

FIELD MARSHAL IS OPTIMISTIC

Declares Position of the Allies is Most Favorable But Much Hard Fighting Has Been Done—Some Idea of the Wide Field of Battle—Praises Indian Troops.

London, Nov. 29.—Field Marshal Sir John French, commander-in-chief of the British forces in the field, speaks in an optimistic vein concerning the position of the Allies in a report issued today by the official press bureau. The report covers, in a general way, the activities of the British troops from Nov. 11 to 20.

Summing up the situation in concluding his report Field Marshal French says: "As I close the despatch, signs are in evidence that we are possibly in the last stages of the battle from Ypres to Armentieres. For several days past the artillery fire of the enemy has slackened considerably, and his infantry attacks have practically ceased."

"In remarking upon the general military situation of the Allies, as it appears to me at the present moment," General French continues, "it does not seem to be clearly understood that the operations in which we have been engaged embrace nearly all of the central part of the continent of Europe, from the east to the west. The combined French, Belgian and British armies in the west, and the Russian army in the east, are opposed to the united forces of Germany and Austria, acting as combined armies between us."

GERMAN PLAN FAILS

"Our enemies elected at the commencement of the war to throw the weight of their forces against our armies in the west, and to detach only a comparatively weak force, composed of very few of the first line troops and several corps of second and third line troops, to stem the Russian advance until the western forces could be completely defeated and overwhelmed. Their strength, enabled them from the outset to throw greatly superior forces against us in the west. This precludes the possibility of our taking vigorous offensive action, except when miscalculations and mistakes are made by their commanders, opening up special opportunities for successful attacks and pursuit."

"The battle of the Marne was an example of this, as also our advance from St. Omer and Hazebrouck to the line of the river Lys, at the commencement of this battle. The role which our armies in the west have consequently been called upon to fulfill has been to occupy strong defensive positions, holding ground gained and inflicting the enemy's attacks, and to throw back these attacks, causing the enemy heavy losses in his retreat, and following up with powerful and successful counter-attacks to complete his discomfiture."

"The value and significance of operations of this nature, since the commencement of hostilities by the Allies' forces in the west, lie in the fact that at the moment when the eastern provinces of Germany are in danger of being overrun by the numerous and powerful armies of Russia, nearly the whole active army of Germany is tied down to a line of trenches extending from Verdun on the Alsatian frontier, to the sea at Neuport, east of Dunkirk (a distance of 260 miles), where they are held, with much reduced numbers and impaired morale, by the successful action of our troops in the west."

PRaise FOR ARTILLERY

"I cannot speak too highly of the services rendered by the Royal Artillery throughout the battle. In spite of the fact that the enemy brought up, in support of his attacks, guns of great range and shell power, our men have succeeded throughout in preventing the enemy from establishing anything in the nature of superiority in artillery."

"The skill, courage and energy displayed by the commanders of the Royal Artillery have been very marked. The Royal Engineers have been indefatigable in their efforts to assist the infantry in field, fortification and trench work."

GERMANS THREE TO ONE

"I deeply regret the heavy casualties which we have suffered, but the nature of the fighting has been very desperate, and we have been assailed by vastly superior numbers. I have every reason to know that throughout the course of the battle, we have placed at least three times as many of the enemy hors de combat in dead, wounded and prisoners."

"Throughout these operations General Foch has strained his resources to the utmost to afford me all the support he could. An expression of my warm gratitude is also due to General Debaillat, commanding the Right French Army Corps on my left, and to General De Maud's Huy, commanding the Tenth Army on my right."

Discussing details of the engagement from Ypres to Armentieres, General French explains that he was impressed early in October with the necessity of giving the greatest possible support to the northern flank of the Allies in the effort to outflank the enemy and compel him to evacuate his positions. He says that the situation on the Aisne warranted the withdrawal of British troops from positions held there, as the enemy had been weakened by continual attacks, and fortifications of the Allies much improved."

GENERAL FRENCH'S PLAN AGREED TO

General French made known his views to Gen. Joffre, who agreed with it. The French General Staff arranged for the withdrawal of the British, which began on October 3 and was completed on October 19, when the First Army Corps, under General Sir Douglas Haig, detrained at St. Omer.

The general plan, as arranged by General French and General Foch, commanding the French troops to the north of Neoyon, was that the British should pivot on the French at Bethune, attacking the Germans on their flank, and forcing their way north. In the event that the British forced the Germans out of their positions, making possible a forward movement of the Allies, the French and British were to march east, with Lille as the dividing line between the two armies, the British right being directed on Lille.

The battle which forms the chief feature of Gen. French's report really began on October 11, when Major General Gough, of the Second British Cavalry Brigade, first clashed with German cavalry in the woods along the Bethune-Aire Canal.

The British cavalry moved toward Hazebrouck, clearing the way for two army corps, which advanced rapidly in a northeasterly direction. For several days the progress of the British was only slightly interrupted, except at La Bassée, a high position, which General French mentions as being stubbornly resisted."

HARD FIGHTING

General French says the Second Corps, under General Smith-Dorrien, was opposed by overpowering forces of Germans, but, nevertheless, advanced until October 15, when the enemy's opposition forced a reinforcement of the Second Corps.

Six days later the Lahore Division of the Indian army was sent to support the Second Corps.

On October 16 Sir Henry Rawlinson, who had covered the retreat of the Belgian army from Antwerp with two divisions of British cavalry and two divisions of French infantry, was stationed on the line east of Ypres, under orders to operate over a wide front and to keep possession of all the ground held by the Allies, until the First Army Corps could reach Ypres.

General Rawlinson was opposed by superior forces, and was unable to prevent the Germans from getting large reinforcements. With four army corps holding a much longer territory than she justified, General French says, he faced a stubborn situation. The enemy was massed from the Lys and there was imperative need for a strengthened line.

However, General French decided to send the first corps north Ypres to stop German reinforcements, which might enable them to flank the Allies. The shattered Belgian army and the worn French troops who endeavored to check the German reinforcements were powerless, so General French sent fresh troops to prevent the enemy executing movements which would have given him access to channel ports.

While Douglas Haig, with the first army corps was sent October 19 to capture Bruges, and drive the enemy back toward Ghent, if possible. Meantime the Belgians entrenched themselves along the Ypres Canal.

General French commends the valor of the Belgians, who, he says, exhausted by weeks of constant fighting, maintained these positions gallantly.

Because of the overwhelming numbers of the Germans opposing them, General French says, he enjoined a defensive role by the three armies located south of Ypres.

General Haig made a slight advance, General French says it was wonderful that he was able to advance at all, owing to the bad roads and the overwhelming number of Germans who had made it impossible to carry out the original plan of moving to Bruges. The fighting gradually became bayonet charges.

October 21 brought forth the hardest attack, made on the First Corps at

HISTORIC SCENE ON PLYMOUTH COMMON

Part of the First Canadian Contingent, Drawn Up on Plymouth Square, with the Armada Memorial in the Background.



THE LIBERAL NAVAL POLICY

(Toronto Globe.)

Those who wish to know just what the policy of the Liberal party on the naval defence of the Empire is may find it amply and clearly set forth in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speech in support of his "six months' boat" amendment to the Borden government's bill proposing a naval contribution sufficient to provide three battalions of cruisers for service in and with the home fleet. Sir Wilfrid's speech will be found on pages 10,262-10,275 of the Hansard of 1913. On the subsequent division the Liberal members voted solidly with him, thus committing themselves categorically to the line of policy he had just laid down. When men like Sir Richard McBride talk at large, with a view to enjoying the privilege of running with the hare while hunting with the hounds, they should be forced to come out and say distinctly and definitely what their policy is, and especially whether they are for a renewal of the naval contribution offer, or for a Canadian navy made up of swift cruisers, supplemented by destroyers, submarines, and aeroplanes.

"Our policy," said Sir Wilfrid, speaking of the attitude of himself and his supporters during the long session, "was that we should have two fleet units, one on the Atlantic and one on the Pacific, to take the place of the British squadrons which had been removed from these waters. . . . We on this side of the House are as ready to bear our burden, to discharge the duty we owe to the motherland as British subjects, as any other can be, but we want to do it in the manner which was adopted by all parties at one time, when this question was approached free from party bias, by the organization of a Canadian navy on lines compatible with the autonomy of Canada." The reference here is to the naval debate that grew out of the resolution of Mr. Foster in 1909.

Sir Wilfrid pointed out at some length, and with great clearness and emphasis, the effect of the removal of the North American squadron from the North Atlantic ocean; all Canadian exports would, in the event of a foreign war, have to pass into and through the United States, to be carried to their destination under the flag of that country. The present war has made plain the prophetic character of this warning. The presence of a few German cruisers meant for a time serious derangement of British commerce, not merely on the Atlantic, but also on the Pacific and Indian oceans. If Canada had, under the Borden administration, carried out the Canadian naval policy, in co-operation with Australia and in accordance with the terms of their agreement of 1909, these German cruisers would never have produced a tithe of the alarm and destruction they caused.

This is the Liberal policy as outlined by the Liberal leader in parliament. It purports to provide for the defence of Canada on both oceans, and also of Australia and New Zealand. Sir Richard McBride will have to say sooner or later what his policy is, and the sooner he is compelled to do so the better.

Ypres, and in the checking of which the Worcestershire Regiment displayed great gallantry. This day marked the most critical period in the great battle, according to General French, who says the recapture of the village of Gheluvelt, through a rally of the Worcestershires, was fraught with much consequence to the Allies.

After referring to some of the battles in which the Indian troops took part, Field Marshal French says:

"Since their arrival in this country, and their occupation of the line allotted to them, I have been much impressed by the initiative and resources displayed by the Indian troops. Some of the uses they have employed to deceive the enemy have been attended with the best results, and have doubtless kept the superior forces in front of them at bay."

"Our Indian sappers and miners have long enjoyed a high reputation for skill and resource. Without going into detail I can confidently assert that throughout their work in this campaign they have fully justified that reputation."

"The general officer commanding the Indian army describes the conduct and bearing of these troops, in strange and new surroundings, to have been highly satisfactory, and I am enabled from my own observations to fully corroborate this statement."

General French goes on to say that while the whole line continued to be heavily pressed, the enemy's principal efforts, from November 1, had been concentrated upon breaking through the line held by the first British and ninth French corps, and thus gaining possession of the town of Ypres. Three Bavarian and one German corps in addition to other troops, were all directed against this northern line.

"About November 10, after several units of these corps had been completely shattered in futile attacks," General French continues, "a division of the Prussian Guards, which had been operating in the vicinity of Arras, was moved up to the area with great speed and secrecy."

"Documents found on dead officers," the report says, "proved that the Guard received the German emperor's special command to break through and succeed, where their comrades of the line had failed."

"They took the leading part in the vigorous attacks made against the center on the eleventh and twelfth," says General French, "but, like their comrades, were repulsed with enormous casualties."

General French pays high tribute to Sir Douglas Haig, and his divisional and brigade commanders, who, he says, "held the line with marvellous tenacity and undaunted courage." The field marshal predicts that "their deeds during these days of stress and trial will furnish some of the most brilliant chapters which will be found in the military history of our time."

High praise is also paid to the Third Cavalry Division, under Major General Julian Byng, whose troops "were repeatedly called upon to restore situations at critical points, and fill gaps in the line caused by the tremendous losses which occurred."

General French makes special mention of Colonel Gordon Cassner, Wilson, of the Royal Horse Guards; Major the Hon. Hugh Downey, of the Second Life Guards; and Brig. General Fitz-Clarence, of the Irish Guards, who were killed, and of Brig. General the Earl of Cavan, who, "on many occasions was conspicuous for the skill, coolness and courage with which he led his troops."

Of the Flying Corps the report says: "Every day new methods of employing them, both strategical and tactically are discovered and put into practice. Concerning the Territorials who have been employed, the field marshal says the conduct and bearing of these units under fire, and the efficient manner in which they have carried out the duties assigned to them, has impressed me with the highest hope as to the value and the help of the Territorial troops, generally."

RESULT IN EAST NOT KNOWN YET

Advantage at All Points, However, is Believed to Be With Russians—Germany Reports Successes—The Operations in the West—Minor Attack at Arras.

London, Nov. 29.—While deprecating the exaggerated reports of Russian successes in the battle in Northern Poland, where the German emperor has joined Field Marshal Von Hindenburg to offer his advice and to encourage his troops, the latest available official reports from Russian headquarters state that the advantage in the fighting still lies with the Russian army. It is also officially said that enormous losses have been inflicted on the Germans, but no mention is made of the capture of German divisions, which has been so freely claimed by the Petrograd correspondents of London and Paris papers.

The German Statement.—Opposed to this is the German official report, which says that the Russian attacks have been repulsed and that the German counter-attacks have been successful.

Some days must elapse before this battle, which promises to prove the most decisive of the war, is concluded. So far, all that is definitely known is that the German advance has been brought to a standstill. Some of the German troops have been partly or wholly surrounded, but they are still fighting stubbornly to break their way through the Russian lines apparently to the northward, where they hope to join reinforcements sent from Thorn.

In the battle before Cracow, the Russians do claim decisive success. During the last week they took 30,000 Austrian and German prisoners in this region. This victory is taken as a retrograde to the northward, where they hope to join reinforcements sent from Thorn.

The Russians, likewise, announce success on the Austrian side of the Carpathians, and against the Turks in the Caucasus, although in both regions the weather has been very bad.

In the western arena the Germans, although making an occasional infantry attack, seem at present content to bombard the allied positions, but with somewhat lighter guns than they have been using. This may mean either that they are sending troops and artillery to the east, to use against the Russians, or that they are preparing a new attack against the Allies.

The enterprise that failed in Flanders will not be repeated for the present seems probable, as the Allies have been unable to capture some points of vantage around Ypres, which were previously considered necessary to the German plans. There has been a minor attack near Arras, but not strong enough force to suggest that the Germans have decided to try to get to the coast by direct route from the east.

An interesting report from Field Marshal Sir John French, covering the period of the battle in Flanders and the days immediately preceding it, shows that this battle was brought about first, by the Allies' attempts to outflank the Germans, who countered, and then by their own move to the northeast to Ghent and Bruges, which also failed. After this, the German offensive began, with the French coast positions being taken, but this move, like those of the Allies, met with failure.

Field Marshal French, doubtless in response to the demands of the British public, tells what the various units of the expeditionary force have been doing; those that failed, and were cut off, and those who against superior numbers held the trenches for a month. He gives it as his opinion that the German losses have been three or four times as many as those of the Allies, and speaks optimistically of the future.

There has been no development in the Balkan situation, but stress is laid on the clause of the king's speech at the opening of the Roumanian parliament, in which he said:

"I am convinced that, realizing the importance of the present situation, you will give the government every assistance in passing such legislation as is demanded by the circumstances, and required to meet the needs of the army."

The Active Kaiser.—Berlin, Nov. 29.—(Via Amsterdam and London, 7.10 p. m.)—It was announced at military headquarters today that Emperor William was now with the German army in the east.

A despatch from Berlin last week said that Emperor William was soon to go there for some time. Previously his presence was reported on several occasions with the German armies in the west and in the east.

Norwegian Arrested.—Fleetwood, England, via London, Nov. 29.—British warships have arrested the Norwegian trawler Nester, which is accused of being used as a base for the north coast of Ireland while flying a neutral flag.

The trawler has been docked here, and her crew placed under arrest. The sailing of the Nester caused a sensation here, as she made her headquarters in Fleetwood.

Rioting in Eyssarus.—Petrograd, Nov. 29.—(Via London, 7.50 p. m.)—A despatch received here from Odessa describes an outbreak of fanatical rioting in Eyssarus. Despatches reaching Odessa from this Turkish city say that following the posting of a proclamation calling the Mohammedans to a holy war, all the Armenian clubs, churches and schools were demolished by a mob. Four Armenians, including one woman, were killed on the street.

Fallen in Battle.—Berlin, Nov. 29.—(Via The Hague, and London, 7.10 p. m.)—Lt. Gen. Ferdinand Wenzler von Dannewitz, in command of a German infantry division, has fallen on the battlefield in Russian Poland. He was the possessor of the Iron Cross, first class, which was bestowed upon him for exceptional bravery. He was born in 1831.

Athletes Killed.—London, Nov. 29.—(Correspondence)—The latest list of British killed in France contains the names of two well-known athletes, G. R. L. Anderson, a hurdler and Lt. A. E. J. Collins, a cricket player.

Anderson was twice English amateur champion at both high and low hurdles. He broke hurdling records at both Eton and Oxford, and ran for England at the Stockholm Olympic games.

It. Collins will always hold a place in the history of cricket as the batsman who made the highest individual score on record. He did this while a student at Clifton College, scoring "628 not out" in Innings lasting six hours and fifty minutes.

The German War Office Statement.—Berlin, Nov. 29, via London, 4.30 p. m.—The German war office gave out an announcement this afternoon as follows: "In the western arena of the war the situation today is unchanged. The French attacks in the Argonne forest have been repulsed. In the forest north-west of Apremont, and in the Vosges, we occupied some French trenches after an obstinate resistance."

"Only unimportant engagements are reported from East Prussia. At Lodowice our troops have recommenced their attacks, and the fighting continued. "Heavy Russian attacks in the district to the west of Mowo and Radom were repulsed."

In southern Poland there has been no change.

Montenegrin Wins.—Paris, Nov. 29, 3.31 p. m.—A victory for the Montenegrin troops in their campaign against Austrian forces is reported in a despatch received today by the Havas Agency from Cetina. It is said that eight battalions of Austrians were repulsed by the Montenegrins near Visehrad, Bosnia, and that the Austrians suffered heavy losses in killed, wounded and prisoners, as well as in ammunition and supplies.

Fighting Last Week.—Paris, Nov. 28.—The French war office gave out an official communication this afternoon as follows: "In Belgium the exchanges were continued during the day of Nov. 27, without any particular incident. The heavy German artillery showed less activity."

"There was but one attack of infantry, to the south of Ypres, which was repulsed by our troops. "Toward the evening our artillery brought down a German airplane carrying three aviators. One of them was killed and the other two made prisoners. "In the region of Arras, and further to the south, there has been no change. "The day passed very quietly in the region of the Aisne. "In Champagne our heavy artillery inflicted serious losses on the artillery of the enemy. "From the Argonne to the Vosges there is nothing to report."

100 CANADIAN DOCTORS ARE NOW IN FRANCE

London, Nov. 29.—(Montreal Gazette Cable).—A Daily News correspondent, writing from Northern France, reports the arrival of an advance guard of the Canadian contingent in the form of one hundred doctors, who are establishing a hospital.

This is evidently the staff of No. 2 General Hospital, which your correspondent will be glad to leave Salisbury Plain ten days ago. The hospital in question is at a well known seaside resort, and is established in a golf club's quarters, which have been taken over by the military authorities. The Canadian nurses who left London a fortnight ago for service on the continent have a base at Boulogne.

"The professional nursing world is very indignant over the vexed question of the lady amateurs employed in nursing by the Red Cross Society. The Mirror makes the statement that the Canadian nurses, on arriving across the channel, engaged rooms at a hotel at six francs a day, whereupon lady amateurs disposed themselves by buying their rooms over their head at eight francs."

A party of British nurses working in Belgium, attending the wounded, which included a number of Germans, were turned out of the country by orders of the Kaiser, who regarded it as an insult to him and the German nation to have German wounded under their care.

KENT PATRIOTIC SOCIETY FORMED

Repton, N. B. Nov. 29.—A very enthusiastic patriotic meeting was held in the Public Hall, Thursday afternoon for the purpose of organizing a patriotic society for this county. The meeting was called by the warden of the County Albert College of St. Mary's, who presided. Addresses were given by Rev. Father McLaughlin, Rev. A. Lee, Rev. F. W. M. Bacon, W. J. Montgomery, of Replischoe and H. Logan of Cumberland (N. S.), who happened to be in town. A central committee consisting of the following persons was appointed: Albert Cooke, president; Rev. Father Cooke, vice-president; George A. Hutchinson, secretary; W. S. Forbes, treasurer. Executive committee: John A. O'Connell, Rev. W. J. Montgomery, Rev. R. Lee, Rev. F. W. M. Bacon, Miss B. A. B. Carson, J. L. Hutchinson, M. E. Greary, James Jardine, Alexander McGraw. Our Council for each parish was appointed a vice president.

are not going to succeed, and that in the last four months of more a million of Germany's best men, followed in other months by the loss of a second million, and to render that country too weak to withstand the terrific assaults that are made upon it when the Russians, French, and the British, begin to their full pressure to beat—a feat wholly unexampled in the history of warfare.

THE OLD FLAG AGAIN

It is possible that there is any Conservative who is deceived by the organs which defend Mr. Fleming and which Liberal leaders with disloyalty? There are any Conservatives who listen to that line of argument, which they think of the action of Premier and Hon. Mr. Haig in giving a place in the cabinet to Hon. Pierre and Blondin? And how do they see Mr. Borden and Mr. Haig explain the speech delivered by Blondin at St. Louis de Blainfort, in Mr. Blondin said:

are intimidating the people in the English flag and adding that must contribute always and everywhere to the defence of that protector of constitutional liberties, but we will be made to forego it in 1897. It was necessary to bore holes in it in order to be the air of liberty."

only liberty which we enjoy has been snatched. England has not been Canada for love or to plant trees of Christ as did France, but establish trading posts, and she has sowed the world with wars, quarrels and wars. We have enough of England and the English."

The Standard and other shrieking private newspapers which are denigrating Mr. Fleming were really in the assaulting the loyalty of their opponents, would they not be asking Mr. Borden and Mr. Haig the newest federal cabinet ministers Mr. Blondin?

The Standard is not anxious about the flag, or about the loyalty of any in Canada. What it is anxious about is the impossibility of diverting attention from Mr. Fleming and the group which seconded Mr. Fleming's activities, or from the widespread which the Fleming government introduced in every department, or the outrage of the Forebushes Bill, modest author of which has not yet his reward, or from other characteristic Tory achievements during the few years in New Brunswick.

The Standard professes to worry a deal about Mr. Carvell, but the real cause of its anxiety is the fact that Mr. Fleming was caught red-handed, and he is still Premier of New Brunswick.

Mr. Fleming may be removed, but what of the man who succeeds him? Will the new leader talk to the people about what the provincial mission has done, or (2) about what is going to do? Either topic is going to be awkward. The people know what the government has done, and they are going to let it be known.

His Honor the Lieutenant Governor really believe for a moment that government and this Legislature stand the confidence of the people?

NOTE AND COMMENT.—We would seem that each day is making it harder for Bulgaria and Roumania to remain neutral. Their entry into the conflict on the side of the Allies before the war is much older, would be surprising.

The announcement that nearly 2,000 Belgians have fled to Holland, 800 to England and about 800,000 to sea, gives one a better idea of the fighting Germany has forced upon the life of that gallant little country.

Australia is sending another contingent of 19,000 men to the front, and men are soon to go from New Canada. Canada is now getting a second body of troops into shape for service abroad. This is a rather effective force in these German operations, who are the Empire was falling apart.

Great Britain has made it plain that will not put up with any breaches of neutrality on the part of South American countries. Chile, as a result of the warning, is doing its best to prevent further offenses by the German navy, and who has already been of great use to Germany's cruisers in Chilean waters.

December 10 is now announced by the stock exchange that they will possession of Calais. Schedules for operations have frequently to be revised, and unless we are assured by some authoritative source that this interesting event may be postponed.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Germany has been forced to revise one of her original schedules and change many dates, including one set for the capture of Calais much earlier than December 10.

LEY TO KEEP THE LONDON POST TILL WAR IS OVER.

London, Nov. 27.—(Special)—It was privately stated in government circles tonight that Hon. Geo. Pretyer remain in London as acting Canadian High Commissioner until the end of the war. Unless this decision is reversed in the interim, it is likely that for the time being, at least, the reports frequently published that the appointment is likely to flow long to one of the other nominees for the post, either or without the cabinet.

Natural.—(after the ceremony)—Did you know how mechanically the person who is in control of the joiner-work, you know.

It is that the fellow who touches his hammer for 30 or 40 always has such a stock of yarn about Harry's stinkiness?

