The main force of the German attack as indicated by the previous official communications was being exerted southward along the Meuse.

The capture of Douaumont is the most important achievement since the inauguration of the German drive on Verdun—an onslaught which for fury and weight of men and guns has few and weight of men and guns has lew precedents in the war. The French war office has expressed confidence that, notwithstanding the admited great strength of the German drive, Verdun and its protecting fortresses would be able to hold out. These positions form what has been regarded as one form what has been regarded as one of the greatest strongholds of Europe. It is the strongest fortress of France and is of particular importance from the fact that it offers direct communication with Paris, which is 150 miles to the west. Verdun marks the northerly point of the great French defences against direct attacks from German territory, the most southerly being Belfort, as between these two points lies the stretch of frontier on which Germany touches France. France has other fortified points further north, the of minor importance, ther north, the of minor importance, as they were along the line of contact with Belgium and Luxembourg. The most important probably of these By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, Ont. Feb. 26.—It is stated confidentially in Ottawa that General Sir Sam Hugnes will be at the battle front in the near future. The minister of militia is non-communicative on the subject but it is learned a desperate effort was made to reduce

minister of militia is non-communicative on the subject, but it is learned that preparations are being made for his departure, and it is expected that he will be in Flanders within the next two months.

That General Hughes will take the supreme command of the Canadian troops at the front may be anticipated. It is known that this has been his heart's desire since the war began, but there was mammoth work to be done in this country and it was felt by the government that no one would do it so well as the minister of militia. Accordingly he has stayed behind, but the organization in Canada has now been perfected and there is less reason for preventing him going to the front than there has been a loud call from the soldiers at the front for General Hughes to go over and lead them, and

There has also been a loud call from the soldiers at the front for General Hughes to go over and lead them, and it is unquestioned that his arrival on the field of battle will give general satisfaction amonst the troops. The Canadan soldier has a firm belief in the minister. There are 50,000 Canadian troops on the firing line and more than that in England ready to cross over to Flanders.

The belief is that the allies on the western front are about ready to begin an immense drive thru the German trenches.

Gen. Hughes has firm confidence in the addity of the French to defend

ing in inclusity in nottest engagements of the entire war.

The Westminster Gazette expresses confidence that the main fortress is impregnable. It predicts that the principal result of the German attack will be transported by logger which will original. Northwest winds; fair and colder. in subsequent operations.

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ON COMPAN