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WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 24, 1918.

FAIR AND WARM.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

Allies Still Gaining!

ENTENTE ALLIES CAPTURE THREE MORE TOWNS AND 2,000 GERMANS

They Continue To Gain Ground on Western Side of Soissons-Rheims Battle Front and on South Along the Marne Towards Rheims Notwithstanding Increasing Resistance.

Gen. Foch's Men Penetrate Enemy Lines For Distance of Two Miles—British Capture Strong Positions Southwest of Rheims and Advance Nearly a Mile—Huns Fear New British Drive.

(Undated War Lead By The Associated Press.)
The Entente allied troops on the Soissons-Rheims salient continue to gain ground, both on the western side of the battle front and on the south along the Marne and toward Rheims, notwithstanding the increasing resistance of the Germans and the bad weather that is prevailing on the southern part of the line.

While the latest gains recorded are not as great, on the whole, as those of previous days, they nevertheless have added positions of strategic value to the allied line for the further prosecution of the efforts to clear the territory of the enemy. In the fighting more prisoners, guns and war stores have fallen into the hands of the American, British and French troops.

As a diversion, the French, to the northwest, midway between Soissons and Amiens, have delivered a blow against the German line which has been productive of excellent results, capturing three towns.

Advance Two Miles.
Striking on a front of about four miles General Foch's troops penetrated the enemy lines for a distance of about two miles and gained the heights dominating the valley of the Aves river and the plains beyond. Fifteen hundred Germans were captured by the French.

On the northern bank of the Marne, to the east of Chateau Thierry, the town of Jaulgonne, from which the Americans retreated during the German offensive, has been recaptured and left in the rear by the advancing troops. East of Jaulgonne the French likewise have advanced their line on the north bank of the Marne and clung to their newly won positions, notwithstanding the vicious German counter move and the statement of the German war office that they were driven out.

British Do Well.
Likewise southwest of Rheims, where the British are fighting with the French, strong enemy positions have been captured and the Allied line advanced nearly a mile. The reinforced German front here stubbornly contested the advance, but the British and French gained the advance and in addition to inflicting heavy casualties, took prisoners and five guns. The British alone captured 500 Germans. The counter-attacks of the Germans continue to be delivered with great violence and with heavy gun and machine gun fire behind them. Where they are forced to give ground, the Germans are leaving numerous machine gun nests in the open to harass their enemies.

METAL SOLDIERS LATEST IN WAR

London, Friday, July 12.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—An "automatic soldier" is one of the latest developments in weapons of war.
A Danish engineer has recently taken out a patent for an apparatus to which he has given this name. It consists of a steel cylinder normally within a larger cylinder, the whole being sunk into the ground vertically. By means of a mechanism operated by wireless the inner cylinder rises to a height of 18 inches from the ground and simultaneously an automatic rifle mounted on the inner cylinder fires four hundred shots in any given direction.

These "automatic soldiers" can be controlled from a central position some four or five miles behind the line of defence, according to the inventor. They may be seen by the enemy only when they rise from the ground. From trials already made it has been shown, so it is reported, that a few hundred of these steel soldiers can easily defend a position against infantry attacks, however numerous the opposing forces may be. They blaze away their four hundred shots without flinching and never retreat. In order to overcome the "automatics" they must be destroyed one by one.

GERMANS LOST 37 AIRPLANES LAST MONDAY

(Bulletin)
Paris, July 23.—No less than thirty-seven German airplanes were brought down or put out of action by French and British airmen yesterday. Four captive balloons were burned and many tons of bombs were dropped on German concentration points. This announcement is made in the official communication issued by the war office tonight.
London, July 23.—The official statement on aerial operations issued by the air ministry tonight says "In a raid carried out on the afternoon of the 22nd instant the main station of Offenburg, (Baden) was hit and bursts were seen. Hostile machines were destroyed. All our machines returned."
"On the night of July 22-23 repeated attacks attended with good results were carried out against the enemy's airplanes. Fires and explosions were observed. Other targets were engaged with bombs and machine gun fire."

98 IN BOSTON, 38 IN CANADA

Sizzling Heat Waves in United States, Ontario and Quebec—Top Coats in St. John.

Boston, July 23.—Two deaths and fifteen prostrations from the heat were reported today, which was the hottest of the year. A temperature of 98 was registered by the weather bureau at 4 p. m. Weather bureau officials held out no hope for relief until tomorrow night, when showers are predicted.

Four Die in Gotham.
New York, July 23.—Four deaths and scores of prostrations from the heat were reported to the police as direct results of the hottest July 23rd New York city has experienced in seventeen years. Beginning with 75 degrees at seven o'clock this morning, the mercury mounted steadily until five o'clock when it touched 92. It then hovered until six when it dropped 2 degrees.

Hot in Canada.
The Eastern warm wave spread over Ontario, Quebec and dipped slightly into the maritime provinces yesterday. The hottest place in Canada officially was Parry Sound, Ont., where the mercury rose to 92. The next warmest spots on the government weather map was London, Ont., where the temperature rose to 87. At Montreal and Quebec it was 86, Toronto, 85; Ottawa, 84, and Halifax 78.

The glass in St. John was as low as 64, and it was not sufficiently energetic to get above 64. It was not quite the coolest spot in Canada, for in far away Edmonton the official temperature was as low as 38 and in Calgary 42.

MAY STOP BASEBALL AND MOVIE INDUSTRY

Washington, July 23.—Final decision as to the work of right regulations shall become applicable to baseball players has been postponed until tomorrow.
War Department officials have begun a study of the regulations with a view to amending them to include all engaged in sport or amusements. If that were done the order exempting the motion picture industry might be revoked.

London, July 23.—A Ruter dispatch from Tokio dated July 19 says that a special session of the privy council, presided over by the Emperor, met that day to consider the Siberian question and passed the Emperor's measure in the premises.

Terrific Tempests In New Brunswick Cause Considerable Damage

Several Nurses and Soldiers in Fredericton Shocked By Lightning When Bolts Strike Hospital, Church and Other Places--Much Damage Done in City and Crops Damaged.

Violent Storm Hits Chatham, Where Man Affected—Barn Burned At Black River—Glass Broken All Over Newcastle—Roof Torn Off and Other Havoc Wrought.

Special to The Standard.
Fredericton, July 23.—One of the worst electrical storms that has visited this city in years passed over about seven o'clock this evening and was accompanied by a heavy down-pour of rain and hail, the hail being as large as bird's eggs.

Several returned soldiers who were suffering from shell-shock were overcome by the storm, one in the Barker House and another in a pool room. They were both conveyed to the Military Hospital, where medical aid was rendered.

The lightning struck in several different parts of the city, the hand on the steeple of the Methodist church being struck twice. A large pine tree on the lawn of Mrs. T. Lynch was struck and several panes of glass in the house were broken. A large tree by the A. and B. club house was struck. The chimney at the greenhouse of Miss Ada Schleyer was hit and Victoria Hospital was also struck, several of the nurses being shocked. Along Nashwaak valley the storm was very severe and crops suffered considerably. (Continued on page two)

THE POST OFFICE STRIKE SPREADS

Many Government Employees Out in Ontario and West and His Majesty's Mail Delayed—Girls May Take Strikers' Places in Peterboro.

Toronto, July 23.—The postman's strike, which started in this city on Monday, is spreading rapidly from one end of the dominion to the other. If Burham assisted in the distribution of today's mail.
No Montreal Strike.
Montreal, July 23.—A postal strike in Montreal has been averted through a promise received from Hon. P. E. Blondin, postmaster general, of the appointment of a sub-committee to consider and discuss the demands of the letter-carriers. In the meantime cheques for \$150 bonus are to be issued at once from Ottawa to all married men.
The ordinary salaries of the post men here range from \$750 to \$1,000 annually. The present demand is that these be raised to \$1,000 and \$1,400 respectively.

Out in Moosejaw.
Moosejaw, Sask., July 23.—Twenty-four mail carriers in this city went on strike this morning, and there is a possibility that the postal clerks employed in the post office will also walk out. It was stated this morning by a member of the postal clerks' association that the next twenty-four hours might also find the railway mail clerks on strike.

Strike in Calgary.
Calgary, July 23.—The city has offered to put up the difference between what they demand, pending a settlement of their differences with the government.

Regina Office Closed.
Regina, July 23.—Regina post office closed this afternoon when, after a short meeting, the postal clerks quit work, in sympathy with the striking letter-carriers.

Winnipeg Strike.
Winnipeg, July 23.—Mail service in Winnipeg is completely paralyzed today. The 200 postal clerks have joined the 161 carriers and 28 porters against the people, and only later on

A SCHOONER SUNK OFF MAINE COAST

German U-Boat Operating in Eastern Waters Sends Fisherman Robert and Richard To Bottom—Crew Escapes and Rows To Portland.

Enemy Raider Cruising Off Pacific Coast of Mexico Endangers Shipping and War Vessels Sent Out—Firing Off Massachusetts Coast.

Portland, Maine, July 23.—A telephone message from Cape Porpoise, just outside this harbor, said a dory containing three men from the Gloucester fishing schooner Robert and Richard had landed there, bringing word that their ship had been torpedoed by a German submarine. The sinking, they said, occurred at 10.30 yesterday morning. Five other dories containing twenty-three men were coming in behind, they reported.

San Diego, Cal., July 23.—Following a report from the British consul at La Paz that a German raider is cruising off the Mexican coast all vessels in the twelfth naval district have been advised to observe precautions of the submarine zone.

Aircraft from stations in the vicinity of this city and warships within call have been sent in search of the prowler, according to navy authorities.

CRAFTY ENEMY BUILD RAILROAD

Important Revelation Indicates Germans Having It Easier in Beating Retreat.

By Hilaire Belloc
Special Cable to The New York Tribune and The St. John Standard.

London, July 23.—The most important piece of news received this morning is the fact that the Germans possess another railway besides the one passing through Soissons. This railway has been built from Lons to Rheims on a line to Bazachez, about half way between Soissons and Rheims. There was already a railroad going to Oulchy.

Therefore the enemy contrary to first reports does possess rail communications and supplies which accounts for the maintenance of his resistance. At the same time it must be remembered that this new railway cannot do anything like the work done by the main line through Soissons.

It was built with no properly graded surface and little ballast. It is but a field line still. Such as it is it has modified the position greatly in favour of the enemies' retreat.

HOW NICHOLAS WAS EXECUTED

London, July 23.—The Russian wireless message saying that former Emperor Nicholas has been shot reads as follows:

"At the first session of the Central Executive Committee by the fifth congress of the council, a message was made public that had been received by direct wire from the Ural regional council concerning the shooting of the ex-Czar Nicholas Romanoff. Recently Yekaterinburg, the capital of the Red Urals was seriously threatened by the approach of Czechoslovak bands, and a counter-revolutionary conspiracy was discovered which had as its object the wresting of the ex-czar from the hands of the council's authority. In view of this fact, the president of the Ural council decided to shoot the ex-czar, and the decision was carried out July 16.

"The wife and the son of Nicholas Romanoff have been given a place of security. Alleged Conspiracy.
"Documents concerning the conspiracy which was discovered have been forwarded to Moscow by a special messenger. It had been recently decided to bring the ex-czar before a tribunal to be tried for his crimes against the people, and only later on

Steamer Shelled?
Nantucket, Mass., July 23.—An airplane which landed at the village of Wauwinnet last night brought word that a steamer was in distress near Great Round Shoals, about five miles off the eastern end of the island. The vessel was described as in need of immediate assistance, but the nature of her injuries was not disclosed. Firing has been heard off the coast.

The crew of the Coskata coast guard station has gone to the rescue. The sea is calm. Feared U-Boats

New Bedford, July 23.—Whaling schooner Margaret, Capt. Lopes, arrived in the lower harbor late last night with 400 barrels of sperm oil on board. She was forced to abandon her voyage on account of the crew throwing the windlass brake overboard, so no more blubber could be hoisted.

The crew had heard reports of enemy submarines and had requested the master of the craft to put for home, which he refused to do. The crew was badly frightened and one night the brake was thrown over the side. Take in matter in type. Jolias ia

by the main line through Soissons. It was built with no properly graded surface and little ballast. It is but a field line still. Such as it is it has modified the position greatly in favour of the enemies' retreat.

Official Version.
"The Central Executive Committee has now at its disposal extremely important material documents concerning the affairs of Nicholas Romanoff, his diaries, which he kept almost up to his last days, the diaries of his wife and his children, and his correspondence, among which are the letters of Gregory Rasputin to the Romanoff family. These materials will be examined and published in the near future."

There have been rumors since June 24 that former Emperor Nicholas of Russia had been assassinated, but as the wireless plants of Russia are under control of the Bolsheviks, it appears that today's dispatch is an official version.