

again trod the free soil of France and tried to thank the soldiers who had helped them from their bondage. The three men who had first come out of the town to meet the British returned today, but the rest of the party, becoming frightened by the enemy shell fire, had found shelter in the dugouts up at the front. They were given warm food and advised to remain there for a while.

Population Evacuated.

One man told a story of how when the town was gassed, he had searched around until he found a dead German, and removed the gas mask, taking it back to his mother, who was hiding in a cellar. On Sept. 1, he declared, the entire population was ordered to evacuate by the Germans. Some decided that, rather than miss the chance of escape, they would hide and await deliverance. The Germans, anxious to get away themselves, did not take time to search the town thoroughly.

The refugees said that since 1914 the food had steadily become worse, until at last it was just enough to keep them alive, but it did not give them sufficient strength to work. It was almost impossible for them to get clothing, and there was nothing whatever they could buy. They had not been allowed to leave their little town since the Germans first swept into it, almost four years ago.

Headquarters reports from the northern part of the front say that further progress has been made at several places along the line.

NOT A BOCHE WEST OF CANAL DU NORD

Germans Vacated Drocourt-Queant Line Just in Time to Save Themselves.

CANADIANS READY

Prepared to Lay Down Such a Barrage as Would Have Destroyed Canal Bridges.

By J. F. B. Livesey, Canadian Press Correspondent.

With the Canadian Forces, Sept. 3.—The Boche has gone back across the Canal du Nord, surrendering to us, without further struggle, the Drocourt-Queant line. He got out just in time. The Canadian corps was driving in his front and the Canadian artillery was waiting but the hour to lay down such a barrage along the canal as must have destroyed all its bridges and made evacuation impossible. This is not official, but there is small doubt of its truth. It is the logic of the situation.

Yesterday the enemy fought like a wild cat to save his guns and transport. Last night our line was absolutely quiet. An airman this morning reported that after flying all across the enemy line he is convinced that there is not a Boche west of the Canal du Nord. He scouted the idea that he might be hiding in his dugouts.

If this great news is confirmed it must lift load off the minds of our commanders. No troops can fight many days together on the scale of yesterday without suffering such losses as must in time impair their efficiency. The price paid for the first breach of the Drocourt-Queant line is relatively cheap, doubtless less than the total prisoners, but if the corps had had to fight forward to the canal on the same scale, it must have proved terribly expensive. To gain the line of the Canal du Nord with no further blow is a triumph indeed, and an unwilling tribute by a beaten enemy to the prowess of Canadian arms. In this triumph British troops worthily participated.

The enemy, enclosed in a cul de sac, with the Scarpe on his right and the canal behind him, was in a desperate plight and desperately did his best to escape it. He threw in no less than eight divisions. The fury of his counter-attacks equaled anything hitherto experienced by the veteran Canadian troops.

For miles behind the Canal du Nord he lacks such a great system of fortification as the Canadian corps stormed early yesterday morning.

AIRCRAFT CO-OPERATE WITH BRITISH ADVANCE

Machines Drop Forty-Two Tons of Explosives on Battlefield.

London, Sept. 4.—Of the aerial operations along the battle zone, the aviation department makes the following statement tonight: "On Sept. 3 fine weather, with fair visibility, enabled our airplanes and balloons to co-operate effectively with our advance. The fighting zone and the enemy's back areas were kept under close observation throughout the day.

"Contact between the infantry and low-flying patrols was carried out along the battlefield, while our artillery machines plied the enemy with shells and reported the effect of their fire. Twenty-one tons of bombs were dropped during the day and another twenty-one tons at night.

"Our airmen destroyed 19 enemy machines and drove seven down out of control. Four enemy balloons brought down in flames. Ten of our machines are missing."

BOLSHEVIKI THREATEN STATESMEN OF ENTENTE

Amsterdam, Sept. 4.—The Moscow correspondent of The Franco-Zeeitung reports that a member of the soviet has asserted that the Russian Government contemplates informing entente countries any further attempts upon the lives of Russian Government officials will be countered by attempts on the lives of statesmen in their own countries.

The same correspondent is quoted as saying that it has been declared in soviet circles that Leonid Boris Savinkoff organized the recent crises against high persons in Russia.

WAR SUMMARY

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

British troops, in pursuit of the Germans have forced a passage of the Tortille River and the Canal du Nord, where the Germans fell back over their defeat, and have advanced a considerable distance on the high ground to the eastward. The front where the passage was made was north of Molins, east of the St. Pierre-Vasat Wood, and therefore about midway between Peronne and Bapaume. The British here are now probably across the Peronne-Cambrai road. In other sectors of the battlefield the British have entered more resistance, mainly with machine guns and artillery, and have also reached the canal. In the Hindenburg line the British have entered more resistance, mainly with machine guns and artillery, and have also reached the canal. In the Hindenburg line the British have entered more resistance, mainly with machine guns and artillery, and have also reached the canal.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION

Rain Cannot Dampen the Spirit of the Big Fair Patrons

WE CAN STILL BEAT THE MILLION

LET'S GO

EXTRA—EXTRA—EXTRA

Mile a minute Motor Boat—three of them in sensational thirty-mile International Gold Cup Challenge race, 5 p.m.

TO-DAY AND FRIDAY

Toronto's good-bye and God-speed to the 343rd American Overseas Battalion. Final parade and farewell demonstration in front of Grand Stand at 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, 1.30 p.m.

Military Sport and Gymkhana

ROYAL AIR FORCE vs. C. E. F.

Greatest Program of Events Ever Presented Here

LETTER CARRIERS HOLD CONVENTION

Decide to Adopt New Schedule of Beneficiary Rates.

Hamilton, Sept. 4.—Delegates from all parts of Canada are here attending the 17th convention of the Federated Association of Letter Carriers which opened in the auditorium of the Royal Cosmopolitan Hotel this morning. Mayor Booker officially welcomed the delegates to the city. Adam Brown, Hamilton's veteran postmaster, followed with a brief address of welcome, and the President of the association, William A. McDonald of this city, acting president, while the duties of secretary-treasurer were performed by Alex. McMorris.

The matter of credentials and report of the beneficiary committee occasionally of the liveliest periods of the convention.

The beneficiary committee report submitted this afternoon recommended that as only 25 new members had been enrolled during the past two years, a special membership effort be inaugurated. It was stated that the present membership of 1,500 includes a majority in excess of 35 years of age.

YIELD FIVE BUSHELS OF WHEAT PER ACRE

Edmonton, Sept. 4.—Estimates of the Alberta department of agriculture shows that there will be approximately five bushels of wheat per acre for the area needed. This is a great deal better than was anticipated, and further, the wheat that is being threshed this year is of splendid quality. The threshing is only beginning, the indications are that there will be a greater percentage of first quality wheat this year than last.

ODDFELLOW DISTRICTS ODD-NUMBERED TAG

Wanted It Exchanged for Even Number in Williams Tag Contest at Exhibition.

MASON IMPARTIAL

Call it superstition or call it a hunch, or maybe it's "in the book"; but when a fine strapping Oddfellow hesitated to accept an odd-numbered tag in the Williams tag contest at the Exhibition yesterday, and in fact, earnestly requested that it be exchanged for one of an even number, the incident seems to establish a precedent on what has always been a much-mooted question.

Be that as it may, it presented insufficient proof to a Mason standing by at the time, and who had seen the amusing scene enacted. He was quite willing to challenge the spell of an even number by accepting the troubling and abashed little odd-numbered tag undressed by the Oddfellow. Up to closing time last night, however, neither Mason nor Oddfellow had returned to the Edison exhibit with the bright gleam of victory in their eye and bearing with them the owner of a duplicate and each a demand for a silverware prize.

"Odd" as it may seem, the lucky duplicate located yesterday was No. "2380." Was the Oddfellow the right one? It was returned by two ladies, one choosing the silver berry spoon and the other the three-piece set of sugar spoon, butter knife and pickle fork in Rogers silverware.

Now the question arises: Of what description is the grand prize tag number—odd or even? No one knows as yet, for the duplicate has not yet been returned to the Edison exhibit for claim. The regular prizes are of Rogers silverware, valued from \$3.00 to \$5.00, but the grand prize consists of two tea sets in Rogers silverware, each valued at \$25.00.

Every adult is welcome to one of the Williams tags, which may be obtained at the Edison exhibit, just west of the art gallery. You dip the tag to your credit or credit, numbered side facing out. As soon as you locate its duplicate, both return to the Edison exhibit and each receive one of the silverware prizes.

A New Optical House

Has been opened at 442 Yonge, facing Carlton St. Modern machinery has been installed for grinding Optician's Prescription Lenses.

All work will be done on the premises under the personal supervision of W. M. Percy, whose many years of Optical Experience will be at the service of the public.

PERCEPTO OPTICAL CO.,

442 YONGE ST. W. M. PERCY, Proprietor. PHONE ADELAIDE 5666.

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