

Battle Continues Along Whole Front.

British Mechanical Transport Superior to the Enemy's, Giving Advantage of Greater Mobility--Allies Hold Trump Card--British Confidence Unshaken, and First Line Still Holds.

BATTLE CONTINUES WITH VIOLENCE.

PARIS, March 26. The battle continues with the greatest violence, and the Germans are making still greater efforts along the whole front between Noyon and Chaumont, the war office announces. The statement follows: The battle continues with violence. During last evening and in the night the enemy multiplied his attacks on the whole front between Noyon and Chaumont. The French artillery, well established in the region of Noyon, and supported effectively by our infantry, is holding the German thrust. Frequent counter attacks have been made and heavy losses inflicted on the enemy. Noyon was evacuated during the night in perfect order. The French are holding the left bank of the Oise firmly.

BRELLIANT WORK OF BRITISH.

LONDON, March 26. (Via Reuters Ottawa Agency.)—Telegrams from British headquarters in France this evening, Reuters' correspondent says: "Never has the traditional quality of British steadfastness been more wonderfully illustrated than now. Time and time again troops have been overwhelmed and overrun by swarming legions, and as often have they managed to emerge and regain their line. What would be regarded as consummate feats of skill in field maneuvers are being constantly performed in this most grim struggle. One of the most dramatic incidents was, when our most weary troops, fighting hopeless odds, and striving to prevent the Germans from securing a certain crossing of the Somme, the French reinforcements arrived, and without hesitation joined in amongst the British, infusing fresh vigor and saving the situation. Men now returning from the battle line are many of them so dazed that they do not remember where they come from or what day of the week it is; but in this respect the situation is improving steadily as reserves are moving into position. Prisoners attribute the German success to the wonderful concentration of artillery, the full advantage of which they are losing at various places. The enemy is most reluctant to occupy evacuated positions. Whether they are afraid of traps or of being shelled to rags is only conjectured. Now that we are operating in the open our great superiority in mechanical transport is giving us the advantage of mobility over the enemy. The back areas are teeming with motor buses packed with soldiers, speeding to threatened posts. So far the enemy's intentions, beyond securing a general break through, are not revealed. Some German divisions appear to have been ordered to go as far as possible. To-day's fighting has been at the most bitter character since most of the battlefront, but the latest reports indicate less movement than heretofore, probably due to the

German infantry outstepping the artillery.

PLAYING THEIR LAST CARD.

French Front in France, March 25. (By Associated Press.)—Entire confidence reigns that this is the German's last trump, and the world beat will soon be over. The German lead will be trumped when the proper moment comes. The Allied military authorities were fully cognizant that the enemy's supreme effort would cause a retreat until measures could be taken to check the irruption into the Allied positions. As always the attackers possess the advantage of knowing exactly where they would launch their onslaught while the defenders were compelled to await developments of the battle before meeting the onrush with counter-measures. There is every sign in to-day's situation that the terrific attack, in which apparently somewhere in the neighborhood of one million Germans of all arms are engaged, is being slackened. The resistance of the Allies seems firmer and the arrival on the scene of French reserves sent up to the southern flank brought welcome support to the British who sustained the first powerful rush. The German divisions which began what was evidently intended to be an irresistible forward movement, were so cut up that they were replaced by fresh formations. It is these divisions which have been checked at the positions on which it was foreseen by the Allied Generals that a stand would be made. The ground over which the fighting has taken place possesses small tactical value, but it permitted the Allies to retire in perfect order. It had been devastated by the Germans before they retired last year, and the inhabitants had not had time to build up again. While retreating across what was almost desert land the British inflicted enormous losses on the enemy, who threw away thousands of lives in an effort to overcome the resistance he encountered. When the retreating British reached the Somme and the Canal they turned about and gave battle, meeting repeated and long sustained endeavors of both infantry and cavalry. The initial rush of the enemy seems to have been stopped. Military opinion generally is that this first phase of the great battle, in which even more troops were employed than in the battle of the Marne, gives no indication what the results will be. Nevertheless developments are awaited by the Allies without anxiety.

ONLY THE FORESEEN HAPPENING

LONDON, March 26.

(Via Reuters Ottawa Agency.)—A despatch from the French headquarters to-day says that the news should be read with entire calm and unshaken confidence, and although our front was compelled to recoil under the hammer blows of Von Hindenburg, inevitably a move that was fully foreseen by the Allied staffs, counter measures prepared in advance will take effect at the right moment. The first days of the battle presumably mark the high water level of the German advance. The enemy still enjoys the advantage of the offensive, and is able to select the point where the blow is to be aimed, while we are obliged to disperse by means of defence and to cover all points where the blow might fall. That advantage, as the history of the war has taught us, is one that quickly passes every hour and brings us nearer to the moment when the Allied armies in reserve will be ready to intervene. Before that moment comes Hindenburg must have achieved the decision or be prepared to see it go against him. Hitherto with thrice the human material and means employed by the French and British armies last year, the enemy gained proportionately less than the Allies did in a series of brilliant attacks beginning with Vimy Ridge and ending with the Malmaison fort. All such operations result in the gain of ground exactly proportionate to the accumulation of men, material and means behind the attacking front. As the Germans have been able to accumulate a greater force behind the front than the Allies have even been able to achieve, their advance has been proportionately swifter and greater. The Germans are advancing through the same territory where, through their

own criminal folly they did not find a whole roof except in the towns of Guise and Ham, nor an inhabitant nor an ounce of food.

A POLITICAL DRIVE.

LONDON, March 26.

(Via Reuters Ottawa Agency.)—As the evidence develops that the Germans are unlikely to gain a decision in the face of the maintenance of such splendid British resistance, public opinion, which, though anxious, has never been duly depressed, is now bracing itself into strong determination to acquiesce to whatever measures that are necessary to meet an admittedly critical situation. All contentions have been silenced. There was a flicker of labor restlessness in Manchester recently, when an unofficial representation of the engineers threatened to strike against the man-power proposals, but this was promptly extinguished by an outburst of popular indignation, wherein even the pacifists joined, and the meetings of district branches of Amalgamated Engineers yesterday repudiated the Manchester decision wherein the executive had no part. Everywhere unshaken confidence is expressed that the undaunted front presented by the British troops will buffet the enemy, who, with troops four or five times the British strength, only scored very moderate success and endured colossal losses, and have already shown signs of flagging. The net results of the German movement to date is to make three bulges in the British line, viz., south of Arras, at Bapaume, and towards Negle, but they failed north, where the steadfastness of the British line checked the enemy's double thrust. That the enemy's offensive has been for a political object has been corroborated in an article written by a prominent Londoner, Ernest Pyke, who was released from Ruhleben after three and a half years. He frequently visited Berlin as a camp kitchen inspector. Pyke says that the present move is undoubtedly dictated by the fear of the mob, as the German people are suffering from unspeakable privations and are asking for peace and food. This estimate is confirmed by the reiterated assurances of the enemy communicators recently, that peace is near at hand. On the contrary, the British opinion is confident that the Allied reserve power is rallying to the determination to endure, if necessary, the most protracted conflict. The Morning Post demands the immediate convening of Parliament for the purpose of sanctioning the ex-

tension of national service, raising the military age and abolishing all exemptions, including the conscientious objectors, departmental indispensables and the Irish. The Morning Post is confident that no trouble in labor circles is apprehensible. The Times notes with pride and satisfaction the fortitude with which the country is facing a grave situation. It is hoped that the Government will lose no time in making whatever fresh demands may be required from the civilian population. The Times points out that the Germans did not succeed in their supreme object of driving a wedge between the English and French armies, and the prospect of such a success is very remote. The immediate problem is whether the British and French forces are able to recoupy approximately the 1916 line. The Daily News demands a detailed statement of the progress of the battle from headquarters, and says that if the news is unfavorable the public prefer to know it from their own official statement rather than from the German.

TO FILL THE GAPS.

LONDON, March 26.

To fill the gaps caused by the German advance in France, the authorities have decided to place the recruiting machinery in motion again throughout the country. In order to assist the Government in this task, have placed the organization of their unions at the disposal of the recruiting officers.

BRITISH OFFICIAL.

LONDON, March 26. (Official.)

The fighting died down during the night. Our troops established themselves in new positions east of Roye and Albert. North of the Somme the continuance of the fighting is expected, but it has not yet developed. Attacks are reported to be developing this morning south of the Somme against our troops and those of the French in the neighborhood of Roye and Chaumont. The enemy's losses continue to be severe. He has been obliged to reinforce his battlefront from all parts of the western theatre. Over 70 hostile divisions are known to have been engaged in the battle.

LAST THURSDAY'S NAVAL ENGAGEMENT.

LONDON, March 26.

In the engagement between Allied and enemy destroyer squadrons off Dunkirk last Thursday, the British destroyer Botha cut a German warship in half and took a leading part in the fight although her main steam pipe had been severed by a stray shell. Early last Thursday morning the British destroyers Botha and Morris and the French destroyers Capitaine, Mehl, Massonne and Bouter were patrolling the eastern waters of the English Channel when they heard enemy ships bombarding the coast of Dunkirk. They fired star shells which had the effect of silencing the bombardment and scattering the enemy. The destroyers started in pursuit of the Germans in a north-westerly direction and discovered eventually that the enemy ships were making for their bases. A grim fight ensued, according to the stories of eye-witnesses. None of the German torpedoes found a mark, but the Morris, emerging from an enemy smoke screen, cut off a German destroyer of a large type and torpedoed her at a range of 500 yards. There was an explosion in the enemy vessel and she sank immediately. Meanwhile the Botha had been crippled and she began to lose her way. The crew determined to do what damage they could and fired both their torpedoes at the two leading enemy boats. Then her helm rammed another boat cleanly amidships, cutting the enemy vessel in half. Swinging around, the Botha attempted to repeat the ramming manoeuvre on the next German astern. The enemy craft, however, eluded the effort of the crippled Britisher but only to fall a victim to the French destroyers. Alas, the German boat lay disabled while the Frenchmen pounded her with torpedoes and gunfire. The Morris lost the rest of the quarry in the mist and took the lame Botha in tow, while the French destroyers circled around picking up prisoners. From the statement of prisoners it appears that eighteen German craft-Lloyd will reveal itself. The honors



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participated in the raid, and when they fled from the French coast, leaving three of their number behind, they were attacked by a British naval air squadron which pelted them with bombs and scattered them in disorder in all directions.

Thoughts Upon the Times.

(By PATRIOT.)

These are serious days for the British Nation. When are we going to realize that we have a foe worthy of our steel in the German soldier? He is fighting desperately for his very existence and the existence of his nation. A desperate man when fighting for his home and life will take a half a dozen mercenary men to subdue him. We have been given too much bunkum about the starved, half-clothed, brutal, cowardly German soldier. We have been fed up with useless stories about their treatment of women and prisoners which have appealed only to our sentiments not to our warlike instincts. We are told that all is fair in war. It would have been better for us as a nation had we long ago emulated the patriotism of the German and taught our people to see that we had a determined and relentless foe to face; and that if we did not down him, he would, in the end, conquer us. We have lost too much time in regaling one another with stories about the brutality of the Germans and what we were going to do when we won the war. We have put almost every conceivable question before that of winning the war, whilst the Germans have subordinated everything to that aim. A few days ago we laughed at the idea of Hindenburg being able to penetrate the British lines. To-day we are shocked to find that he has done so, and stand agast on being told of the immense armies the Germans are hurling against our Western front. We are stupefied to find that they are bombarding Paris with guns that carry shells a distance of sixty-two miles. Yet all this was included in their methodical preparations for the big drive which is now taking place and of which we were duly warned. Fortunately for us at the present moment we have a man of Lloyd George's calibre at the head of the nation, and when he tells us that once we lose our warlike instincts, it will go hard with us, we would do well to take heed. We have neglected too many such warnings in the past. Coming down to ourselves, in our own little country what do we find? Although our position is tenfold more serious than it was in 1914 when war broke out, yet we are not taking that position half so seriously as we did then. If Germany wins what will it matter to us whether our people catch fish or become the slaves of the German war-lord? We have been constantly told that it is a question of man power with Britain. This is the only way in which we can help. Are we now doing anything towards it? Rather we are making ourselves ridiculous over such paltry questions as whether Coaker did or did not rise the price of fish last year. Our public men are taking advantage of the problems confronting us by the war to benefit themselves materially and socially. They are even trying to make political capital out of the question as to whether we should or should not enforce selective conscription in the country. Newfoundland can easily raise five thousand additional men between the ages of twenty and thirty-five without seriously interfering with any of the established industries of the country. Yet nothing is being done, and voluntary enlistment is at a standstill. It is not because the people are lacking in patriotism. They have become so utterly disgusted with the actions of public men of late that they refuse to allow themselves to be exploited any further. This is the real reason why recruiting has failed and why Newfoundland is not now doing her part. As time goes on the treachery enacted From the statement of prisoners it appears that eighteen German craft-Lloyd will reveal itself. The honors

which our gallant Regiment won for us on the field of battle have been flitted by those men and distributed among themselves and their followers. They have put the country to shame. Well may they fear to face an outraged electorate, for as sure as tomorrow's sun will rise so sure will they go down to defeat when the people get the chance to express their opinions at the polls. Newfoundlanders are not pro-German. They want to do their part to keep the old flag flying. They can only do so through the Government. If then the latter fails to do its duty history will place the guilt where it really lies. This will not be on the people or on the merchants of Water Street, but on the politicians who appear by their actions to value votes more than they do victory, and are willing to bring dishonor upon the country for the sake of the spoils of office.

A Child Hates Oil, Calomel, Pills For Liver and Bowels

Give "California Syrup of Figs" if cross, sick, feverish, constipated.

Look back at your childhood days. Remember the "dope" mother insisted on—castor oil, calomel, cathartics. How you hated them, how you fought against taking them. With our children it's different. Mothers who cling to the old form of physic simply don't realize what they do. The children's revolt is well founded. Their tender little "insides" are injured by them. If your child's stomach, liver and bowels need cleansing, give only delicious "California Syrup of Figs." Its action is positive, but gentle. Millions of mothers keep this harmless "fruit laxative" handy; they know children love to take it; that it never fails to clean the liver and bowels and sweeten the stomach, and that a teaspoonful given to-day saves a sick child to-morrow. Ask your druggist for a bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has full directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly on each bottle. Beware of counterfeits sold here. See that it is made by "California Fig Syrup Company." Refuse any other kind with contempt.

say about it you mothers whose prayers ascend daily to the Throne of Grace on behalf of the boy who is now doing a man's work in the trenches, because the Government failed to send a man in his place. Upon us all lies a terrible responsibility and woe be to us if we fail to do our duty. [Note: In his opening notes we think our esteemed correspondent to be unduly pessimistic.—Editor.]

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