

The St. John Standard

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WEATHER—FAIR

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FRENCH TROOPS SCORE BIG VICTORY ON SOMME

BULLETIN--Paris, Oct. 10--In fighting south of the Somme River today the French troops captured the village of Bonvent, the north and west outskirts of Ablaincourt, and also the greater part of Chaulnes Wood. Prisoners to the number of 1,200 were taken in the operations.

HOW PARIS TELLS OF IT

Paris, Oct. 10.—The text of the official statement follows:
"North of the Somme there was great artillery activity on both sides. A surprise attack south of Sally Sallésel brought in fifty prisoners, two of them officers.
"South of the Somme we attacked on a front of five kilometres, between Berny-En-Santerre and Chaulnes. Our infantry vigorously carried the enemy position, which was their objective, and went beyond it an appreciable distance at certain points. The hamlet of Bouvent, the northern and western outskirts of Ablaincourt and the greater part of Chaulnes Wood were captured.
"The enemy sustained considerable losses, notably around Ablaincourt. Twelve hundred prisoners were taken.
"On the remainder of the front there is nothing to report.
"Aviation: During the night of October 9-10 Adjutant Pilot Baron and Adjutant Chassard bombed at Stuttgart the Bosch Magneto factory. A dense smoke was seen rising from the factory as a result of the bombardment.
"Eastern army: On the Struma the enemy evacuated Chavdorman or Manli and Haanatar. In the center there were patrol encounters and moderate artillery activity.
"On the left wing our offensive continues successfully. There has been especially sharp fighting in the Cerna bend between the Serbs and Bulgarians. In the course of these actions 816 prisoners, including five officers, have been taken.
"Monastir and Prilep have been bombed by our aeroplanes."

ROMANIANS IN MINOR FIGHTS.

Bucharest, via London, Oct. 10.—The official communication issued by the war office today says:
"On the northern and western front there have been minor engagements.
"On the southern front there have been skirmishes and artillery bombardments along the Danube."
The Southern Somme Line.

Paris, Oct. 10.—Increased activity on the battlefield south of the Somme is reported by the war office. Spirited artillery fighting occurred last night in the Denlecourt-Lihons sector.

The announcement follows:
"South of the Somme there was reciprocal artillery activity. Beginning in the night, the enemy delivered a curtain of fire on the Denlecourt sector and bombarded with tear-producing shells the outskirts of Lihons. There is nothing to report from the remainder of the front.
"Our aeroplanes have been showing themselves particularly active in the region of Remiremont and on the Somme. They fought six aerial battles, bombarded St. Pierre-Vaast Wood and carried out numerous reconnaissances."

British in Macedonia.
London, Oct. 10.—The text of the British announcement says:
"Struma front: Kalendra and Topalova are reported by cavalry reconnaissance to have been evacuated by the enemy, who has fallen back into the hills northwest of Seres. Kalendra and Homondos have been occupied.
"Dorian front: Our patrols have been active and our artillery continues to bombard the enemy trenches."
268 German Prisoners.

London, Oct. 10.—The official communication from general headquarters of Gen. Haig in France issued tonight reads:
"The work of improving our new positions south of the Ancre continued today without special interest. In addition to those reported, a further 268 German prisoners were brought in, including five officers.
"An enemy aeroplane was brought down north of Neuville-St. Vaast. Yesterday our own aircraft were again very active. One of our machines is missing."

SEVEN YEARS FOR THIEF.
Special to The Standard.
Fredericton, N. B., Oct. 10.—Leonard Whipple, who was arrested by one of the Fredericton police near Robinson's mill, Sunbury county, some weeks ago, pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing \$225 from John McDonald of Minto, and a \$64 watch from Mrs. Bailey of the same place before Judge Wilson at Gagetown this morning. Whipple appeared under the Speedy Trials Act and was not represented by counsel and was sentenced to seven years in Dorchester penitentiary.

BRUCE CALDWELL WINS PROMOTION.
Special to The Standard.
Fredericton, Oct. 10.—Word has been received here by Mrs. W. C. Crockett that her brother, Capt. Bruce Caldwell, formerly of the C. P. R. mail

FIGHTING FOR POSSESSION OF ALPINE PEAKS

Italians and Austrians in Sanginary Encounters from which Allied Soldiers Emerge Victorious.

Rome, via London, Oct. 10.—The following official communication was issued today:
"On Monte Pasubio, after artillery preparation, our troops stormed and took enemy entrenchments in the sector of Cosmagnon and Sette Croci, and captured 176 men of the Kaiserlager, including six officers and one machine gun.
"In the Travignolo Valley, after a demonstration on the slopes of Cima Bocche, the enemy attacked our positions on the second peak of Col Bricon in force. They were driven off with heavy losses and were pursued by the effective fire of our batteries. An attack against our advanced line on the north slopes of Monte Sief was also decisively repulsed.
"On the front in the Julian Alps the artillery activity by both sides has been increased. The enemy shelled Gorizia, causing damage to buildings and a few casualties among the inhabitants. In the course of small fights on the Carso front forty-three prisoners were taken.
"Last night hostile aeroplanes made another raid on the Lower Isonzo, dropping a large number of bombs on villages in the Grado Lagoon and elsewhere. Three persons were killed and two others wounded, and some material damage was done.
"One of our aeroplane squadrons dropped bombs on enemy positions on Col Santo, north of Monte Pasubio. Our aviators dropped bombs and drove off numerous aerial attacks and returned safely.
"In Albania an Italian detachment yesterday occupied Klisura, southeast of Tepelini, on the Vovusa river. Sunday night an enemy aeroplane sailed over Avlona and dropped a bomb, which caused no damage."

None the less the line moved steadily forward. At times they doubled through the artillery barrage. Thus they passed over the ground so gallantly won that very morning. Here and there were bodies of men of Canadian battalions and bodies of their German foe.
At last the "candy" trench was reached, manned by men of the Fourth Brigade, and the sugar factory was passed on the left. There the right of the line was thrown forward until it rested on the gun pit road, and the direction altered to a left incline, thus advancing directly from the route against the southern edge of Courcellette.
Stage by stage in front of the infantry our artillery barrage was laid down with remarkable precision, but the battalion no longer studied the time. They swept ahead without a pause, almost within their own shell fire. Just at the edge of the village they were held up for a few moments until the barrage lifted. Then with shouts and wild cries they poured into Courcellette in an irresistible flood. On the right heavy machine gun fire met it, and a few men fell before the guns could be silenced. Here and there hand to hand struggles took place. Snipers had to be dislodged, and deep dugouts full of cowering Germans were bombed. The greater part of the three hundred Germans which formed the garrison of Courcellette had, however, little stomach for fight. The French-Canadians speak of them with disgust as "les cacas." In the streets they knelt down imploring mercy.

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service between St. John and Montreal, has been appointed officer commanding the Canadian field postal service at Shorncliffe, England. He now has the rank of major.

GERMANS FLED IN TERROR AS THE CANADIANS ADVANCED AT BLOODY COURCELETTE

Achievements of Troops from the Dominion Will Rank With Finest of the War—Digging Huns at Bayonet Point Out of Their Underground Refuges—Some Wonderful Stories of Personal Bravery.

Canadian Corps Headquarters in France, via London, Oct. 10.—(Special cable story of the French-Canadians at Courcellette)—When the first great attack was launched at 6.20 a.m. of Sept. 15 the Fifth Canadian Infantry Brigade was in divisional second reserve. One French-Canadian battalion was located in trenches, where for the greater part of the day they were only interested spectators. Over their heads the shells from the heavy batteries hurled, screaming through the air. All about them rows and rows of field guns and light howitzers were firing furiously, with a deafening, brazen crash of sound.
As the morning passed reports came to them of the successful assaults by the Fourth and Sixth Brigades, but they had little expectation of being themselves called upon to take any part in the battle. Suddenly, at 3.30 in the afternoon, they received marching orders. Each battalion, in conjunction with the battalion on its left, was at six o'clock that evening to advance to the assault and capture of the fortified village of Courcellette.

HOW A MILITARY PROBLEM WAS SOLVED.
Here, indeed, was a military problem and a task to test the most highly trained and disciplined troops. In the short space of two hours and a half battalion orders had to be issued and explained to all the officers and N. C. O.'s who would participate. Careful preparations had to be made, and the battalion would have to reach the point of departure for the assault over very rough ground, more than two miles away. Yet this was done. All went like clockwork. The training of months and months, the detailed and patient labor of anticipation, had prepared for this very contingency. The battalion finally set in motion and moving against time began its march forward. Two companies, in single file, abreast about thirty-four yards apart, led the way. About 150 yards behind them came another company, also in single file, and at a similar distance the fourth and last company in the same formation.

In this manner they mounted the ridge which conceals Martinpunch from view. From the trenches on this ridge the morning attack had been launched. Here they entered the zone of hostile artillery fire. The ground, although dry, was a perfect confusion of shell holes and shattered trenches. At this point the two leading companies swung upon the right in extended order, one man to every three yards. In this way they covered a line of about 900 yards, the right flank guided by the light tramway running into the houses on the western corner of Martinpunch, and their left directed towards the ruins of the sugar factory, which presently came into view. The manoeuvre could not have been more perfectly executed on the peaceful plains of Salisbury, or the sandy fields of Valcartier, and yet all about them there was a continuous and deafening roar of high explosives and shrapnel, and men fell killed or wounded. The other companies, as they, in turn, reached the crest of the ridge, followed suit and extended into open order, the battalion thus moving forward in three successful waves for over a mile. The battalion continued in this fashion under a heavy and continuous shell fire. Men were struck down, killed or blown up and buried. Three times the officer commanding, himself, was partly buried by the earth from shells exploding near him, and a major twice narrowly escaped, both being knocked down and bruised and shocked by nearby explosions.

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(Continued on Page 2)

WASHINGTON REFUSES TO CLOSE HER HARBORS TO ENEMY SUBMARINES

This is the Purport of United States' Reply to Memorandum from Allied Governments.

A SPIRIT OF DEFIANCE IN MOST RECENT YANKEE NOTE

American Government Declares it will Reserve its Liberty of Action in All Respects and Treat Each Submarine Case as it May Deem Best—Issues Warning to Belligerent Powers.

Washington, Oct. 10.—The text of the American memorandum replying to that of the Allied governments regarding treatment of belligerent submarines in neutral ports, is as follows:

The government of the United States has received the identical memorandum of the governments of France, Great Britain, Russia and Japan, in which neutral governments are exhorted "to take efficacious measures tending to prevent belligerent submarines, regardless of their use, to avail themselves of neutral waters, roadsteads and harbors."

These governments point out the facility possessed by such craft to avoid supervision or surveillance or determination of their national character and their power "to do injury that is inherent in their very nature," as well as the "additional facilities" afforded by having at their disposal places where they can rest and replenish their supplies.

Apparently on these grounds, the Allied governments hold that "submarine vessels must be excluded from the benefit of the rules heretofore accepted under international law regarding the admission and sojourn of war and merchant vessels in neutral waters, roadsteads or harbors. Any submarine of a belligerent that once enters a neutral harbor must be held there" and, therefore, the Allied governments "warn neutral powers of the great danger to neutral submarines attending the navigation of waters visited by the submarines of belligerents."

AN EXPRESSION OF "SURPRISE."

In reply the government of the United States must express its surprise that there appear to be an endeavor for the Allied powers to determine the rule of action governing what they regard as a "novel situation" in respect to the use of submarines in time of war, and to enforce acceptance of that rule, at least in part, by warning neutral powers of the great danger to their submarines in waters that may be visited by belligerent submarines.

In the opinion of the government of the United States the Allied powers have not set in their circumstances nor is the government of the United States at present aware of any circumstances concerning the use of war merchant submarines which would render the existing rules of international law inapplicable to them.

U. S. WILL DO AS IT PLEASURES.

In view of this fact and of the notice and warning of the Allied powers announced in their memoranda under acknowledgment it is incumbent upon the government of the United States to notify the governments of France, Great Britain, Russia and Japan, that so far as the treatment of either war or merchant submarines in American waters is concerned, the government of the United States reserves its liberty of action in all respects, and will treat such vessels as, in its opinion, becomes the action of a power which may be said to have taken the first steps toward establishing the principles of neutrality and which for over a century has maintained those principles in the traditional spirit and with the high sense of impartiality in which they were conceived.

A WARNING TO BELLIGERENTS.

In order, however, that there should be no misunderstanding as to the attitude of the United States, the government of the United States announces to the Allied powers that it holds it to be the duty of belligerent powers to distinguish between submarines of neutral and belligerent powers and that responsibility for any conflict that may arise between the belligerent warships and neutral submarines on account of the neglect of a belligerent to so distinguish between the classes of submarines must rest entirely upon the negligent power.

BRITISH PRESS OPINIONS.

London, Oct. 10.—The evening newspapers of London, in commenting on the activities of the U-53, refer to the remark made by the United States of Great Britain early in the year to recall British cruisers from trade lines approximate to American waters and American ports, and contend the United States cannot permit belligerent submarines to operate in these same waters.

THE WESTMINSTER GAZETTE.

"We have ample confidence in our navy's ability to deal with the submarine menace, but we are entitled to expect that the consideration we have shown to neutrals in the exercise of our sea power shall not be audaciously turned to our disadvantage."

THE PALL MALL GAZETTE.

"Washington must either put a peremptory stop to the proceedings in this area, over which it claims special concern, or must withdraw the protest against the surveillance exercised by British warships and recognize that its diplomacy showed lack of foresight and a deficient grasp of practical conditions."

ROYAL CONNAUGHTS SAY FAREWELL TODAY
Canada's Departing Governor General will Pass His Successor in Mid-Atlantic.

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, Oct. 10.—The Duke and Duchess of Connaught bid farewell to Ottawa tomorrow morning on the first stage of their journey to England. The date of embarkation on board ship has not been made public but according to time-honored custom the Duke will pass the new governor general, the Duke of Devonshire upon mid-ocean. Princess Patricia will accompany the Duke and Duchess.

NEWSPAPER MAN TO TAKE FEMALE END OF NATIONAL SERVICE

Ottawa, Oct. 10.—J. S. Briery, who was for a number of years chief proprietor of the Montreal Herald, has been appointed by Sir Thomas Talbot, director general of national service, to take charge of the work of finding out to what extent female labor can be utilized for national service and to estimate the number of female workers available. He will also estimate in what way women who are now employed can be diverted into other employments in order to accomplish most useful work from a national point of view.