

SECOND CANADIAN DIVISION ON FIRING LINE; FRENCH BREAK THROUGH GERMAN SECOND LINE DEFENCE

BRITISH STRENGTHEN HOLD; FRENCH ADVANCE

Allies' Positions Strengthened Both in Artois and Champagne—French Gain Firm Footing in German Second Line and Capture Hill 191, Menacing German Communication Lines.

BERLIN ADMITS LOSS.

London, Sept. 30.—While the Anglo-French troops in Artois apparently are now simply engaged in consolidating the ground won and opposing the German counter-attacks, the battle for the German second line of defense in Champagne—the collapse of which would acutely menace the greater part of the German position in the west—is proceeding with the greatest stubbornness.

At several points the French troops have gained a footing in the second line, and some of them even went right through, but encountered German reserves, were unable to maintain their progress. According to the German account these latter troops were captured or exterminated.

The Germans, however, admit the loss of Hill No. 191, to north of Massiges, where the French are not far from the way triangle, the possession of which has been of the greatest advantage to the Germans, as one of the lines has been used for supplying the Argonne army.

It is believed there that, besides the gain of ground both in Artois and Champagne, and the improved position of the Allies generally, the recent successful operations must soon relieve the pressure on Russia, and perhaps prevent the Austro-Germans from sending any large force against Serbia.

Already large reinforcements for the Germans are arriving on the western front, and their presence has already had the effect of slackening somewhat the Allies' offensive. But there is a possibility of the offensive breaking out on some other section of this front. In fact, the correspondent of the Cologne Gazette at German headquarters announces that an attack was made east of Auberville, which he says was repulsed.

Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, while he claims to have made some progress in his operations against Dvinsk, is still a long way from that city. His troops to the southeast of Ylma, however, have had better success. They have broken through the Russian position and captured a thousand prisoners. It is believed that this is the first stroke in his latest blow against the Russian right flank, and that he intends to advance south-eastward, in the direction of Minsk, and endeavor to cut off the Russians retiring from Bannovichi.

South of the Pripiet marshes, in which Field Marshal Von Mackensen and his troops are stuck, the Russians have been driven back across the Stry river, but along the Galician border they are still heavily hammering at the Austro-German armies.

In London it is felt that Bulgaria has now abandoned any aggressive action she might have intended against Serbia, but an Athens despatch says the situation is still considered serious, and that Greece is going on with her preparations for eventualities. The crisis at Sofia, which might have resulted in the formation of a Rusevich cabinet, is said to have been averted, the king having refused to accept the resignation of St. Fenecheff, the minister of finance, who has pro-German tendencies.

Berlin Admits Capture of Hill 191 By the French

Berlin, Sept. 30, via London, (3.46 p. m.)—Loss of another position in France by the Allies, as a result of the operations now in progress is announced in an official statement from the war office today. The Germans

NEW BRIDGE AT ARMSTRONG'S CORNER, QUEENS COUNTY, WAS OPENED YESTERDAY

One of Finest Permanent Bridges in the Province Opened with Appropriate Ceremonies—New Structure Credit to the Community and Monument to the Zeal and Energy of Messrs. Woods and Slipp, the County's Representatives in the Provincial Legislature.



THE NEW BRIDGE AT ARMSTRONG'S CORNER.
Sub-structure consists of two concrete U abutments 25 feet in height, resting on a hard pan of gravel below the surface. The superstructure consists of a fixed through riveted steel span of 94 feet, with a reinforced concrete river bed surface, with approaches of stone and earth. The road way, gutter and side curb, wearing surface of the roadway being an asphalt McAdam. This bridge is the last word in permanency of construction for a bridge of this class.

Contractor for Sub-structure Robert Forbes, Gibson, N. B.
Contractor for Superstructure Dominion Bridge Co., Montreal

Mr. H. W. Woods, M. L. A. A typical September day greeted the large gathering who met in the Nerepis Valley to take part in the public opening of the fine new bridge at Armstrong's Corner, Queens county, known as the Merritt Bridge. Mr. W. B. Fowler presided at the meeting which was held in the open. The presence of the City Cornet Band of St. John was much appreciated by the people and they discoursed sweet music between the addresses. The chairman called upon Mr. H. W. Woods to extend the welcome.

Mr. Woods said it was a great deal of pleasure to him to see so many people from his parish and the adjacent parishes, as well as a number from St. John and elsewhere at this gathering and to extend a welcome to all who were there. "This gathering," he said, "is rather unique in the history of Queens county, it being the first of its kind that had ever taken place within the county and, while it might be an occasion for some gratification from a political standpoint, this was not the purpose of the meeting. It was more to get the people together to commemorate an event that would likely be looked back upon as an important event in the history of this county and parish in particular."

"We have," he said, "much to be thankful for in this county—we have a good county, we have a happy and contented people, we have been getting good news from the war centre and Providence has given us a beautiful day and, besides all these, we have a bridge that is equal to any of this kind in the province and one which will, no doubt, be appreciated by the people for many years to come. He referred to the beautiful valley of the Nerepis and to the early settlers, whose descendants were still to be found living on the homesteads that were taken up by the first settlers, and he mentioned that the bridge, which would be declared open by his colleague, Mr. Slipp, having received its name from a man who had taken out a grant of a large tract of land, perhaps a hundred years ago, by the name of Nehemiah Merritt, of whom many fairy tales were told.

He referred to the fact that there was at this meeting a recruiting party and he would ask the kind indulgence of the people to listen to the address that would be given by them and, also, to the two clergymen, whom he was delighted to see on the platform, the Rev. Mr. Gregg and Rev. Mr. Watson. All of these gentlemen, he would tell them something that would be interesting and instructive and a benefit to all.

Mr. Slipp Declares Bridge Open
He also spoke of the efforts of the

FRENCH ARTILLERY AND BRITISH FLEET HAMMER GERMAN COAST POSITIONS

Further Gains Recorded in French Official Report—Have Captured 121 Field Guns and Heavy Pieces in Champagne Alone.

Paris, Sept. 30.—A further gain of ground in Champagne to the north of Meault is recorded in the French official communication tonight, which adds that on the Champagne front alone, since September 25, field guns and heavy pieces to the number of 121 have been captured by the French.

The statement says also that by a counter-attack the Germans succeeded in regaining a footing in the works known as the "Ouvrage De La Delle," a portion of which the French had taken.

SECOND DIVISION IN FRONT LINE TRENCHES

Have Been on Firing Line Since Saturday But Have Not Yet Taken Part in Great Offensive—May Get Into Action Any Day Now.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Sept. 30.—General Sir Sam Hughes states that the second division has been on the firing line and right up in the front trenches since last Saturday. The Canadian divisions have not taken part as yet in the great British offensive but it is expected that they will soon have an opportunity and word of their participation and their achievements is awaited here with hope and confidence. (Canadian Press.)

Ottawa, Sept. 30.—The Second Canadian Division, which, less than a month ago, moved across to France after a long period of training at Shorncliffe, have lost little time in getting into the battle line. They are now in the trenches, and have been there since last Saturday.

The Militia Department has no word of either of the Canadian divisions being in the offensive movement as yet, at least as units. The reports indicate that the fighting took place at a point south of the Canadian location.

SEE BENEFIT TO CANADA IN ALLIES' LOAN

Financial Circles in England Point Out How Loan Will Help Dominion.

London, Sept. 30.—Financial circles here are strongly of the opinion that the big loan negotiated in the United States is certain to affect Canada favorably. It is pointed out that exchange between Britain and Canada would have been heavily hit in making gold payments to the United States on behalf of Britain. Certain trade orders having been unplaced in Canada, payments due the dominion have been deferred in consequence.

The exchange situation is now expected to right itself. The loan is regarded by the Manchester Guardian as a grave blow at Britain's financial prestige. "Seldom has a financial transaction been proposed which cried so loudly for justification," says the Guardian. "It includes every vice with which rumor credited it."

The London Globe regrets that the loan was not floated on the market when exchange was still normal.

FRENCH GOV'T HAS PLAN TO PREVENT ATTACK ON SERBIA

Expected Allied Governments Will Agree to It—Joint Occupation of Macedonia Finds Favor in Russia.

Paris, Sept. 30.—The Temps says that the French government has arrived at a certain decision as to what should be done to avert an attack on Serbia by Bulgaria. The indications are that Russia will assent to this plan, that Italy will not oppose it and that Britain probably will give her adherence.

The nature of the plan is not disclosed, but the Temps states that the prospective Bulgarian attack on Serbia shall be prevented by a demand on Bulgaria for immediate demobilization. The newspaper asserts it has reason to believe that the reports from Saloniki that Bulgaria has definitely agreed to take the field on October 15 are correct, and that de-

INDIA WANTS LORD HARDINGE TO REMAIN

His Portrait Placed in Council Chamber—Addresses Delivered Appreciative of His Efforts on Behalf of People.

London, Sept. 30.—(Through Reuters' Ottawa Agency).—A special despatch from Simla, India, says: "An impressive scene was enacted in the Council Chamber today upon the presentation of a portrait of Lord Hardinge, the viceroy, given by the Maharaja of Kasimbazar. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, in presenting the portrait on behalf of the Maharaja, paid an eloquent tribute to Lord Hardinge's vice-royalty, urging a further extension of His Excellency's term of office until the end of the war, and applauding the government's policy during his tenure of office."

"The Indians of Simla also entertained Lord Hardinge. Raja Sir Harnam Singh alluded to the viceroy's keen desire to have the soldiers of India fight side by side with British soldiers in Europe. Lord Hardinge, he added, had given to Indian aspirations a weight and dignity to which they had never attained, and his name would be recorded in national history as one who had assisted towards the attainment by the people of India of their rights as citizens abroad and the full constitutional development of their citizenship in India."

"Lord Hardinge, in the course of his reply, said that his earnest desire had always been to contribute to the material welfare and development of his fellow-Indian subjects. And he had endeavored, he said, by thoughtful consideration of their needs and aspirations to draw them closer to the government."

The term of office of Lord Hardinge as governor-general of India will expire on November 23rd of this year.

livery of the territory recently ceded by Turkey is contingent on action by Bulgaria against Serbia at that time.

Paris, Sept. 30.—The number of Austro-German troops concentrated on the Serbian frontier is estimated by the Nish correspondent of the Temps at 100,000. He says that 150,000 of these are Germans.

The correspondent at Petrograd of the Temps says that approval is given in influential quarters at the Russian capital to the idea of joint occupation of Macedonia by the Allies. It is said this would be an effective means of keeping Bulgaria and Germany apart and of detaching efforts to bring Bulgaria into the war, while Austro-German forces are invading Serbia.