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British and French in Smashing New Drive In Picardy

At Hun's Throat Early This Morning On Wide Front

Haig Leading In The Attack

Early Reports Say All Progressing Satisfactorily—Full Success of Foch's Plan Means Menacing Effect on Whole German Line From Rheims to Ypres

Giving the Germans no time to catch their breath after their crushing defeat on the Aisne-Marne front, Marshal Foch has launched a fresh blow against them in a new sector.

The attack started at dawn this morning on a wide front in Picardy, east and southeast of Amiens. The French first army and the British fourth army are engaged in this new offensive, which is under the immediate direction of Field Marshal Haig, the British commander-in-chief. Both the Paris and London official statements announce the opening of the attack and report satisfactory progress in its early stages.

WHERE ALLIED LINE WAS BROKEN

The field of the fighting is the scene of the most pronounced German success in this year's series of enemy offensives. It was in the first German blow, delivered against the British front between Cambrai and La Fere on March 21, that the enemy broke into the Allied lines, and was not stopped until he had pushed the head of his assaulting columns down to the region of Montdidier. He swept over a wide stretch of territory, including the districts the Germans had devastated in their retreat of March, 1917, and established the vast salient that has since stood virtually intact, with its apex at Montdidier and its base roughly extending along the line from Albert, near the Somme, on the north, to Noyon, on the Oise on its southern side.

The front under attack is not definitely defined, but it seems probable that its length is at least twenty miles from the Somme to south of Montdidier.

Marshal Foch's object in striking here may well have been based upon the idea of breaking up the enemy line between Montdidier and Soissons before the Germans had time to stabilize the Soissons-Rheims front.

NEW ALLIED DRIVE NEAR AMIENS

London, Aug. 8.—British and French troops launched an offensive east and west of Amiens this morning, says a statement from Field Marshal Haig today. Early reports indicate that the attack is progressing satisfactorily.

The attack is under the command of Field Marshal Haig and is on a wide front. The troops engaged, the British fourth army and the French first army, advanced at dawn.

Paris, Aug. 8.—Franco-British troops at five o'clock this morning began an offensive in the region southeast of Amiens. The attack is developing under favorable conditions.

The attack southeast of Amiens probably is aimed at weakening if not wiping out the German position in and around Montdidier, where the battle line swings to the north. The British troops hold a sector south of the Somme which joins with the French lines south of the Villers-Bretonneux. Late last week the Germans withdrew to the east of the Aisne in the region west and northwest of Montdidier. Since then the French have been gaining ground on the same front.

A line from the Somme to the Aisne and thence south along the river faces a fairly open country and the region of Picardy in front of it is part of the region devastated by the Germans in their retreat from the Somme in March, 1917. A break through the Montdidier region would have a menacing effect on the German lines from Rheims to Ypres.

PETAINE'S HIGH PRAISE FOR THE MEN OF THE TANKS

Paris, Aug. 8.—General Petain, commander-in-chief of the French army on the French front, yesterday issued the following address to the men of the tank service in recognition of the important role played by the tanks in the Soissons-Rheims offensive:

"Since the beginning of April our charging artillery have proved in thirty combats and two pitched battles their powerful offensive value. While granting the infantry their share of the glory, the commander thus conveys his felicitations to the men of the new arm."

"The crews of the chargers, who have materially contributed to the stopping of the enemy, and who have broken his attack, the engineers who constructed and perfected the engines of victory, and the workmen of the factories, who have brought victory to the workmen at the front who have directed the machines, well deserve the merit of your country."

RIGHT OF WAY CASES

C. O. Foss and Hon. W. P. Jones traveled from Fredericton to Westfield today to look over the ground in connection with arbitration cases over Valley Railway right of way to be taken up next week.

For the last few months there has been considerable discussion by the property owners at Public Landing and the Valley Railway over the matter of valuing the property and the damage done to it by the crossing of the railroad. Arbitrators to appraise the property have been appointed by Judge Chandler. The arbitrators appointed to decide on the value of Abraham Day's property at Public Landing are Horatio N. Coates, Herbert McFadden and Clinton D'Arcy. Other properties to be appraised are those of David Corkery and Amland Brothers. The case of Abraham Day will be heard in Westfield on Monday morning. J. Starr Tait is acting for Mr. Day. The other cases will be heard during the week.

LLOYD GEORGE'S SPEECH SENDS M.P.'S HOME IN HOPEFUL MOOD

London, Aug. 8.—The exhaustive review of the war situation made in the House of Commons on Wednesday by Premier Lloyd George was looked upon in the house as one of the most frank and informative speeches heard from any statesman in the course of the world struggle. He touched upon all important points and declared that the outlook for the Allies became brighter as the German hopes of conquest darkened. Altogether the premier was able to give parliament assurances that will enable it to adjourn in a hopeful holiday mood.

JAPANESE SEE MUCH BIGGER EVENTS THAN HELPING OF CZECHS

London, Aug. 8.—A despatch to the Times from Tokyo dated Aug. 4 says: "The decline in leading stocks, after the publication of the text of the government's proclamation concerning the aims and purposes of the Japanese expedition to Vladivostok, reveals the interpretation placed by the business community on Japan's military activities. A feeling that the die has been cast for much greater events than the assistance of the Czechs is reflected by comments in the press."

AGAIN RECRUITING CADETS FOR ROYAL AIR FORCE IN CANADA

Toronto, Aug. 8.—Recruiting of cadets for the royal air force is now again in full swing. Men are again being taken for immediate service and those who are eligible are being sworn for the reserve. The reserve is composed of men below the military service age and therefore men who are in the nineteen year old class can now be taken only for immediate service.

FIND GRAVE OF QUENTIN ROOSEVELT

With the American Army on the Vesle, Aug. 7.—(By the Associated Press)—On a wooden cross at the head of a grave at the edge of a wood at Chamery, east of Fere-en-Tardenois, is this inscription: "Lieutenant Quentin Roosevelt, buried by the Germans"

AMERICANS HOLD GROUND THEY WON ACROSS THE VESLE

Force Way Over in Inferno Of Shells and Gas

FRENCH WIN PLACES ON LEFT

Prisoners Say Germans Expect to Keep on Going Back to The Aisne—A New Division From Flanders Front Identified

With the American Army on the Marne-Aisne Front, Aug. 7.—(By the Associated Press)—Under an inferno of shrapnel and machine gun fire and waves of gas the Americans forced their way over the Vesle River last night and early this morning, while rain varying at times from a drizzle to a down-pour drenched the battlefield.

French troops already have gained positions on the American left, and the joint movement has straightened out the line from a point west of Basoches to Fismes.

The Germans lost considerably in casualties and also a few prisoners whose stories tended to corroborate the expected success of the American drive.

The Germans expect to continue their retreat until the bank of the Aisne is reached.

With the American Army on the Vesle, Wednesday, Aug. 7 (10 p. m., By the Associated Press)—The River Vesle was crossed east and west of Fismes late today by additional American infantrymen. West of Fismes they are breaking up counter-attacks by German infantry and are holding their ground despite the enemy efforts.

In support of the troops who had crossed the river during Tuesday night and Wednesday morning a detachment of infantry crossed under a heavy fire and a French-American barrage just before noon today. Two other detachments reached the north bank during the afternoon.

The Germans counter-attacked west of Fismes this afternoon, but were scattered by artillery fire. The Americans have pushed on under a heavy fire and in bitter fighting in which they used their bayonets effectively. A few Germans were taken prisoners, while the others retired.

Among the prisoners taken today were an officer and several privates from a fresh division which has just arrived from the German front in Flanders.

French peasants found by American soldiers in a cave near Ville Savoye, just south of the Vesle, had been told by the Germans that if the Americans discovered them they would be killed and the women mistreated.

The Germans gave the peasants a letter dated Fismes, Aug. 2, addressed to French army headquarters and purporting to be signed by "the artillery commander." The letter said in part: "We have received the announcements from airplanes. Thanks. We are not Russians, however."

A reference to the American troops was contained in the letter, which was written in French. It said: "Do not count on the Americans. They will be your masters. Germany has so many soldiers that you never win by force of arms. On the other hand Germany is ready to make peace with France at any time. France is her enemy which merits it the most."

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HINDENBURG: "We can make the pile higher." KAISER: "But can we make it high enough?"

IMPERIAL PREFERENCE NOT A MATTER OF PRESENT

Whatever Action Will be Taken Will be in Concert With Allies

London, Aug. 8.—Earl Curzon, government leader in the House of Lords, in a speech yesterday said the imperial war cabinet had not yet discussed the subject of imperial preference. The government would act in the matter in concert with its Allies, and especially the United States.

HUNDREDS OF DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND FROM GRIP; NOW IS WANNING

Berne, Aug. 8.—The grippe epidemic in Switzerland is subsiding. The last official bulletin announces a decrease of 2,000 cases. Ten per cent of the Swiss population suffered from the visitation. Of the 15,000 cases in the army, 400 resulted fatally. In Berne there were more than 800 deaths among civilians. In the canton of Zurich it is estimated there still are more than 30,000 cases.

DR. BELAND IN QUEBEC; SERIES OF RECEPTIONS

Quebec, Aug. 8.—Dr. H. S. Beland will be in Quebec city today. He will make a few calls and will be entertained at dinner this evening at the Garrison Club by the local members of parliament. He will also pay a visit to His Grace Cardinal Beaudry and stay in town till Friday morning, when Hon. Jacques Bureau will take him to Three Rivers for a reception. From there Dr. Beland will proceed to Louisville, Que., where his aged mother lives, and thence he will go to Montreal on Monday.

NEW YORKERS SLEEP IN PARKS; IT WAS 102 YESTERDAY

New York, Aug. 7.—All heat records for New York were shattered at 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon when the temperature mounted to 101 degrees and another degree was added a half hour later. The highest previous mark was 100, on September 7, 1881. At six o'clock the temperature had dropped to 99, but the indications were that it would not go much below 90 during the night.

THUNDER-STORMS BREAK HEAT WAVE IN STATES

Toronto Had Its Hottest Day Yesterday, With 101

Washington, Aug. 8.—Shattering all previous observed records of high temperature, most of which were built up yesterday, the prevailing hot wave on Wednesday drew to a climax over the Atlantic coast area north of Norfolk, Va., and last night was being destroyed in a series of self-induced thunder storms.

Toronto, Aug. 8.—Sweltering heat was experienced here yesterday, the thermometer registering 101 degrees early in the afternoon, a record for the summer.

Increase in Fares. Detroit, Mich., Aug. 8.—An increase in street car fares was put into effect today by the Detroit United Railway. The new rates are six cents cash or ten tickets for fifty-five cents instead of a flat five cent charge.

New England—Thunder storms this afternoon or tonight cooler. Friday partly cloudy, light west winds.

CHARGE BIG FOOD TRUST; RECOMMEND GOVERNMENT CONTROL

Washington, Aug. 8.—Government acquisition and control of all the principal stock yards, cold storage plants and warehouses and both refrigerators and cattle cars has been recommended by the federal trade commission to destroy a monopoly which it declares Swift & Co., Armour & Co., Morris & Co., Will-Co., Armour & Co., and the Cudahy Packing Company exercise not only over the meat of the country, but other necessary food supplies.

HUNS LOST ONE OF CHIEF AIR RAID LEADERS IN ATTACK MONDAY-NIGHT

Amsterdam, Aug. 7.—Capt. Strasser, one of Germany's most successful squadron commanders in airplane attacks, and the entire crew of the Zeppelin which led the attack toward the British east coast on Monday night, perished when the dirigible was shot down over the North Sea. An official communication from Berlin says the raiders caused heavy damage in bombing attacks, but that Strasser and his crew probably met with a heroic death.

BELGIAN PROFESSOR AND SOLDIER DIES IN CANADA

Toronto, Aug. 8.—News of the death of Prof. Auguste Joseph G. Ledoux, a provincial government official, was received last night by the deputy minister of mines. He died in Sudbury.

WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Sturpatrick, Director of Meteorological Service

Synopsis—Thunder storms have occurred locally in Ontario and Quebec, but the weather in Canada has been generally fine, attended by great heat in the peninsula of Ontario.

Forecasts. Lower Lakes and on Friday, for the most part fair, but showers or thunder storms in many localities, chiefly tonight and on Friday and Saturday.

Ottawa, Valley and Upper St. Lawrence.—A few local showers but for the most part fair and not quite so warm; Friday, partly fair with some showers, chiefly towards evening.

Lower St. Lawrence, Gulf and North Shore.—Moderate winds, a few scattered showers, but generally fair today and on Friday.

Generally Fair. Maritime—Light to moderate variable winds, a few scattered showers but generally fair today and on Friday.

Superior.—Moderate to fresh winds, mostly northeast, partly fair today and on Friday with some showers.

All West.—Showers in a few localities but generally fair and warm today and on Friday.

New England.—Thunder storms this afternoon or tonight cooler. Friday partly cloudy, light west winds.

All The British Objectives Gained Within Four Hours

French Also Speed Onward—Attack A Surprise To The Germans But Terrific Resistance in Some Places—Tanks Across Luce-Avre Valley

London, Aug. 8.—(Picardy battlefield)—According to advices received in London, the French and British forces which attacked this morning in the Picardy sector have advanced at some points to a depth of more than three miles.

The attack must have taken the Germans by surprise, as the weather has not been such as would generally be chosen for the commencement of new operations.

On Monday there was a continuous downpour of rain along the Amiens front, but advices stated that the British troops were congratulating themselves that the ground was not as bad as they had experienced in Flanders, where shell craters were filled with water and there was no means of draining them.

On the French front in France, Aug. 8.—(By the Associated Press, 11 a. m.)—The attack is along the front between Albert and Montdidier. Satisfactory progress was made despite strong enemy resistance.

The assault began exactly at dawn along a front of between forty and fifty kilometres and a success was scored immediately. The British advanced toward Corisy-Cailly, on the south side of the Somme east of Sully-Laurette, and Marocqville. The French advanced at the same time in the direction of Domain and Aubercourt.

Along the French front the artillery preparation lasted for forty minutes, after which the troops left their trenches with wonderful dash. Before eight o'clock considerable progress had been recorded and all the first objectives have been attained.

TANKS IN FORE FRONT. London, Aug. 8.—(Canadian Press despatch from Reuter's Limited)—Franco-British tanks have crossed the Luce-Avre Valley in the new drive begun against the Germans this morning.

SEVERAL PLACES CAPTURED. With the British Army in France, Aug. 8.—(By the Associated Press)—In their offensive on the front east of Amiens today the British have taken Hamner Wood, Dodo Wood, and probably have possession of the towns of Morocqville and Lamotte En-San-Terre.

The line attacked this morning extends roughly from the neighborhood of Morlacourt, about three miles and a half southeast of Albert, to the Aisne Valley, south of Moreuil. Around Moreuil the German resistance was terrific.

Details of the fighting are coming to the rear slowly. "Going fine," constitutes the best available information. The British launched their attack in a mist after only three minutes of artillery preparation.

The British attacked over a twelve mile front on both sides of the Somme. They gained all their objectives within four hours and have captured a considerable number of prisoners and guns.

An advance by the British to Morocqville and Lamotte en-San-Terre would represent a penetration of approximately two miles into the German lines. The latter town is about three miles east of Villers-Bretonneux, slightly to the east of which the former British line ran. Morocqville is two miles southwest of Lamotte en-San-Terre and about two and one-half miles southeast of Villers-Bretonneux. The woods named do not appear on available maps.

The advices indicate that the principal force of the British stroke was exerted in the Villers-Bretonneux area, slightly to the southeast of Amiens, where Field Marshal Haig's troops had an advantageous jumping-off place from the Villers-Bretonneux ridge.

AFFECTS THE LOCAL SUGAR REFINERY

Change in Classification On Refined Sugar

Council of Board of Trade Makes Representation to Ottawa for Postponement of Change Until Case Can be Presented

At a special meeting of the council of the board of trade, this morning, representations were made on behalf of the Atlantic Sugar Refinery that the change in classification on refined sugar, under order-in-council No. 1863 would have the effect of increasing the freight rates on the refined product from 50 to 100 per cent from the maritime refineries, and that such discriminatory rates would make it impossible for them to carry on their operations here. It was further stated that it was the belief of the maritime refiners that these discriminatory rates were not inter-national, but were due to a lack of consideration of the situation of the maritime province sugar industry.

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Emerson, seconded by Mr. Agar, and adopted: Whereas, by order-in-council, No. 1863, the freight rate on refined sugar from points in the maritime provinces to points west thereof has been increased from 50 to 100 per cent, principally by the cancellation of the commodity rate on refined sugar and the classification of refined sugar as fifth class freight; and Whereas, the effect of such change in classification, in view of the small margin of profit in the manufacture of refined sugar will be to prevent the manufacture of sugar in the maritime (Continued on page 2, seventh column)

By what looks like a peculiar coincidence, at the time the city is discovering that the contents of the mill have been disappearing at this rate, a bill is submitted for the tidy sum of \$1,138, which is put forward as the city's share—a third—of the wages of a watchman at the same mill during the last three years. An arrest has been made in connection with the disappearance of the junk and the bill for the watchman's services has been refused.

Considerable time was given to the discussion of repairs to the wharves and warehouses at West St. John and to the question of where the money was to come from. The commissioner of harbors was given authority to buy deals for the work and to call for tenders for portions of the needed work. Commissioner Hilyard warned the council that No. 1 berth at West St. John needed prompt attention.

Mayor Hayes presided and Commissioners Fisher, Bullock and Hilyard were present.

Regarding a communication from J. A. Barry on behalf of the Union Ice Company, asking for the removal of street car tracks from Union street, West (Continued on page 2, seventh column)

CARTING AWAY MISPEC MILL MATERIAL AND SELLING FOR JUNK

Rather Startling Statement Made in Common Council—Bill of \$1,133 for Wages for Watchman Reputed

In these days when prices are high and metals of all kinds are worth an astonishing amount of money, the old pulp mill at Mispec which is owned by the city seems to have been almost as good as a gold mine for some enterprising citizens. At the meeting of the common council in committee this morning, Commissioner Hilyard told of wholesale and retail business carried on at the mill, of midnight expeditions with laden carts, of one man who had made away with thirty tons of material and of his fears for the loss of the brick smokestack unless a watch was kept.

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