

## FRENCH AGAIN VICTORIOUS AT VERDUN

Blame For War Fixed by Robert Cecil on Germany

Bulgaria is Anxious For Peace, Says Radoslavoff

French Again Successful Upon the Verdun Front

### Fortified Works in Bethincourt Region Taken

#### New Successes Scored by Nivelle's Men Last Night; Large Number of German Officers Among Prisoners Taken--British Also Successful at Lens

By Courier Leased Wire.

Paris, Aug. 25.--The French scored a new victory on the Verdun front last night north of Hill 304. Three fortified works near Bethincourt were captured. The statement follows:

"In Belgium there were rather violent artillery engagements in the region of Bixchoote.

"South of St. Quentin our detachments penetrated a German trench yesterday evening and brought back 31 prisoners. Another raid west of Pantheon also resulted in the taking of prisoners.

"Enemy surprise attacks near Vauquois and northeast of Avocourt were repulsed. On the left bank of the Meuse our troops made new progress north of Hill 304. In a brilliant action last night they carried three fortified works in the vicinity of Bethincourt. The number of un-wounded prisoners taken on the left bank of the River yesterday was 450. This brings up the total to 6,101.

On the French Front, Aug. 25.--(By the Associated Press)--Men from the German Emperor's favorite units from Brandenburg were captured in the latest French attack at Verdun. The prisoners taken in the preceding days comprise 1,145 men and thirty officers of the Twentieth regiment; 1,089 men and two officers of the Twenty-fourth regiment; 556 men and seventeen officers from the Thirty-fifth regiment. The number of officers taken was surprisingly high, showing the morale in the higher ranks also is diminishing.

The attack began early in the morning eastward from Avocourt Wood to the west of Lafayette Creek, but the enemy thought the assault would occupy a larger front, the artillery was busy on both sides. When General Petain's Saint Morals Division went over to storm Hill 304 the Germans were taken completely by surprise and lost ground immediately. Before time was given them to recover the position was won although the Frenchmen had to wade through water waist high. The prisoners rounded up were calculated at 700, while the main body of Frenchmen dashed onward through Death Ravine and attained the objects set by them after two hours. In some places the advance reached a depth of 2,000 yards.

Paris, Aug. 25.--One of the striking phases of the Verdun fighting on Monday was the large proportion of German officers captured, 201 being taken with 6,700 men. This is in sharp contrast with the number of officers taken in the French attack last December. At that time 208 officers and 11,000 men were captured.

Three regiments forming the German Sixth Reserve Division were annihilated as fighting units, losing 69 officers and about 2,800 men as prisoners. This was a Brandenburg division.

The newspapers recall that at the time of the great German attack last year several weeks elapsed before the Germans were masters of strong points west of the Meuse, which the French took in a few days this week.

#### AVIATORS ACTIVE

Paris, Aug. 25.--The brilliant work of French aviators was a factor of decisive importance in the battle of Verdun, according to Georges Prade, an aviation authority who witnessed the French attack this week as a representative of the Journal. He says that General Guillaumat cut all red tape and did away with discouraging delays as regards recognition of valor and for the aviators placed at the disposal of their commander a number of crosses of the Legion of Honor for the purpose of decorating any pilot who performed a remarkable feat, as soon as he landed.

Extraordinary results were obtained. Pursuit planes gave such thorough protection that not a single service plane was lost. The only losses were among the pursuit planes. The aviators flew so low, in accompanying the advance of the infantry, that three of them were cut in two by French shells. Although the telephone lines had been cut and messengers were stopped by gas barages, the

#### WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, Aug. 25.--The disturbance has moved to the St. Lawrence valley and is dispersing. Rain has been almost general in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, while in southern Ontario and the western provinces the weather has been fine.

Forecasts. Fresh west and northwest winds, cloudy and cool; Sunday--Moderate winds, fine and a little warmer.

infantry never lost touch with the barrage fire of the artillery.

#### BRITISH OFFICIAL

London, Aug. 25.--The capture of a German position near Lens was announced to-day by the war office. The statement follows:

"By successful attacks carried out with slight casualties last night west of Lens, we captured a short length of German trench of some local importance. We also captured an enemy post during the night in the neighborhood of Lombertzyde and secured a few prisoners and a machine gun. There was considerable artillery activity early this morning east of Epehy."

#### NEW BOYS' SECRETARY

The appointment to fill the vacancy on the local Y. M. C. A. staff was made yesterday afternoon at a special meeting of the board of directors, when A. W. Geddes, a returned soldier, was selected.

Sergt. Geddes is admirably adapted for the work. He is a graduate of Wycliffe College, Toronto, and prior to the war, was engaged in Y. M. C. A. community work with headquarters at Eximloops, B. C. Shortly after the outbreak of war he enlisted with the Princess Pals.

While overseas, he went through some exciting experiences at Sanctuary Woods, where he was blown out of the trench into a pool of water in No Man's Land, and suffered a broken leg, a broken jaw and shrapnel wounds in the face.

Since his return, Sergt. Geddes has been a "zone secretary," supervising work among the boys who left school to work on the farms.

News of the appointment was wired this morning to Sergt. Geddes, and an acceptance is expected. A letter has been addressed to the National Council requesting that Sergt. Geddes be released from his present

#### MONTE SANTO IS IN HANDS OF ITALIANS

Tricolor Floats over Former Austrian Stronghold on Isonzo

FOE LINES PIERCED  
Second Italian Army Pursues Fleeing Forces of Austro-Hungarians

By Courier Leased Wire.

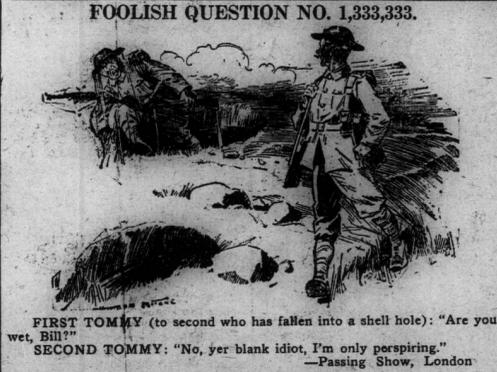
Rome, Aug. 25.--The Tricolor of Italy has been flying since yesterday on the summit of Monte Santo, which was an Austrian stronghold on the Isonzo front, according to the official statement issued to-day by the Italian war department.

The Italian second army, General Cadorna reports, has broken through the Austro-Hungarian line of defense at several points and is closely pursuing the Austro-Hungarians who are retiring and defending the difficult ground yard by yard.

The position as soon as possible. He is expected here in the early part of September to assume the position of assistant general secretary with special supervision of boys' work.

The canning factory has finished canning the output of peas at Forest, as well as what would have been put up at the Strathroy factory, which was recently destroyed by fire. The Strathroy peas were threatened at Kerwood and were brought to Forest in three-ton lots ready to be canned.

### PROOF OF GERMAN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WAR REITERATED BY LORD ROBERT CECIL



FOOLISH QUESTION NO. 1,333,333.  
FIRST TOMMY (to second who has fallen into a shell hole): "Are you wet, Bill?"  
SECOND TOMMY: "No, yer blank idiot, I'm only perspiring."  
--Passing Show, London

#### BULGARIA ANXIOUS FOR PEACE, SAYS RADOSLAVOFF

#### Desire to End Bloodshed as Have Already Emphasized; Central Powers Soon to Make Concrete Proposals

By Courier Leased Wire.

Sofia, Thursday, via Berlin and London, Aug. 24.--"We want peace and desire to end this terrible bloodshed," said Premier Radoslavoff in an interview on the papal peace note. "We have been emphasizing this attitude for more than a year." He continued, "Last December we offered peace to the Entente, but it preferred to seek its fortunes in a continuance of the war. In the nine months intervening our military situation has become nine times more favorable and every day proves it is becoming still stronger. I do not believe that the Pope sought to get in contact with the different government

heads before transmitting the note for the purpose of discovering if they desired peace. The Entente appears to make every effort to prepare public opinion for a brusque refusal of papal mediation whereas the Central Powers welcome it with sincere sympathy.

"The Central Powers will make concrete proposals in keeping with the papal note and will answer it individually. Whether peace will come soon who can say? We want peace, but are calmer than ever nor are we asking for peace for the benefit of mankind. We desire peace to come soon and unless this occurs before long the Entente alone will have occasion to regret it."

#### MICHAELIS ON FENCE STILL

#### Chancellor Will Not Give Clear Definition Of His Attitude on Peace Programme

By Courier Leased Wire.

Copenhagen, Aug. 25.--Yesterday's session of the main committee of the reichstag was productive of further declarations and discussions regarding Chancellor Michaelis' attitude on peace, which the latest German papers construe variously. A careful perusal of the mass of reports and comments on the committee meetings yesterday and Wednesday show that Dr. Michaelis throughout conferences with party leaders, did not change his attitude regarding the wording of his ambiguous speech July 10 and the situation as far as pinning him down to any definite peace programme remains exactly where it was when he assumed office.

It was brought out in the report of yesterday's proceedings that the majority party representatives endeavored before the reichstag meeting, July 19, to secure from him definite assurances, but failed.

A REPORT TO KAISER.  
Amsterdam, Aug. 24.--A Berlin official despatch received here says Chancellor Michaelis visited headquarters and presented Emperor William with a report. Some newspapers say the visit is connected with Alsace-Lorraine.

The Berlin National Zeitung says that Chancellor Michaelis received Thursday eleven members of the reichstag from Alsace-Lorraine. It is believed, the newspaper adds, that it is the intention of the delegation to submit to the German Government the desire of Alsace-Lorraine for transformation from a reichland into a federal state.

By Courier Leased Wire.

Copenhagen, Aug. 25.--Herr Erzhberger, the Central leader, alone declared in yesterday's committee sitting that doubt as to the chancellor's acceptance of the principle of peace without annexations and indemnities

#### England Had Nothing Farther From Her Thoughts in 1914; Her Very Unpreparedness an Exonerating Responsibility for the War

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, Aug. 25.--"I see they again are talking in Germany about how England started the war," remarked Lord Robert Cecil, minister of blockade, in an interview with the Associated Press. "It is an old song, but I think the time has come, particularly in the United States, when it is well to re-state briefly, the bald facts regarding the beginning of this great conflict. Frankly I do not think anyone anywhere can honestly believe that England began the war. If any person had arisen in a public assemblage in this country two weeks before the war began and asserted that in a fortnight we would be plunged into the greatest international conflict that the world has ever seen, the speaker would have been regarded by everybody as a dangerous lunatic. Our peoples' thoughts were the furthest possible from war and our statesmen were overwhelmingly occupied with domestic affairs, particularly the Irish question, to the almost complete exclusion of international politics.

"It is true that some of our people had been saying for a year or more before that time that Germany intended to attack us, but their warnings fell on deaf ears so much so that no preparations were made.

"Certainly we did not start the war. Who did? I think the answer is unquestionable. For at least a year before the war began, Germany had definitely made up her mind to fight.

"An Italian writer has told us how, in 1913, Germany approached the Italian Government with a view to taking action in the Balkans, but Italy said she would regard such a war as offensive and not defensive, and would not lend her support. Germany withdrew her proposals, as she did not think she was then strong enough to go it alone.

"American Ambassador Gerard has told us that the German crown prince made no secret of his desire for war, that he even expressed the hope that it would come before his father died; and he added that if it did not come before his father died, it would come as soon as he, namely the crown prince, ascended the throne.

"Balfour's secretary, Ian Malcolm, has also quoted his conversation with the crown prince, in which the prince suggested that England and Germany should combine to destroy France.

"There is no question but that Germany had made up her mind that somewhere about the summer of 1914 would be the best time for war, because the new French military service act would not have become effective, and the Russian strategic railways would not yet be ready. Moreover, they knew thoroughly the conditions of corruption in Russian official life, and they hoped our domestic preoccupations would keep us out, although they were determined to go on with their plans whether we stayed out or not.

"In every country there are men of many different opinions. The extreme war party in Germany actually welcomed and desired our intransigence, as it gave them an opportunity to kill two birds with one stone. The wiser ones, no doubt, hoped we would stay out, as they could take us singly, followed still later, as Ambassador Gerard has pointed out, by the United States.

"This was the situation in Germany when the Sarajevo murders came, and gave the war party the eagerly awaited opportunity. The Austrians delivered their ultimatum to Serbia. There is no reasonable doubt that the ultimatums were submitted to Germany and approved, and there is no doubt it was then and there decided that whatever was

Serbia's answer, they would proceed against Belgrade. The ultimatum was couched in such arrogant terms that a favorable reply was difficult, but little Serbia managed to pen readily that which practically acquiesced in all the principal demands and agreed to submit the remainder to The Hague tribunal. Nevertheless the Teutons moved on Belgrade.

"You are familiar with the efforts which the English foreign secretary Sir Edward Grey, made to have the Teuton demands submitted to arbitration or conversation. The Teutons brushed all efforts aside.

"Meanwhile, Russia, who could not stand idly while Serbia was being crushed, began mobilization. France entered next. Then came our demand on Germany for an understanding in respect to the neutrality of Belgium, an understanding which France had already cheerfully given. Such an undertaking being refused, we came in.

"That is the simple story of the war's origin. The most crushing indictment against the Central Powers is that they, over and over again, rejected all proposals for conferences on the eve of war--conferences which must inevitably have resulted in averting the conflict, because it would have been shown how flimsy was the whole structure upon which the Central Powers were starting the world war."

CARDINAL BANISHED.  
By Courier Leased Wire.  
Lisbon, Aug. 25.--Cardinal Anthony Mendes Bello, the patriarch of Lisbon, has been given five days by the Portuguese Government to leave the capital. A decree issued to-day forbids the cardinal to reside in Lisbon or the suburbs for one year.

A convict at Kingston penitentiary, while unloading coal at the dock with twenty others, jumped into the water and attempted to escape, but was caught by the instructor in charge, who jumped into a boat and followed.

Ancient Foresters--Don't forget church parade on Sunday night, meet at 6.15 at A. O. F. Hall. Wear your badge.

ays

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