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NOTHING

(Continued from Page 1)

"All reports agree that during the two days of desperate fighting, which still is raging, the Franco-British forces have undoubtedly proved their superiority. It is impossible to estimate the amount of booty captured by the allies, but a conservative estimate places it at hundreds of machine guns and many thousands of rifles taken from the enemy, who could not withstand the terrific assaults of the magnificent troops commanded by Sir John French.

"As an indication of how the British received the news of what may develop into the long-promised general advance, it is only necessary to say that the Daily Telegraph calls it the greatest battle since the beginning of the war.

"The great general staff prepared to meet a new and grave menace in the west, but it was too late. Pre-occupied by the campaign against Russia, the developments in the Balkans and the growing strength of the Italian offensive, the Teutonic military machine was caught between four fires.

laid the foundations for a general offensive a month ago when the censors permitted the news to reach the world that the allies were conducting a bombardment of practically the entire German line in France and Flanders.

After less than a week of artillery pounding Berlin awakened to the fact that the artillery practise had a greater meaning than spasmodic exchanges of shells that had marked the western front since early in the summer.

In the meantime the allies were proceeding calmly in their preparations for a decisive conflict.

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ITALIANS VICTORIOUS "Meanwhile the Italians are fighting among the mountain tops and are taking a terrible toll from the Austrians."

"The big push" predicted first for May 1, then for July 1, then for October 1, is on in earnest. London was delicious to-day with joy over the despatches from Field Marshal Sir John French, commanding the British force on the continent, which remember-Neuve Chapelle, Hill No. 60 and Ypres, dashed from their trenches captured the village of Loos, reached the outskirts of Hulluch, penetrated to the fortified positions protecting the German re-posing and drove a wedge into the opposing line between a Bassée and Lens in places four miles deep. From Loos to Ypres, the British were engaged, mainly for the purpose of supporting the main attack in the sector of Loos.

THE STARTING POINT Taking up the offensive where they joined the British lines, a half mile south of Loos the French entered the battle and occupied the Souchez cemetery, which in May and June was the scene of some of the most sanguinary fighting of the war. As on the north, the French activity here was more in the nature of a demonstration to aid the British drive, but its results were almost equal in one day to those of the six weeks battle in the same sector in the summer.

The principal French effort was made in the Champagne country in the vicinity of Perthes and Beausjour, north of the Camp de Chalons and east of Rheims. Here, on a front of fifteen miles, General Joffre had concentrated the greatest park of artillery ever gathered by the French army. Under the cover of a veritable deluge of shells the soldiers of the Tri-color stormed the German works.

HOW CHARGES COVERED The first, second and third line of trenches fell before them as well as rapidly as the men could move from one to another.

In that fact summarizing the first two days of the drive for which all the allied nations have been anxiously waiting since last autumn. It does not tell the interminable work of preparation, the moral and mental strain of the men at the front who were compelled to lie in comparative idleness in their subterranean homes until the time was propitious for the great blow. Nor does it tell of the days and nights of conferences between the French and British high commands, nor the labor and thought which brought to the vital point on the long front the forces which were to make the onslaught a success.

General Joffre and Field Marshal French jointly co-operate.

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