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Troops Worn Out By Ten Days Of Fearful Battle On The River Aisne; Weather, Too, Makes Lull in Combat

London Meanwhile Hears Rumors of Further Retreat Planned by Germans

MEN DRENCHED TO SKIN DAY AND NIGHT

They Are Camping in Water--Germans Reported Suffering From Lack of Food--Turning Movements on Both Flanks Tried--Allies Said to Have Improved Their Position

The battle of the Aisne, which has now raged in France for ten days, continues. Both sides claim successes and favorable positions. The ten days of desperate battle, fierce artillery fire day and night, infantry charges in which the fighting has been hand to hand...

LAN FURTHER RETREAT

London, Sept. 21--A despatch from Paris to the Express states that an officer just returned from Soissons says that an aeroplane reconnaissance has been used to the conviction that a large portion of the German forces is retreating with its trains and heavy stores.

It is believed orders have been received from Berlin for the forces to retreat and defend the German frontiers, leaving only 200,000 men to defend the fortified lines and cover the retreat.

Under ordinary weather conditions, the Anglo-French task would be the easier for the reason that Verdun, heavily fortified, must fall before the French can be seriously threatened; but on the German right the heavy rains made such a morass of the valley of the Oise that the allies are hardly making any headway.

Some reports received in London declared that the reason for the desperate German counter attacks on Rheims is found in a movement of the allies which is virtually forcing Rheims from the front, a few miles to the north.

Paris, Sept. 21--There is little change in the situation in the great battle on Aisne, according to the latest official announcements. The extreme left of the German line continues to bear the brunt of the fighting and one time on Sunday--the official reports do not bring out the time clearly--the Germans, in a furious counter attack, gained some ground, which, however, was easily regained.

Rheims, where the ruins of the famous cathedral are still smoking, is likely to be an object of controversy long after the military forces now in the field have ceased to contend for its possession. The Germans say the cathedral was in the line of fire, and that it was impossible to save it, in spite of their instructions to spare the building.

Paris, Sept. 21--A despatch from Rome to the Havas Agency says:-- "A procession preceded by bands playing patriotic airs, marched to the Porta Pia on Sunday to celebrate the anniversary of the entry of the Italians into Rome. The paraders cheered the British flag, when passing the British embassy."

London, Sept. 20, 10.30 p. m.--The senate of Cambridge University has invited the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, to move to Cambridge, there to continue its own separate studies, grant degrees and generally to pursue its activities, as at its own foundation.

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Desperate Efforts of The Germans at Rheims Fail Deliberate Destruction of Famous Cathedral Which Was Housing Red Cross Workers--Terrific Hand to Hand Fighting

GERMANS ARE LOSING GROUND

Only a Little But Warning As To What to Expect

LIKELY TO CONTINUE RETREAT

Chalons-sur-Marne, via Paris, Sept. 21--The Germans continued bombarding the buildings of Rheims yesterday and last night. The crumbling walls are all that are left of the thirteenth century cathedral, the most remarkable example that was left of early Gothic architecture. In addition to the cathedral, the museum, the hospitals and the city hall were partly destroyed.

At the same time, the French made a fierce assault on the heights of La-Pomelle, which they carried to the point of the German retreat. The struggle was a desperate one and after the retirement of the Germans, Turcos were found dead from bayonet wounds, with their hands clasped in such vice-like grips around the necks of antagonists that they had to be pried open.

The German wounded would have been burned alive if the French doctors had not removed them at great personal risk. There was a bad moment while these German injuries were being removed. A crowd of people had gathered outside watching the flames and when the Germans, some in uniform, were brought in, the crowd gave a howl of uncontrolable rage and earnest voices screamed "Kill them!"

London, Sept. 21--The Rheims correspondent of the Daily Mail sends this story of the damage wrought in the Cathedral:-- "The magnificent Cathedral of Rheims, which was a national monument of universal fame, is now no more than an empty shell of charred and blackened walls. It is not yet known to what extent its strong work has been weakened by the flames or whether it can later be restored, but it will never be what it was before."

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LABOR MEN OF CANADA IN CONVENTION HERE; GIVEN HEARTY WELCOME IN ST. JOHN

Trades and Labor Congress Hears Addresses by City and Province Representatives--Business of The Opening Session

With a large attendance of visiting delegates and a strong representation from St. John, the thirtieth annual convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada was formally opened in St. Andrew's Rink this morning. The convention rapidly settled down to business.

The chair was occupied by James L. Sugrue, president of the New Brunswick Federation of Labor, and besides the labor representatives present on the platform were Mayor Frink, Commissioner Potts and Hon. J. E. Wilson, each of whom gave an address. A fine programme has been arranged for the congress by the local committee paying attention to the social side as well as the business phases of the gathering.

Committees were appointed and credentials registered. A resolution of sympathetic interest was ordered sent to Montreal to the Theatrical Workers Protective Union now on strike and fraternal greetings were extended to other bodies in session.

James C. Watters, dominion president, occupied the chair after the convention was opened, and beside him were Vice-President Fred Bancroft, Secretary Treasurer P. M. Ayer, Controller James Simpson, and Fraternal Delegate Donahue, of Butte, Mo.

The programme for this afternoon includes a ride about the city in car chartered for the occasion, and a visit to the retreating falls. This evening a banquet and dance will be held for the visitors and their ladies in St. Andrew's rink.

Nearly two hundred delegates are in attendance at the congress. In behalf of the organized workers of St. John, and New Brunswick, the chairman, Mr. Sugrue, extended a hearty welcome to the visitors and assured them that St. John was most pleased to have them here. He spoke of the importance of the convention to the workers of this district. The convention would impart a vast uplift to the workers of this vicinity.

An able and vigorous address was given by the mayor, who began with words of welcome to the delegates, speaking of the pleasure it afforded him to be able to extend the hospitality of St. John to a convention of men of labor. It was an important event in the city's history.

The speaker was greatly interested in labor, as he had been engaged at it since he was a mere youth and could speak with experience. He assured the congress of his support in any matters by which it might benefit, and in behalf of the government, thanked the congress for its invitation to Dr. Landry and himself to be present. He expressed the regret of Doctor Landry in being unable to attend.

The convention was now opened for business with the exchange of seats by Mr. Sugrue with President James C. Watters of the Dominion Congress, who (Continued on page 8, fourth column).

LOCAL NEWS

THE CORINTHIAN Allan Liner Corinthian is reported due at Quebec on Wednesday morning and at Montreal on Wednesday evening of Thursday morning.

LITTLE ONE DEAD Mr. and Mrs. John Dwyer of 48 Duke street, Carleton, were called on Saturday to suffer the death of their thirteen months old son, John Edward.

BABY DEAD Mr. and Mrs. Bart O'Brien, of Long wharf, have the sympathy of many friends in the loss of their infant daughter who died last night.

HOME RULE The local demonstration will be tonight under A. O. H. auspices, an open meeting in the hall. There will be several speakers.

BURIED YESTERDAY The funeral of George Higgins was held yesterday afternoon from the residence of his sister, Miss M. A. Higgins, Union street. The body was taken to the cathedral, where service was conducted by Rev. Miles P. Howland. Interment was in the old Catholic cemetery.

MARRIED ON SATURDAY At the Victoria street Baptist parsonage at three o'clock on Saturday afternoon, Rev. B. H. Nobles united in marriage Elmer Osborne and Miss Jennie Hatfield, both of this city. The bride and groom were unattended. They left on the Boston train for a honeymoon trip to Boston and New York. Mr. and Mrs. Osborne will reside in St. John.

WEATHER BULLETIN Issued by authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Sturges, director of meteorological service.

Funeral of J. W. Keirstead The funeral of J. W. Keirstead, who was drowned on Saturday afternoon, took place this afternoon from his late residence, in Hampton, to Hampton Baptist church. Hymns were sung by the Baptist church choir, and a solo was rendered with much feeling by Dr. J. J. Ryan. The floral offerings were beautiful and very numerous.

MONCTON I.C.R. MAN IS KILLED

Patrick Scott Meets a Fearful Death on the Track Moncton, N. B., Sept. 21--Patrick Scott, of West End, died in the Moncton hospital today as the result of terrible injuries received on Saturday night on the Transcontinental railway within the city limits. Early on Sunday morning D. F. Hoar heard cries for help and discovered Scott lying at the Cornhill street crossing. He was taken to the hospital and Dr. F. J. White summoned. Scott's right arm was so badly crushed that amputation was necessary, both legs were badly crushed and he was much bruised about the body and injured internally.

Notwithstanding his terrible injuries he was conscious when picked up. He said that while he was crawling under some freight cars they began to move. From that on he did not remember anything. He likely lay on the track until the auxiliary train came along, dragging his body to the Cornhill street crossing. His coat, fountain pen, pencils, etc., were strewn along the track. The auxiliary train was in charge of Conductor Stephenson. None of the train crew noticed the man on the track.

Scott was about thirty years of age and employed in the I. C. R. carpenter shops. He is survived by his wife, a daughter of Alexander Leaman. He was born at Oxford, Ont., and came to Moncton several years ago. An inquest is being held.

DRAINED PRIEST The ordination of Hector P. Bellevue of Fredericton, N. B., to the priesthood took place this morning in the Cathedral with His Lordship Bishop LeBlanc officiating. Rev. William Duke was substituted by Rev. M. O'Brien and Rev. M. P. Howland, while the young priest was supported by his uncle, Rt. Rev. Monsignor Bellevue of Grand Digne, N. B. In the sanctuary were Rev. Father Cormier, of the Palace; Rev. A. J. O'Neill, of Silver Falls, and Rev. E. Walsh, C. S. B., of St. Peter's.

LET GO TO JOIN SHIP Thomaas Grant, a seaman, was tried before Judge Forbes this morning under the Speedy Trials Act and pleaded guilty to common assault on a man named Knodell. As he had already served thirty days in jail, he was allowed to go to join his ship. C. H. Ferguson appeared for the prosecution.

DEATH OF A BOY Pearl Simon Corum, four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Corum, Pleasant Point, died yesterday. The parents will have general sympathy in their bereavement.

Moncton Wedding. Moncton, N. B., Sept. 21--In St. Bernard's church this morning, John Lirette and Miss Mary Surrette of Moncton, were married by Rev. Father H. D. ...

CAR DERAILED The car on the Kane's corner branch of the street railway was derailed on Saturday afternoon about 2.30 o'clock but was replaced on the rails without much difficulty.

POLICE INQUIRY On account of the Maritime express being two hours late this morning the police enquiry, which was to have been resumed this morning, was not to commence until this afternoon.