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BRITISH OFFICIAL. LONDON, April 21. The text of the statement from British headquarters this evening says: There was local fighting in the neighborhood of Rebecq, where the enemy troops were successfully ejected from some of their advanced positions. The British artillery has shown considerable activity in this part. Comparatively quiet on the other parts of the British front.

energy was waiting to be released today at numerous points along the battle zone, but up to noon little of it was concentrated on the surface. The slowing down of hostilities since the Germans suffered such a grievous defeat Thursday has represented one of those lulls which inevitably must come in any battle. There were plenty of signs, however, that hostilities might be resumed on a big scale at any moment. In the meantime the Allies with their reinforcements are solidifying lines and waiting complacently for the Germans' next move. The defenders are extremely satisfied with the outcome of the operations in the past few days. Not only have they held their lines steadily in the face of furious attacks, but they have inflicted most serious losses on the enemy. It was a bit of a sentimental shock to pull back from the Paschen daele system over which the British standard was carried in such invincible fashion last summer, but the wisdom of the move shows today.

ALL ROADS BARRED. PARIS, April 21. The great German offensive on the western front has now been going on for a full month, and the French press is unanimous in its optimistic attitude. The Temps says: "The formidable assaults which for a month past Hindenburg has thrown against the British Army, have not succeeded in breaking our Allies' resistance. They have given ground, but 600,000 soldiers always finds confronting them lines which may have been bent, but have not been broken. After months' operations the one line, with the battlefields everywhere strewn with bodies of his soldiers, is compelled to abandon the attacks." The intrenchment of the British struggle is entering its second month. Calm reigns. The third attack is being prepared, perhaps as tremendous as the previous two, but our optimism is reasoned and justified. They shall not pass." Lieut.-Col. Roussel, in the "Liberte" says: "Where will the enemy strike now? All the roads leading to the objectives desired are barred. The essential thing is not to waste precious reserves which may turn the tide at any moment."

ROYAL APPRECIATION. LONDON, April 21. The Minister of Munitions has received the King's command to convey to the officials of the Ministry of the employers and to the munitions workers throughout the country, both men and women. His Majesty's high approval of the exertions made during this critical time and his satisfaction at the remarkable results achieved. The King has learned from the military authorities that practically all the losses and expenditure during the battle have already been made good, without any undue depletion of the normal reserve, out of resources which have been held in readiness and by the additional effort which has been made. There are now actually more serviceable guns, machine guns and aeroplanes with the British armies in the field than there were on the eve of the German attacks. Other supplies of all kinds are forthcoming in abundance.

THE IRISH TROUBLE. DUBLIN, April 20. (By the Associated Press.) Fifty-five members of the Irish Party met here today with John Dillon presiding, and unanimously passed a resolution, "That in the present crisis we are of the opinion that the highest and most immediate duty of the members of this party is to remain in Ireland and actively co-operate with their constituents in opposing the compulsory military service in Ireland. The enforcements of compulsory military service on a nation without its assent constitutes one of the most brutal acts of tyranny and oppression of which any Government can be guilty. The present proposal of the Lloyd George Government to enforce conscription in Ireland is an outrage and a gross violation of the national rights of Ireland."

FRENCH RECOVER GROUND. PARIS, April 20. Fighting between Franco-American troops and German forces in the vicinity of Secheprey, northwest of Toul, where the Germans yesterday launched a strong attack against the French and American positions, continued throughout the night. The war office statement issued this afternoon says

the French recovered nearly all the ground overrun by the Germans. The American troops in this sector repulsed the Teutonic assaults on their line. EXEMPTIONS CANCELLED. LONDON, April 21. Following the passage of the Man-Power Bill, a Royal Proclamation was issued last night cancelling the exemptions granted by tribunals and Government Departments to men from nineteen to twenty three years of age. There are certain exceptions, the chief ones being doctors and men holding certificates granted by colliery recruiting corps. Major General Fredk. Barton Maurice, chief director of military operations in the War Office, has been promoted in accordance with arrangements made some time ago to duty in the field. He will probably be assigned to work in relation to the united command on the British and French armies. His post at the War Office will be taken by General Delmas Badcliffe, formerly Chief Staff officer of the Canadian Army and Chief of the British military mission at the Italian headquarters. Badcliffe will take over the weekly interview with American newspapermen which had been a part of General Maurice's duties.

BRITISH CASUALTIES. LONDON, April 20. British casualties reported during the week ending to-day are 12,370, divided as follows: Killed or died of wounds, officers 677, men 1638; wounded or missing, officers 2173, men 7521. The casualties reported for this week are approximately half as large again as those reported in the preceding week. Although heavy fighting has been in progress a month, however, the losses have not begun to approach in size those of last year in the months of active operations when the British were on the offensive. There is no means of determining how far the casualties now being reported represent losses in the fighting since the German offensive was started in the several weeks. Proceeding last week, however, when 8129 names were listed the totals had been going no higher than between 3,000 and 4,000.

THE SPEAKER WILL VOTE. CAPE TOWN, S. A., April 21. (Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.) A joint sitting of the Assembly and Senate, the first under the constitution, was held Wednesday last in order to consider the bill amending the franchise Act to enable the overseas members of the South African contingent to record their vote outside the union. The morning session on the bill was occupied with a discussion of the special rules and procedure. General Hertzog, invoking the Constitution, contested the proposal of the Speaker to have a deliberate vote on the third reading. The speaker declared that whatever the decision of the House was he intended to exercise his vote under the Constitution. General Hertzog's amendment to deprive the Speaker of his deliberative vote is important owing to the difficulty of raising the necessary two-thirds majority because of absentees overseas.

THE EFFECT ON STRIKES. LONDON, April 21. (Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.)—Sir George Cave, the Home Secretary, speaking at Kingston on the Thames, yesterday, said that since the onset of the war, workers had joined up in greater numbers than ever, and the effect of strikes, of which we used to hear so much and so often, is now that of the smallest. The total lost time among war workers in strikes was really in twelve months about 25 per centum of the total.

NAVAL SCRAP. LONDON, April 21. An Admiralty announcement states that British light forces operating in Heligoland Bight on Saturday obtained victory over the normal German force who retired behind the minefields. A few shots were exchanged at an extreme range. One enemy destroyer was observed to be hit. All our ships returned without casualties.

HAIK COMPLIMENTS TROOPS. LONDON, April 20. Field Marshal Haig British Commander-in-Chief has sent his congratulations to General Holland and all the ranks of the first corps on "The gallant and successful way in which all the enemy's attacks were repulsed yesterday." The message apparently refers to Thursday's fighting in which the British on the southern side of the Lys battlefield held firm against desperate all day attacks by the Germans on the Givency-St. Venant.

THE IRISH MUDDLE. LONDON, April 20. The grave and menacing situation created by the determination of the Nationalist in Ireland united as seldom before to resist conscription has aroused deep interest throughout Great Britain. Particular emphasis is laid on the decision of the R. C. Bishops to throw in their lot with the Sinn Feiners, who have openly proclaimed Germany as their ally. The Bishops have counselled against violence, but this Dublin correspondent points out, might easily be turned into active resistance by a few hot heads when the time comes to conscript the young men of the country. The pledge which is to be administered on Sunday to what one authority estimates at nine-tenths of the entire Catholic population of the country binds them to resist conscription by the most effective means at their disposal. This gives wide latitude and pleases the advocates of both

U. S. STEAMER BLOWN UP. WASHINGTON, April 20. The U. S. steamer Florence H. was blown up by an internal explosion at midnight April 17th. Reports indicate that only 34 out of a crew of 76 were saved. REINFORCEMENTS FOR VLADIVOSTOK. LONDON, April 20. Owing to increased anti-Japanese demonstrations at Vladivostok it has been necessary to arrange for reinforcements. LAKE MOOR TORPEDOED. WASHINGTON, April 20. The U. S. ship Lake Moor was sunk by submarine on the night of April 21, in European waters. Of the 10 officers and 52 men on board, 5 officers and 12 men have been landed at an English port. HUNS BADLY WHIPPED THURSDAY LAST. LONDON, April 21. (Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.)—Telegraphing from British headquarters in France this evening Reuter's correspondent says: Apparently the enemy has suffered a more severe and greater repulse on Thursday between Givency and the Forest of Nieppe than was supposed, for his hard pressing tactics have so far not been resumed. The night and this morning passed quietly. Doubtless the enemy may make another thrust for possession of the hill system between Kemmel and Mont Desaut, but tomorrow we will be even better prepared to receive him than to-day. No leader of a democratic army dare throw away man power as Von Ludendorff is doing. No General of any nation dare set a million and a half lives as the price for the Channel ports. At the present rate of casualties to progress it is unquestionable whether twice a million and a half will achieve the result. After quoting striking figures gathered from officers' prisoners to support the statements of heavy enemy losses, the correspondent says that enemy have been eating fallen horses along the Bapaume Road and have expressed much dissatisfaction on discovering that the reports that the British troops were starting were untrue, which fact was borne out by the capture of well stocked canteens during the recent advance. French troops and artillery have been in action shoulder to shoulder with our men and it is impossible to overrate the moral effect upon the latter who have unbounded confidence in the heroism and fighting quality of our ally. The liaison between the Anglo-French armies is working with the utmost harmony and high efficiency. President Poincare, visiting the Flanders area this morning, reviewed the British battalions and expressed unfeigned satisfaction with all, and saw our improved position. Last night east of Rixeu de Vinage we took some

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"Over There" They're calling for Men! Eventually YOU'LL BE FORCED to go. Why wait to be forced? Go now while your Island Home is proud of you. THIS SPACE DONATED TO THE ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT BY THE Imperial Tobacco Co. (Newfoundland) Ltd.