

they employed in the battle of Arras. Tanks were in the thick of the fighting. More than 1000 Germans were taken prisoners early in the engagement. The fighting continues under a midsummer sun. The Germans have not yet rallied for the expected counter-attack.

The British attack began today, two months after the offensive campaign burst into flame at Arras was carried out in that slender strip of Belgium saved nearly three years ago from the German invasion. The blow was struck on a front of approximately 10 miles against the high ground known as the Messines Ridge, from which the Germans have been driven since October of 1914. It was not long after the battle began that word came from all sectors of the fighting that the various objectives had been taken on schedule time.

Foe Completely Dazed.

All the prisoners say the Germans had been expecting the attack, but were taken completely by surprise by the hour at which it was launched and the fury with which it was carried forward.

They had been completely dazed by the most gigantic attack ever carried out in the world war. More than 1,000,000 pounds of high explosives had been placed under the German forward positions, and the British 12 months, and the upheaval of a score of separate mines spread panic among the troops, already harassed as they were to the point of exhaustion by seven days and nights of fire from the greatest concentration of guns on a given front since the war began. The battle of Arras, in fact, was the first in this respect, but today's bombardment was carried out by 20 per cent. more guns, especially guns of heavy calibre.

The Messines Ridge has long been a thorn in the side of the British. They were driven from it in those perilous days of October, when the British weakness and virtually no artillery, they bravely but forlornly attempted to hold this point of vantage.

Relieves Ypres.

If all of today's gains are held the pressure on poor old Ypres, which has resisted every effort of the Germans, will be effectively relieved. Not much is left of Ypres but bits of crumbling walls and broken dust, but the British have held it as the last important landmark which survived in the little kingdom overrun by the Germans in their most dash against France.

The Messines Ridge has been regarded as a sort of key position to all the northern sector of the western front, and in that way was important than Vimy Ridge itself, although only about half as high. The remainder of the country about Messines is so flat that this sloping ridge, which attains a maximum height of only 70 metres, commands the country for miles around and affords its possessor that great military advantage, direct observation.

Smoke Barrage Used.

The British obscured that observation this morning with one of the most effective smoke barrages ever set up. The attack came down, with the full moon still high in the heavens. Mine explosions were the signals for the turning of all the guns which were employed in dropping a curtain of fire that swept before the British attacking units. Meanwhile other guns were hurling high explosive shells against all the German communications, while still others were spraying the German batteries with a deluge of gas shells.

As the result of this artillery cooperation the German guns were effectively silenced during the initial stages of the attack and the British casualties were consequently light.

It was not long after the battle started that Messines village was reported captured. The capture was reported by the hopscotch of Lenfer and Zaretha (Zareeba) had fallen and that Wytchaele, in the very nose of the Ger-

man salient just south of the Ypres salient, was being surrounded. Important trench positions were taken all the way from Observatory Ridge, southeast of Ypres, to Ploegsteert Wood, north of Armentieres. One of the most formidable of these was Damstraese, which the British fire had all but obliterated. Other positions taken were known as the "Urquhart Trench," "Schnitz Farm," and "Battle Wood."

The tanks were in the thick of the fighting this morning, and from all accounts were doing splendid, if ungraceful, work. The troops fighting today were English, Irish, New Zealanders and Australians.

Having suspected that there would be an offensive near Ypres, the Germans had been rushing guns and divisions to this front during the past two weeks. Orders that were captured had urged the men to hold against the British at all costs.

The Germans made prisoner in today's fighting between Wytchaele and Messines are expected to aggregate more than 4,000, according to Reuters' British headquarters correspondent. Already more than 2,800 prisoners have been taken to the camps behind the front. The despatch from the correspondent says:

"The battle begun today by the second army under General Sir Herbert C. Plumer, was developed in accordance with the plans and was a brilliant success for the British arms."

"Already 2,800 prisoners have arrived in the camps, and there are expected to be over 4,000 of them when the tally is completed."

"That the Germans were taken by surprise is proved by the fact that the twenty-third Bavarian regiment was being relieved at the moment the attack opened."

"Aerial observers report that the enemy appears to be massing his reserves in the vicinity of Warneton and on the Ypres-Messines road. The Germans are bombarding the centre of the Messines Ridge, but not very heavily."

U. S. WARSHIPS ANCHOR OFF COAST OF FRANCE

French Navy Greets With Joy New Brothers-in-Arms.

Paris, June 7.—The ministry of marine announced last night that American warships have anchored off the French coast. The announcement adds: "The French navy greets with joy on their arrival these new brothers in arms, who under the flag of the great American Republic, have come to participate until victory in the struggle against the common enemy."

The Matin announced the arrival of the American naval collier Jupiter with its complement of 1,000 men and supplies for American troops who are to come ashore for whose accommodation a number of bases, similar to those of the British army, have been organized. Plans have been laid out for infantry and artillery and aviation parks have been established for American aviators.

ARTILLERY FIRE MAKES FRONT IN MACEDONIA

Rifle-Firing Proceeds on the Rumanian Battle Line, Sofia Reports.

Sofia, via London, June 7.—The official statement issued by the war office on Wednesday reads: "The fighting was weak artillery fire on the Macedonian front. On the right bank of the Vardar and south of Hum, an enemy attack against Rosilivka was repulsed. There was aerial activity in the region of the Vardar, and an enemy airplane was brought down. On the Rumanian front there was rifle firing near Isacka, Tutcha and Ruzhica."

WAR SUMMARY

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

THE British second army, under General Plumer, ended a two and a half years' siege of the Messines-Wytchaele Ridge in the Ypres turing the rearward defence system. The ridge has a length of about nine miles and a height of about 230 feet, and as the land to the east and the west is perfectly flat it commands the country for many miles around. The ridge was a thorn in the flesh of the British position at Ypres. It will henceforth be a thorn in the flesh of the German position at Lille. Its capture confers many tactical advantages on the British. It may even be said to affect the duration of the war. The attack began before dawn after a preliminary drumfire delivered by 20 per cent. more cannon than bombardment of the ridge in the past two years. The great noise of the explosion penetrated over a distance of 130 miles, to London, where Premier Lloyd George and other persons heard it. By 4.30 o'clock a total of 5,000 German prisoners had passed through the receiving stations and more were seen coming. The British captured many guns, trench-mortars and machine guns.

The Germans have not even the excuse of being taken unawares, for it was plain to everybody at the front in the past three weeks that the British also entered into the action. It was the hitherto unexperienced fury and intensity of the bombardment, which greatly exceeded the fury and intensity of the bombardment at Vimy. The British success averages Ypres and it deprives the enemy of his vantage points for pouring torrents of fire into that forsaken town. The Germans, who introduced poisonous gas, got a taste of the new British weapon—molten metal fired in shells.

The latest British success imperils the German position at Lille, it does even more, it menaces the main enemy communication from Germany thru Lille and Rubais. If the British proceed a few miles further to the east, they will bring these communications under their gunfire and they can stop the forwarding of supplies over them to Douai. This, of course, may not happen at once, but in the course of the campaign. The country places they captured the Villages of Messines, Wytchaele and Oostaverne. Their attack again carries the active campaign into Belgium.

The winning of this considerable success will have an important bearing on the future of the campaign. The British have tied vast masses of Germans down to the Hindenburg line, between Quent and Laon, and the Hindenburg line so as to compel the enemy to retreat into Belgium, or to give battle on ground of the British choosing. If the British should advance to Roubais or near it, they would turn the enemy out of Lille and they would cut off the retreat of the forces blocking the entrance to the Scarpe Valley, east of Arras. The enemy has no choice except to give battle under conditions highly favorable to the British and highly unfavorable for him.

The Austrians have opened a counter-offensive, like the German counter-offensive against the British and the French, with the object of regaining all the ground lost to the Italians on the Carso Plateau. The Austrians in this fighting is Jamiano and although the enemy has been attacking the Italians for two days, he has not regained that point. The best opinion in Italy regards this effort of the Austrians as a desperate attempt to prevent the fall of Trieste and Laibach. In order to do this they must prevent these attacks the Austrians are withdrawing them from another front, presumably the Russian. The foe used three fresh divisions in his latest attempt which, the Italians say, resulted in failure. The Viennese report claims that in the last attacks he Austrians took more than 10,000 prisoners and that they lost 27,000 prisoners since May 12. Italian authorities ridicule the Austrian figures as to prisoners taken and losses inflicted.

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The General Assembly

By Dr. Quill

Special to The Toronto World.

Montreal, June 7.—There was a solemn hour of prayer before the business which began on Thursday morning. Dr. Neil was in the chair, and he must have remained to be done. They were to abolish the little Italy and Chinese, and to declare that church free. The government in making a clean sweep of such evils," he said.

Last year there was a deficit of \$187,242. During the year a policy of retrenchment was followed and a special appeal made to the church. The ordinary receipts were \$408,293, and the expenditures \$221,051, leaving a credit balance of \$187,242 for the year. But there is still a debt of \$20,000 owing to the falling behind of the previous year.

The church continues to follow a policy of retrenchment, and the result is a surplus of \$187,242. The church continues to follow a policy of retrenchment, and the result is a surplus of \$187,242. The church continues to follow a policy of retrenchment, and the result is a surplus of \$187,242.

ARTILLERY MEN ARE WANTED AT HAMILTON

Reinforcements for the Famous Sportsmen's Battalion Will Be Recruited at Once.

Hamilton, Friday, June 8.—Hamilton is to be given an opportunity to recruit artilleriers. Word was received yesterday that General Leslie Roberts, in command of the famous Sportsmen's Battalion, which is being organized at Hamilton, which is to be given the first chance to bring the draft up to strength, but if the answer is not immediate an appeal will be made through No. 2 Military District. Applicants should be sent to the armories for particulars of this popular branch of the service.

David Anderson, a member of the 15th Royal Regiment band, who has been appointed bandmaster to succeed Lieut. W. F. Robinson, who recently resigned. He will be the fourth bandmaster since the 15th band was formed in 1862.

Recruiting is progressing favorably for the Canadian Mounted Rifles, and at the present time the strength of the 13th band is 500 mark, and another call for men for the 25th band will be made in the near future. Last week 25 recruits were received from the city and the surrounding district.

DRESSY ROMAN STRIPE TIES AT SCORES.

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RUMANIA PREPARED TO RENEW BATTLE

Premier Bratiano Says Army is Well Trained and Equipped.

Paris, June 7.—"The French government is deeply impressed with the results of the Rumanian campaign," declared M. Jules Cambon, former foreign minister today. "Knowledge of American preparations may be the deciding factor to victory for the allies."

Paris, June 7.—Rumania has reorganized her army, and is ready to resume the fight, according to an interview by Premier Bratiano in an interview with a foreign correspondent of The Parisian.

"The Russian democracy," said the Rumanian minister, "is a peace formula, neither annexation nor indemnities, and she wishes to impose that formula on her allies. Rumania finds the formula acceptable as far as she is concerned. She did not enter the war to make a final peace. Rumania, which never had the right to dispose of herself."

"The country is keeping its promises under the most difficult circumstances. It has been invaded by an enemy superior in numbers, and today Rumania has made a great and many-fold reorganization of its army and it has never given up the struggle. Rumania is ready to resume the fight, its army is perfectly trained, and it has material such as it never had before."

"In the crisis we are passing thru, at a moment when the war seems to be approaching its final phase, Rumania, who kept her engagements toward the allies, has the right to expect that the allies will remain faithful to her terms."

FRENCH IMPRESSED WITH ENROLMENT

Knowledge of American Preparations May Be Deciding Factor for Allies.

Paris, June 7.—"The French government is deeply impressed with the results of the Rumanian campaign," declared M. Jules Cambon, former foreign minister today. "Knowledge of American preparations may be the deciding factor to victory for the allies."

CANADIAN AIR SERVICE BRANCH IS CONSIDERED

LONDON, June 7.—The Canadian Press learns authoritatively that the question of a special branch of the Canadian air service is under consideration by the authorities here, and the Canadian military authorities are in the opinion of nearly one third of the total new officers in the air service are Canadians, while others are being recruited every week.

Bologna University Honors U. S. President With Degree

Bologna, Italy (via Paris, June 7).—Bologna university, the oldest and most celebrated seat of learning in Italy, has conferred on President Wilson the honorary doctorate. The university was founded by Theodosius II, early in the fifth century, A.D.

Believe U-Boat Campaign Has Passed Its Climax

Washington, June 7.—Germany's U-boat campaign reached its climax last month, in the opinion of H. O. Taylor, England.

Never again will the toll of ships sunk reach the alarm figures registered early in May," members of the mission said.

HEAVY AUSTRIAN LOSSES.

New York, June 7.—A news agency despatch from Rome says: "Furious but futile counter-attacks by the Austrians have cost them 6000 in casualties in the past three days, according to semi-official estimates. Official estimates that at least 100,000 Austrians participated in the counter-offensive."

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SOOR. WM. McLEOD,

of the Scotch Highlanders, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery on the field. The spicuous victory on which McLeod was a photo was taken while McLeod was at Scotch street, his sister lives at 7 Manchester avenue, Toronto.

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E. PULLAN TORONTO

physical instructor and Chairman Alan and Trustee Callaghan were instructed to wait upon Premier Hearst with reference to the appointment of Sergeant M. C. Cote as instructor at the collegiate institute.

It was recommended that a half holiday be declared for the pupils on June 10 to enable them to take part in the babies' welfare week outing at Dundurn Park.

An average attendance of 12,561 during the month of May and a total of \$1179 were shown in the report of the public school for the month of May.

COTTON COMPANY EXPANDS.

Hamilton, Friday, June 8.—The Canadian Cotton Company have taken out a permit to erect a \$50,000 addition to their present premises. The old Nautilus Hotel, at the corner of Macnaul and Ferris streets, is to be torn down to make room for the extension, which, when completed, will give the company a plant that will occupy the entire block bounded by James, Simcoe, Macnaul and Ferris streets.

Hamilton, Friday, June 8.—The resignation of Miss Ellen Acheson, Miss Joyce Brant and Miss E. J. Manning were accepted.

One year's leave of absence was granted Miss Iola McLeod. It was recommended that Lieut. Grindley be appointed public school