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NOTHING IS MORE DESPERATE

New Offensive by Germans Is Being Carried Out With Great Ferocity Under Cover of Unprecedented Bombardment, But British Line Merely Bends Under Pressure

TENACIOUS BRITISH TROOPS HOLD THE KEY TO BETHUNE

Givency is Retaken With 1,000 Prisoners, and the Enemy's Attempts About Messines Ridge Are Everywhere Decisively Repulsed.

BRITISH Report That Troops Were Forced Back by Fresh Enemy Attack.

FRENCH Report Loss and Recapture of Village of Hangard-en-Santerre.

Associated Press Summary of Events From the Battlefields. American troops are now reinforcing the British line in France...

London, April 10.—Maintaining their powerful attacks in the northern part of the British line, the Germans continued to gain ground today.

Paris, April 10.—The text of the French statement today reads: "The night was marked by a series of local actions begun by the Germans at several points on the front."

From the south of Ypres in Belgium to the region of La Bassée in France the new offensive of the Germans is being carried out with great desperation...

"North of Armentieres the weight of the enemy's assaults pressed our troops back to the line Wytschaete-Messines Ridge and Ploegsteert."

"On the left bank of the River Oise and in the region of the canal there was a bitter struggle for the village of Hangard-en-Santerre."

On several sectors of the new 20-mile battle line a few deep salients have been driven by the enemy, but in the process the Germans nowhere have been able to break through...

"South of Armentieres the enemy succeeded after a prolonged struggle in establishing himself on the left bank of the Lys River at certain points east of Estaires and in the neighborhood of Bac St. Maur."

"There was great activity of both the British and the French in the region of the forest of Apremont, and in the Woivre, in the region of Filleville."

Some Pressed Back. British positions southwest of Armentieres, lying between the Rivers Lys and Doube, north of Armentieres along the five-mile front between the Ploegsteert Wood and the Wytschaete-Messines ridge, have been pressed back by the Germans...

"This morning the enemy also counter-attacked by our troops and driven out of the village and back across the river."

"Another matter came up for serious discussion—that of the celebration on May 4. One member stated that he would spend that day home, because his time in the trenches today. All had returned to England and were holding down good jobs."

The latest German official statement asserts that between Armentieres and Estaires the Germans have crossed the Lys River and the British lines on both sides of Waasten-Warnton have been penetrated.

"The British in recapturing Givency made nearly a thousand prisoners, and the latest German official statement asserts that between Armentieres and Estaires the Germans have crossed the Lys River and the British lines on both sides of Waasten-Warnton have been penetrated."

"The board of education will consider a plan for adding to the number of pupils in each room and thus effecting a saving of \$20,000."

While the battle in the north has been in progress, the fighting south of the Somme, where the British are engaged against the Germans, has been rather subdued.

"The German submarine menace evidently is growing less each week. According to the British Admiralty's statement the sinkings of British merchantmen last week by mine or torpedoes consisted of four of more than 100 tons and two of less than 100 tons."

"The Flinders was last reported in available shipping records as having arrived at an American port Feb. 10. She was a vessel of 4157 tons, and was owned at Anvers."

Only two French merchantmen were sent to the bottom during the week ending April 6.

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Washington, April 10.—That the new support of the United States people and soldiers of Italy, King Emmanuel cabled President Wilson in a message on the occasion of the first anniversary of the United States' entry into the war.

"Particularly sanguinary fighting has proceeded about Meurbais and near Givency."

"Accidental death is the verdict of the jury enquiring into the accident on the Don Mills road, which resulted in the death of Samuel Green and Jerry Nelson."

DRAW UP MEMORIAL PROTESTING RETURN

Forty Original Firsts Hold Meeting and Discuss Hardship of Such.

SUGGEST MARCH PAST

They Agree to Attend Celebration in Their Honor on Tribute Day.

More than 40 "Original Firsts," 15 of them over 40 years, and 4 of them over 45, met last evening at Victoria Hall and voiced their feeling that while not afraid of going back to the front they felt that a large number of them could be found both in and out of the army in Canada...

"We do, therefore, place ourselves on record as being of the opinion that it would be only fair on the part of the government to permit us to remain in Canada and take the places of many who could well be transferred to either Britain or France."

"The chairman pointed out that all the men present were directly from the trenches in France. There were scores of Austrians and Bulgarians here in Toronto getting \$7 a day."

"The president stated that the slogan of the Union government had been: 'As soon as conscription comes the original firsts will return to Canada.' One of the men stated that it was only right for fit men in the militia to be replaced by those who had been long months and years in France."

"Another man pointed out that there was not a single member of the 'contemptible army' in the trenches today. All had returned to England and were holding down good jobs."

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VICIOUS ATTACKS ARE MADE AGAINST THE BRITISH LINES

German Hordes Flung Themselves Against Defenders, Hoping By Sheer Weight of Numbers to Annihilate the British Army.

With the British Army in France, April 10.—The Messines Ridge and the Ploegsteert Wood, which last June were cleared of Germans by a spectacular coup, again today were filled with swirling masses of fiercely battling troops as the result of a new drive launched by the enemy between Armentieres and Messines this morning.

p.m., Wednesday) which way the tide of conflict was flowing. Today's push north of Armentieres was a continuation of the new phase of the great offensive which boiled up yesterday between Givency and Armentieres, when the enemy surged forward suddenly with fresh troops and made a considerable dent in the defending lines.

For hours the German hordes have been flinging themselves viciously against the defending lines, and by sheer weight of numbers forced their way forward at several points into the British positions. Messines, Ploegsteert and Nieppe all had come within the zone of the bitter fighting during the forenoon, but with the attacks and counter-attacks in progress the situation was changing so rapidly that it was impossible to say at the time of the filing of this despatch (2

If the enemy attack of today should succeed, Armentieres would lie in a deep salient with the Germans well in on either side of it. In the meantime fighting is still proceeding at various points in the sector between Givency and Armentieres. One of the main features of the German plan for the offensive as a whole now becomes obvious. The Kaiser is bent on annihilating the British army, as far as is possible.

BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS ADVANCES MAN-POWER BILL

Second Reading is Given Measure by Vote of 323 to 100—Crisis in British Military Strength Expected at End of May.

London, April 10.—The house of commons tonight passed the second reading of the government's man-power bill. The vote was 323 to 100. Closure was applied and carried by a vote of 319 to 105, and Sir Charles Hobhouse's amendment, declaring that "while recognizing the gravity of the military situation, the house is of the opinion that the measure diminishes the naval and economic power of the nation without adding commensurately to the military strength," was defeated by a vote of 221 to 105.

Factors which governed the recent crisis over the removal of General Sir William Robertson as chief of the general staff still seem to control the political situation. The Lloyd George Government has again challenged the house of commons to accept its man-power policy or provide another government.

Since no parliamentary session appears ready to take the government responsibility, the indications are, as shown by today's debate on the second reading of the bill, that the government will carry the day, despite clear evidence that the new proposals meet with the most widespread criticism. Moreover, the news from the front today showing the continued gravity of the military situation, is helping the ministers in their new campaign.

Opinion in the lobby of the house was that former Premier Asquith could have taken a much stronger attitude against the government than he did, and the fact that he refrained from utilizing the opportunity to embarrass the government, is indicative of the spirit of a large section of the house.

IF GERMANS ATTACK VIMY CANADIANS TO BE READY

Enemy's Price for His Attempt Will Be Terrible, as Canadians Wait With Calm Confidence.

By W. A. Willison. Canadian Army Headquarters, April 10.—Folled in their attempt to outflank Vimy Ridge in the south, the Germans are now attempting the same manoeuvre from the north by Bethune. The anniversary of the date that saw Canada victorious in winning back so much of the coal lands of France finds those lands menaced again—Canada, with its hard-won Vimy Ridge behind it, waits for Germany to dare a frontal attack.

Irish May Compromise. Ireland and the attitude of the Nationalists, of course, remains an unknown factor, but John Dillon at the end of his speech seemed to indicate a possible means of agreeing with the government. Until the government proposals on the projected home rule measure become known nothing can be predicted with any degree of certainty.

All yesterday afternoon, evening and this morning our guns have answered to those of the enemy. Thru the area from the Scarpe to Souchez little villages have known again the blood price of battle. Women and children are evacuating loved homes. Death has visited many. War broods over the ridge. From Lens to Arras ruin is being added to ruin. Smoky by day, rimmed in fire by night, our old battle grounds are alive to battle again. Constant crumpling of shells in Arras, Lievin, Asqueroivres and other big and little centres is answered by the roar of our guns, sweeping the enemy front, assembly and rear areas. Our men wait in trenches without fear for the future. Everywhere there is confidence and sure foreknowledge that if the enemy attacks our heights his price for that attack will be terrible.

After a somewhat exciting sitting today the government carried the second reading of the man power bill by the unexpected substantial majority of 223. It is not unlikely, however, that the bill may be modified considerably in its passage thru committee. Andrew Bonar Law, government leader, intimated in the course of the debate that the government might consider fixing the conscription age at 48 instead of 50. Geddes Shouted Down. After Captain William A. Redmond had spoken against the government measure a sensational scene arose in the house. Leifchild Jones, Liberal for Nottinghamshire, demanded on whose advice the government was acting in declining to conscript Ireland. Sir Auckland Geddes, minister of recruiting, rose to address the house,

Beauty of a quiet... us submit... who have... cash prices... 4th Floor.



Underwear... fine summer weight... drawers, Per...

from the... yoke back and... toned up to neck...

Donegal tweed... and brown... 3-button... yoke back... lined through... 4 pockets; ex... Sizes 29 to

Records... kid and com... well and flexi... lines are to be had,



Pairs... kid and com... well and flexi... lines are to be had,

ent Leather... bottom, kid top... last; button style... and low heel... 12; 8 to 10 1/2; \$2.69;