THE LONDON, ONTARIO, ADVERTISER, TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 10, 1917. 80 COLUMNS.

# 53rd YEAR. No. 22741 alg Presses New

ANADIANS CLEAR ENEMY FROM SLOPES OF VIMY RIDGE

# American Munitions Plant Razed---Hundreds Are

## CANADIANS CLEAR FOE'S TROOPS FROM BOTH SIDES OF VIMY

Boys From the Dominion Foil Counter-Attack and Hold Safely Ground Won Yesterday-Germans Reach the Support Trenches Near Ypres, But Are Promptly Ejected-9,000 Prisoners and 40 Guns Taken Monday.

London, April 10.—The British offensive between at ons and St. Quentin, with which the spring operations have been opened and which is still in progress, has proved even more successful than the earlier accounts indicated. Gen. Sir Douglas Haig today reports that yesterday's captures exceeded 9,000 men, while 40 guns fell into the

hands of his troops SLOPES ARE CLEARED.

The Canadians, who had one of the hardest bits of the front to contend with, are now in complete occupation of the famous Vimy Ridge, even the eastern slopes of the ridge having been cleared of Germans. The Canadians also have repulsed German counter-attacks.

These reactions by the Germans indicate the importance they attach to this position, whence the conquerors look down over the plain of Douai. With Vimy ridge, gone the whole German line covering the French towns and industrial districts to the north becomes a wavering one, and any leisurely retreat the Germans may have planned is made uncertain and precarious.

TIGHTENS THE CHAIN. With the capture of the famous ridge the British made a considerable stride along the road to Douai, while the capture of the high ground northwest of St. Quentin tightens the chain which the Anglo-French forces are draw-

ing around that town. A German diversion southeast of Ypres, according to Gen. Haig's report, met with no success. The Germans succeeded in reaching British support

trenches but were immediately ejected. The announcement, which is timed 11:50 a.m., is as follows:

"During the night there was severe fighting at the northern end of Vinuy Ridge, where the enemy had retained a footing. He was ejected, and an attempted counter-attack failed to materialize. The eastern slope of the ridge tempted counter-attack failed to materialize. The eastern slope of the ridge tempted counter-attack failed to materialize. The eastern slope of the ridge tempted counter-attack failed to materialize. The eastern slope of the ridge tempted counter-attack failed to materialize. has been cleared of the enemy and counter-attacks repulsed "Our troops advanced and seized the village of Fampoux and neighboring

defences north and south of the Scarpe.
9,000 PRISONERS. "The number of prisoners taken yesterday exceeds 9,000, and over 40 guns. To the south of Scarpe today the e been captured.
"In the neighborhood of St. Quentin the enemy has been driven from the have been captured

high ground between Le Verguier and Harglcourt. Fighting continues throughout the whole battlefront. ougnout the whole battlefront.
"After an intense bombardment the enemy made a strong attack last night on a narrow front southeast of Ypres, and succeeded in reaching our support incs. He was immediately ejected from our trenches, leaving several dead."

#### GERMANS ADMIT LOSS.

Berlin, April 10-Via London, 4:50 p.m.-Regarding the heavy fighting on the western front today's army headquarters' statement reports that the "battle near Arras continues.'

"In stubbornly resisting the superiority of the enemy," adds the statement, "two of our divisions suffered considerable losses.

"The British," continues the statement, "succeeded in penetrating our positions on the roads radiating from Arras, but did not break through.

The German sixtement announces that the British attack was on a front of 20 kilometres, and was launched after an exceedingly violent artillery fire.

Southeast of Ypres, the Germans penetrated beyond the third British line, Southeast of types, the Germans penetrated beyond the third British line, says the headquarters report, and blew up shelters, returning with fifty prisoners and seven machine guns and mine throwers. and seven machine guns and inme throwers.

Along the Aisne and near Rheims the artillery fire was very lively yester-

is due largely to the splendid artillery covering. Most of the casualties are

slight wounds.

Men who are walking back to the hospital stations from the forward moving front give glowing accounts of now the Germans are being "done" everywhere. After being bandaged hurriedly in the forward dressing posts, the wounded men return, whistling or sing-

been a source of greatest interest the Tommies who are awaiting their turn at the front. They gather about he outer circle of barbed wire and con verse with Germans who are able to speak English. Even in this third year speak English. Even in this third year of the war waiters from London hotels who are captured anxiously inquire how things are going there, and if the zeppelins left any visible signs of the Loud laughter rings about cages at some of these questions, and the replies of the Tommies cause laughter in turn within the cages. The pris-British refill and fling back. There is also a lively exchange of souvenirs.

#### MARTIAL LAW PROCLAIMED BY GOVT, OF GUATEMALA

Guatemala City, Guatemala. April 9.— Martial law has been declared in Guat-emala. The action was taken on inform-ation of disturbances along the Mexiand Salvadorean frontiers, supposed have been created with German

GERMAN PRISONERS TAKEN BY CANADIANS



# SMASH MAY

British and Canadians Facing Final System of Defences Before "Hindenburg Line" -- Dominion's Fighters Go Into Battle Sin ging Ragtime.

[Special Cable to The Advertiser.] By William Philip Simms, U. P. Staff Correspondent.

With the British Armies Afield, April 10. - There is every reason to believe by to night the great British smash will have netted Field Marshal Haig 15,000 prisoners and between 50 and 100 guns.

The driving force of the great offensive was undiminare based on careful estimates and cal-

culation. Facing Last Defences.

British and Canadians were facing the last system of the German line, which is nearly opposite the famous "Hinden-

From this point the fighting front runs by Feuchy, Chapelle to the east of Neuville, Vitasse and southwardly. All along in this section the troops are now attacking the Hindenburg defences.

Troops Are Pleased. The fighting had not slackened in the slightest degree today. The troops are immensely pleased to be moving again after the inaction of trench warfare. When the "push" started one could hear thousands marching through the blackness of the night singing and

joking. The Canadian divisions, be it known, stepped along to the lively singing of Canadian songs and American ragtime in midst of a howling snowstorm. Prisoners Cheerful. Prisoners continued to pour back of the lines today, most of them Wurttem-

They appeared quite cheerful. Even many officers among them seemed much relieved.

# With the British Armies in France, April 10—Via London.—The British casualties have been light, a fact which is due largely to the splendid artillary AT RATE OF ONE PER DAY:

The crowded cages for prisoners at orps and divisional headquarters have orps and divisional headquarters have Explosive Bombs-Air planes and Armed Merchantmen Also Account For Some.

New York, April 10.-The New

York Times this morning publishes

the following: The British have been destroying U-boats at the average rate of one a day since February 1, and latterly at an even higher rate according to information brought to New York yesterday by persons returning from Europe, who said they had the authority of naval officers and officials high in the admiralty for the figures. In the month following the declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare British ships sank thirty-two submarines. Since then, it is said, the average number destroyed a week has been between seven and fifteen, with the number running as high as twenty-

three in the week.

New Methods Used. British naval officers assert their

methods in fighting the submarine are being improved constantly. The small motorboat, known as the "submarine chaser," following in the wake of destroyers dragging cables or chains between them, has sunk most of the U-boats with a new explosive bomb, effective within a circumference of 200 yards. Airplanes are used also while the practice of equipping merchant ships with guns forward, as well as aft, has caused the destruction of several U-boats.

British officers say the Germans profess to be turning out a submarine a day, but they do not see ent crews can be sent to sea at

# HUNDREDS LOSE LIFE BY RAZING OF GREAT PLANT

Pa., Destroyed by an Explosion.

WOMAN AND GIRLS KILLED

Loss of Life Is Reported To Be Very Heavy and May Total 300.

Chester, Pa., April 10 .- A terrific explosion at the great plant of the Eddystone Ammunition Corporation at Eddystone, Pa., a mile from this city, is reported to have killed from 125 to 250 persons and injured at least 300 more. A railroad official asserts that nearly 300 were killed, but this estimate cannot be con-

Chester, Pa., April 10.—An explosion occurred in the Aetna plant of the munition works at Eddystone, near here, Many persons are reported to have been injured, and doctors were rushed from this city and surrounding towns to the scene of the accident.

rushed from this city and surrounding towns to the scene of the accident.

Two Explosions.

There were two explosions shortly after 10 o'clock, and in about ten minutes a third explosion occurred, heavier than either of the two preceding blasts. One building near the Delaware River front of 'he plant caught fire and was still burning at 11:15 a.m.

The Chester Times reports that fifty persons were killed and many injured. Physicians are flocking to the scene.

The president of the Baldwin Locomotive Works denies stories of death and injury. Heavy Loss of Life.

Heavy Loss of Life.

The greatest confusion prevails, and no one is allowed to approach the plant in which the explosion occurred. The trolley line to Eddystone is not running because its wires were destroyed.

Latest reports make the loss of life very heavy, between 75 and 150 being the last figures given. The little Chester morgue is filled with bodies, and they are piled upon the sidewalk outside the building.

It is stated the building in which the explosion occurred was used for making time fuses for shrapnel. The workers were mostly women and young girls.

ON RUSSIAN ORDERS. New York, Apri: 10.—Information was received at the offices of the Midvale Steel Company in this city, that the explosions occurred in the powder

explosions occurred in the ponumidepartment of the Eddystone Ammunition Company.

The Eddystone Ammunition Company is understood here to be an inpany is understood here to be an independent corporation, and is engaged Continued on Page Three.

# BRITISH DRIVE ALL ALONG LINE PRESSING HOME NEW OFFENSIVE; MUCH BOOTY CAPTURED TODAY

#### Hindenburg's Bastion Gone By Canadians' Victory

London, April 10.—One military critic, commenting on the present battle, thus describes the importance of Vimy Heights:

"They are admittedly the bastion of the enemy's western line. Whatever else has been allowed to go, he held Vimy Ridge with grim resolve, and lavished upon it all the arts in fortification and defensive skill that the war has taught him. Upon it hinges the whole strategy of the enemy's rereat in the west. With Vimy firmly held, he can swing his enemy's rereat in the west, until each part of it reaches the position where he has a mind to stand, and he can cover the French industrial London, April 10 .- One military critic, commenting on the present where he has a mind to stand, and he can cover the French industrial districts upon which he depends so much for supplies. But with Viny gone, the defence of these districts can hardly be maintained, the pivot of the whole retreat shifts and gives backward, and is in instant risk of fracture."

#### THE WAR SITUATION

As a result of the offensive begun yesterday along the line from Lens to Arras the British have captured and hold apparently firm possession of Vimy Ridge, carried by the Canadians, and considered the pivot of the German retreat in Northern France.

The German lines along the Scarpe, northeast of Arras, have been penetrated as far as the town of Fampoux, a distance of 3½ miles in one of the most forceful drives of the war.

More than 9,000 Germans were taken prisoner in one day's fighting and forty guns captured.

Further south the battle is progressing favorably to the British, who have drawn closer to St. Quentin, taking commanding ground to the northwest.

of the Lens-Arras sector North of the Lens-Arras sector the Germans made a drive on a narrow front, penetrating the British lines southeast of Ypres, but being immediately ejected in a

port progress east of the lower Coucy forest.

### GRAVE DANGER OF A GERMAN THRUST AT RUSS CAPITAL

Munition Factory at Chester, Provisional Govt. Announces Situation Is Serious.



received at Camp Borden,

## **BIG DRIVE OPENS NEW CHAPTER IN WEST CAMPAIGN**

Capture of Vimy Ridge Is of Vital Importaance to British.

KEY TO THE GERMAN LINE

Success May Cause Germans to Retreat to Their Meuse Line.

London, April 10 .- The news of the successful opening of the new British! offensive has stirred intense interest and high hope among the people throughout the country. Whatever the enemy may have claimed as to the retreat in the Somme sector having been prearranged and strategical, it is contended that their recoil before the blow delivered in the Arras-Lens region cannot be explained away in any such manner. It is urged that there is no possible voluntary element in this re tirement, and that there can be no dispute as to who took the initiative.

A New Chapter Opens, A new chapter in the conflict on the western front has begun, and whether Petrograd. April 10.—Via London.—
The Provisional Government has issued a lengthy proclamation directing attention to the grave danger of a German effort to deliver a decisive blow at Russia and the necessity of immediately concentrating all of Russia's forces for the defeat of the enemy.

Western front has begun, and whether or not it is to prove the beginning of a decisive battle, it is bound, according to the prevalent opinion here, to lead to results of the highest importance. The main feature of the battle thus far, on which attention has been focused, is the capture of Vimy Ridge. The immense value of this series of heights, which dominate the plain from an elevation of 400 to 500 feet, has been recognized throughout the war, and great sacrifices have been regarded as

The Provisional Government has issued a lengthy proclamation directing attention to the grave danger of a German effort to deliver a decisive blow at Russia and the necessity of immediately concentrating all of Russia's forces for the defeat of the enemy.

"The Provisional Government," says the proclamation, "Feat The state is in danger, and is successary to employ all our states in the condition, especially in the matter of nance, food supply.

KILLED BY TRAIN.

North Bay, Ont., April 10.—Charles Galvin, the 10-year-old and of the 10-year-old and the states on the process of the condition of the process of the pr

The issues depending upon British ability to hold the ridge are therefore immense. At the moment there is nothing to suggest a doubt that the ridge will be held, but the battle is still fiercely continuing, and there is little disposition here to indulge in confident predictions. Nevertheless, the opinion is expressed that if the Germans are definitely driven from the ridge without hope of reattacking, they are likely enough to be compelled to acknowledge defeat, and retire to what is called the Meuse line. running from Verdun through Mezieres, Maubeuge and Lille.

Fight on Wide Front.

In the meantime the fighting goes on

Advertiser Illustrations.

LIEUT. HAROLD TALBOT, B. A., son of Postmaster John Talbot of Dorchester, who died as result of injuries received at Camp Borden.

In the meantime the fighting goes on over a front of about fifty miles, roughly from Lens to St. Quentin, the core of attack being around and north of Arras. As far as information goes, everything is going well for the British, and justifies their sanguine hopes, but the comments today generally include a warning not to allow these hopes to run too high. The enemy is known to have great reserves at hand, and an iron great reserves at hand and iron great reserves at hand pusting the committee of the disturbance which was off the midd

Haig's Troops Are Smashing Enemy's Line From South of Cambrai to Lens---Record Barrage Fire Breaks Up Great Preparation By Germans For Counter-Attack---Many Officers Taken Prisoner.

With the British Armies in France, April 10-Via London, 2 p.m.—(From a Staff Correspondent of the Assotent flashes of sunshine, the British pressed their attack mittent flashes of sunshine, the British pressed their attack against the Germans today all along the line from a point south of Cambrai to the vicinity of Lens. So much booty was taken in the first rush of this new assault that it has not all been reported, but it is believed a large number of guns were captured.

SURPASS SOMME GAIN Yesterday's fighting and gains far surpassed the first days of the battle of the Somme last July. The Canadians today command the Vimy Ridge and are reported to be well beyond it at some points. More villages were captured today in the direction of Cambrai, and the fighting

RECORD BARRAGE FIRE. Clearing weather yesterday afternoon permitted the airplanes to detect German trains moving toward the rail head, apparently for a counter-attack on Vimy Ridge. This fact was reported to the artillery, and all long-range guas for ten miles around were concentrated suddenly on the indicated point in what probably constituted a nev record for long-distance barrage fire with heavy guns. Thus the plans for a counter-attack were absolutely destroyed before the reserve troops could detrain.

OFFENSIVE EXTENDING. Correspondents at the front report the fighting continuing keenly throughout last night, with the British offensive gradually extending northward, there being fighting his morning in the direction of La Bassee, MANY OFFICERS TAKEN.

Some 150 officers are among the prisoners already taken, these including five battalion commanders. Al though forty guns captured is the official count thus far, the number is expected to reach three figures, while quantities of trench mortars, bomb-throwers, machine guns and ammunition also have been captured. The Germans destroyed great quantities of supplies at the last minute to prevent their capture.

The weather continues bitterly cold, with snow flurries, but the British forces are clad in sheepskins and are being kept well fed.

### BRAZIL BREAKS WITH FRENCH MOVE AHEAD NORTH OF THE OISE DURING THE NIGHT

tween Brazil and Germany Enemy's Artillery at This Point

THE WEATHER

Slackening Up.

LOCAL TEMPERATURES. Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night: Highest, 31; lowest, 20.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 33; lowest, 20.

CANADA WILL BE PROUD, MONARCH TELLS GEN. HAIG

London, April 10-2:55 p.m.-King George sent the following message today to Field Marshal Sir Dauglas Haig, commander of the British armies on the western

"The whole Empire will rejoice at the news of yesterday's successful operations. Canada will be proud that the taking of the coveted Vimy Ridge has fallen to the lot of her troops. I heartly congratulate you and all who taken part in this splendid achievement.