

MOST SANGUINARY BATTLE IN WORLD'S HISTORY RAGES French Gain in Champagne---Fall of Fort Douaumont Unconfirmed by the French Report GERMAN CONTINUING ATTACK WITH AN UNDIMINISHED FURY

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

LONDON, Feb. 26.—The tremendous German drive for Verdun 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.

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

GERMAN NEWSPAPERS ADMIT TEUTONIC LOSSES ARE HEAVY

ZURICH, Feb. 26.—(Via London, 4.36 p.m.)—German newspapers receive here admit that heavy losses are being sustained in the Verdun offensive and warn the public against extravagant hopes.

TORONTO'S PERCENTAGE EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH

Twenty thousand Toronto candidates for enlistment with various battalions of infantry and other branches of the Canadian expeditionary forces, have been rejected at the different Toronto recruiting depots as not up to the test since the war began.

PARIS REPORTS GERMAN ATTACK UNSUCCESSFUL

Teutons Continuing Violent Onslaught, Regardless of Sacrifice. BATTLE STILL RAGING In Region of Beaumont it Has Taken Most Sanguinary Aspect.

CALDER KNEW ABOUT BRIBERY SAYS BRUNNER

Declares He Was Aware of it Before Session of Nineteen-Thirteen. HE WARNED THEM OFF Asked Witness, and Grant Waddell to Attempt Nothing That Session.

GERMANS SAY FT. DOUAUMONT CAPITULATED

One of Fortifications of Verdun Four Miles East of It. LACKS CONFIRMATION London Advises Say Gain is Important if Report is True.

WAR SUMMARY THE WEEK'S EVENTS REVIEWED

THE chief event of the past week is the great battle which the Germans have forced on the French about five to eight miles north of Verdun, which has variously supposed objectives, 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.

Events of the Week : : By Lou Skuce



GEN. SIR SAM HUGHES GOING TO THE FRONT

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.

BERGNA, Sask, Feb. 26.—Before the select committee investigating the Bradshaw bribery charges this morning, Frank Brunner again took the stand, and testified that Hon. J. A. Calder knew all about the bribery in 1913, before the government introduced its liquor legislation, and wanted Brunner and Grant Waddell not to attempt anything of that kind at that session. Brunner also produced a list of members of the assembly marked up, he said, by H. C. Pierce, member for Warden into "O.K.," "doubtful" and "no good."

Important Achievement. 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 precedents in the war. The French war office has expressed confidence that, notwithstanding the admitted great strength of the German drive, Verdun and its protecting fortresses will be able to hold out. These positions form what has been regarded as one of the greatest strongholds of Europe.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—The only word concerning the German claim to taking the armored fortress of Douaumont, outside of Verdun, comes from German sources. Further information is awaited anxiously, owing to the recognized strategic importance of this fort, which is the base of solid field works on a line of hills 1000 feet high, about six miles northeast of Verdun.

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

SUNDAY WEATHER Northwest winds; fair and colder.