FRENCH OFFENSIVE ON SOMME SHOWS MASTERLY PRECISION

Steady Gains Being Made While Losses in Operations Have Been Reduced to Minimum.

A despatch from Paris Says:—"The operations on the Somme on Wednesday were merely a detail of the offensive and of only local bearing," a high military officer explained to the Associated Press, "but signifieance is derived from the fact that the Germans did not counter-attack as usual. Never before have they failed to react when successfully attacked, and their failure to do so in this case is either a sign of weakness, or, more likely, because of confusion of orders.

"The precision with which the French offensive has been carried out is shown by the fact that every objective designated in advance of an action has been reached. At Maurepas a certain number of houses were selected, and every one of them was captured and occupied; it never was intended to attempt the occupation of the entire village.

"One consequence of this precision in the French operations is the reduction of losses to a minimum. The operations in Artois and in Champagne cost five times more than all the ground gained on the Somme. The purpose is to destroy the German forces, and the Franco-British defensive also has accomplished the feat of holding on the western front the greater possible portion of the German forces.

"It is fallacious to figure out the probable duration of hostilities on French soil by computing the average surface of ground gained per day. Every time an action takes place, even though the gain may be no more than a hundred yards or so, the opposition is beaten. He loses heavily and the weakening moral effect cannot be measured in yards. It is a cumulative effect which sooner or later will wear the enemy down so that he will be unable to hold the French gains to a few hundred yards."

RUSSIANS READY FOR NEW DRIVE

Troops on Central Portion of Front Are Splendidly Equipped.

A despatch from the Russian Armies on the Central Russian front, says: The continued success of General Brussiloff's two powerful movements, which gradually are enveloping Kovel and Lemberg, have begun to have a marked effect on the situation in the central portion of the front which, except for small Russian gains in the lake region of Dvinsk, has remained virtually unaltered since the Russians fell back last August to the line from Dvinsk to the Pinsk marshes. The Austrian line now has receded so far before the repeated thrusts of the south-western Russian forces in Southern Poland and Galicia that the Germans are in danger of a flanking movement from the south and the automatic retirement of the forces opposed to the Russian centre.

Despite the desultory bursts of activity at various points Russian officers say there are many indications that the Germans are prepared to abandon their present line on this part of the front at any moment.

WANT MAXIMUM FIXED.

Quebec Labor Council Petitions Sir Robert Borden.

A despatch from Quebec says: The Quebec District Council of Federated Trades and Labor at a meeting on Tuesday night decided to petition the Right Hon. Premier Borden, asking his Government to fix a maximum price for the sale of meat, potatoes, bread and all everyday life necessities. The prices lately have been on a constant soar in the district, while the wages have not kept pace with the cost of living.

The Government building at the Canadian National Exhibition has 48,400 square feet of exhibit space.

GERMANS FLED IN FACE OF FIRE

Losses in Counter-Attacks on the Somme Described as Enormous.

A despatch from London says: The nightly despatch from British headquarters on the Somme front describes the sanguinary defeat of powerful German counter-attacks on Thursday. In one of these attacks the Germans advanced six deep, but were taken under so heavy a fire that they fled in retreat before even reaching the British lines. Their losses are described as enormous.

General Haig also announces the seizure of a 100-yard trench northwest of Bazentin-le-Petit at the prow of the British advance toward the Martinpuich heights. Counter-attacks delivered from the latter region, he asserts, were unsuccessful.

The French announce that they spent the day in consolidating the captured ground, while General Haig reports the further penetration for 300 yards of the German front west of the High Wood.

POISONING HORSES INTENDED FOR BRITAIN

A despatch from New York says:—A plot to poison the big shipments of horses from Kansas City for the use of the British Government, is being investigated by secret service operators of the Santa Fe Railroad and other roads which transport the horses to Newport News, where they embark for England. For more than a month a great number of horses, although leaving Kansas City in perfect condition, have been arriving at Covington, Ky., the first stopping place, either ill or dead. Autopsies by British veterinaries disclose arsenic poisoning. More than 10,000 horses a month are leaving the Lathrop, Missouri, concentration camp over the Santa Fe Railway and the work of the mysterious poisoner already has cost the British Government more than $100,000.

SUBMARINE WARFARE RESUMED AGAINST MERCHANT SHIPS

Campaign Follows German Note to the United States Respecting Boats Carrying Guns.

A despatch from Paris says:—Germany's submarine warfare against merchant ships is again in full swing, according to the naval expert of the Paris Temps. The temps declares that this new submarine campaign follows the German note to the United States of Feb. 10, in which it was said: "Merchant ships carrying guns cannot be considered as peaceful ships." According to the Temps, the Germans are now acting under this notice, and it says that three days ago the Italian ship Plata repulsed with gunfire attacks of an enemy submarine. The article concludes with an emphatic declaration that a similiar course will be followed by other commanders of allied merchant ships, undismayed by "the murder of Capt. Fryatt."

VERY EXTENSIVE FOOD FRAUDS ARE UNEARTHED IN GERMANY

Traffickers, Several of Whom Were Government Officials, Sold at Profit of 300 Per Cent.

A despatch from The Hague says: The new German "War Usury Bureau" has justified its existence by revealing surprising details of widely ramified food frauds, according to reports received here. The frauds are said to involve a half-dozen leaders and a hundred accomplices. These men are said to have smuggled hundreds of tons of wheat, rye, and barley flour from the province of West Prussia to Berlin, where it was sold at a profit of 300 per cent.

The existence of the flour, reports say, was concealed from Government stock-takers by all manner of artifices, and was shipped on night trains as potatoes or machinery. Among the accomplices and ringleaders were several Government officials and several station masters, who are charged with connivance in the fraud by consigning flour under false descriptions.

German newspapers are demanding exemplary punishment for the men arrested.

Markets of the World

Breadstuffs.

Toronto, Aug. 22.—Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, $1.54½; No. 2 do., $1.52¼; No. 3 do., $1.47½, on track Bay ports.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., 55c; No. 3 C.W., 54c; extra No. 1 feed, 54c; No. 1 feed, 53c, on track bay ports.

American corn—No. 3 yellow, 95½c, on track Toronto.

Ontario oats—No. 3 white, 51 to 52c, nominal, according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—No. 1 commercial, $1.18 to $1.20; No. 2 do., $1.14 to $1.15; No. 3 do., $1.10 to $1.12; feed, 98c. to $1.00, according to freights outside; new crop, No. 2, $1.22 to $1.25.

Peas—No. 2 nominal, $1.85 to $1.95, according to freights outside.

Barley—Malting barley, nominal; feed barley, nominal, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat—Nominal, according to freights outside.

Rye—No. 2, new, 98c to $1.00; No. 1 commercial, nominal, according to freights outside.

Manitoba flour—First patents, in jute bags, $8.10; second patents, in jute bags, $7.60; strong bakers', in jute bags, $7.40, Toronto.

Ontario flour—New Winter, according to sample, $5.50 to $5.60, nominal, in bags, track Toronto, prompt shipment; new, $5.40 to $5.50, nominal, bulk seaboard, prompt shipment.

Millfeed—Car lots, delivered Montreal freights, bags included—Bran, per ton, $24; shorts, per ton, $26 to $27; middlings, per ton, $27 to $28; good feed flour, per bag, $1.80 to $1.85.

Hay—New, No. 1, per ton, $10 to $12; No. 2, per ton, $9 to $9.50, on track Toronto.

Straw—Car lots, per ton, $6 to $7, on track Toronto.

Country Produce—Wholesale.

Wholesalers were yesterday making the following quotations:

Butter—Fresh dairy, choice, 27 to 28c; inferior, 24 to 25c; creamery prints, 33 to 34c; solids, 31 to 32c.

Eggs—New-laid, 29 to 30c; do., in cartons, 33 to 35c.

Beans—$4.50 to $5, the latter for hand-picked.

Cheese—New, large, 18¾ to 18½c; twins, 18½ to 18¾c; triplets, 18¾ to 19c.

Dressed poultry—Chickens, 27 to 29c; fowl, 21 to 22c.

Live poultry—Chickens, 20 to 22c; fowl, 18 to 19c.

Potatoes—Virginia, new, barrel, $4.75 to $5.00.

Honey—Five-pound tins, 12½ to 13c; do., 10-lb., 12 to 12½c.

Maple Syrup—$1.50 per Imperial gallon.

Provisions—Wholesale.

Cured meats and lard were quoted as follows:—

Bacon—Long clear, 18 to 18½c per lb.

Hams—Medium, 24 to 25c; do., heavy, 20½ to 21c; rolls, 19 to 19½c; breakfast bacon, 25 to 27c; backs, plain, 25c; boneless backs, 27 to 28c. Cooked ham, 35 to 36c.

Lard—Pure lard, tierces, 16¾ to 17c; tubs, 17 to 17¼c; pails, 17¼ to 17½c. Compound, 14 to 14½c.

Montreal Markets.

Montreal, August 22.—Corn—American No. 2 yellow, 96 to 97c. Oats—Canadian Western No. 2, 57c; Canadian Western No. 3, 56½c; No. 2 local white, 56½c. Flour—Manitoba Spring wheat patents, firsts, $8.20; seconds, $7.70; strong bakers', $7.50; Winter patents, choice, $7.00; straight rollers, $6.20 to $6.40; straight rollers, bags, $2.90 to $3.00. Rolled oats—Barrels, $5.65 to $5.75; bags, 90 lbs., $2.70 to $2.75. Bran—$24; shorts, $26; middlings, $28; Mouillie, $31 to $34. Hay, No. 2, per ton, car lots, $17. Cheese—Finest Westerns, 18½ to 18¾c; finest easterns, 18 to 18¼c. Butter—Choicest creamery, 33½ to 34c; seconds, 32½ to 33c. Eggs—Fresh, 36c; selected, 33c; No. 1 stock, 30c; No. 2 stock, 27c.

Winnipeg Grain.

Winnipeg, Aug. 22.—Cash quotations:—No. 1 Northern, $1.46¾; No. 2 Northern, $1.44½; No. 3 Northern, $1.38¾; No. 4, $1.34¾; No. 5, $1.27¾; No. 6, $1.16¾; feed, $1.11¾. Oats—No. 2 C.W., 48c; No. 3 C.W., 47¼c; extra No. 1 feed, 47¼; No. 1 feed, 46½c; No. 2 feed, 45½c. Barley—No. 3, 78c; No. 4, 74c; rejected, 68c; feed, 68c. Flax—No. 1 N.W.C., $1.93; No. 3 C.W., $1.94½.

United States Markets.

Minneapolis, Aug. 22.—Wheat—September, $1.49½; December, $1.47⅞ to $1.47¾; No. 1 hard, $1.55½; No. 1 Northern, $1.50½ to $1.55½; No. 2 Northern, $1.47⅞ to $1.51⅞. Corn—No. 3 yellow, 82 to 83c. Oats—No. 3 white, 42¼ to 42¾. Flour—unchanged. Bran—$19.25 to $20.50.

Duluth, Aug. 22.—Linseed, on track, $2.15½ to $2.16; to arrive, $2.15½; September, $2.15½ asked; October, 2.16½ bid; November, $2.16⅞ bid; December, $2.15½ asked. Wheat—No. 1 hard, $1.54½; No. 1 Northern, $1.52½ to $1.53½; No. 2 Northern, $1.48½ to $1.50½; September, $1.50½.

Live Stock Markets.

Toronto, Aug. 22—Choice heavy steers, $8.15 to $8.85; good heavy steers, $7.75 to $8.00; butchers' cattle, good, $7.90 to $8.15; do, medium, $7.25 to $7.50; do., common, $6.35 to $6.60; butchers' bulls, choice, $7.25 to $7.50; do., good bulls, $6.65 to $6.75; do., rough bulls, $4.50 to $5.00; butchers' cows, choice, $6.85 to $7.00; do., good, $6.50 to $6.65; do., medium, $5.75 to $6.10; stockers, 700 to 850 lbs., $6.00 to $6.35; choice feeders, dehorned, $6.30 to $7.00; canners and cutters, $3.50 to $4.50; Milkers choice, each, $70.00 to $90.00; do., com. and med., each, $40.00 to $60.00; Springers, $50.00 to $90.00; light ewes, $7.65 to $8.50; sheep, heavy $4.50 to $5.35; spring lambs, per lb., 12¼ to 13c; calves, good to choice, $10.50 to $12.00; do., medium, $9.00 to $10.00; hogs, fed and watered, $13.00; do., weighed off cars, $13.25; do., f.o.b., $12.35 to $12.40.

Montreal, Aug. 22.—First class steers, $7.50 to $8; medium steers, $5 to $6; cows, $5 to $6.75; butcher bulls, $4.50 to $6.75; canning bulls, $4.50 to $5; canning cows, $4.50 to $5; milk calves, 8c to 10c; hogs, $10 to $12.75; lambs, 9c. to 10c; sheep, 6c. to 7½c.

BRITISH ZEPPELINS ATTAIN GREAT SPEED.

New Airships Are Superior to the German Dirigible.

A despatch from London says: The Daily Express features an article by its naval expert on "our new Zeppelins," which says: "During the past week I have watched the great British airships at work, and, although I am unable to make practical comparisons with the German Zeppelins, our new airships certainly seem marvellously rigid and beautifully designed. Mariners who have made close observations of German dirigibles consider our new airships capable of being handled more readily, of finer model and altogether less cumbersome than the German type. The British airships, moreover, attain an amazingly high speed.

TO FIX CENTRE SPAN OF QUEBEC BRIDGE.

A despatch from Ottawa says: It is expected that between Sept. 14 and 16 the great centre span of the Quebec bridge will be floated into position. This will pave the way for the opening of the structure early next year.

Brig. General Bird, C.B.

Photographed at a recent vestiture by the King at Buckingham Palace. Picture shows Brigadier-General Bird, C.B., wearing the gold upright stripe on his left arm to show he has been wounded.

GERMAN SHIPS RAN TO COVER

High Seas Fleet Put Back to Port on Sighting British Boats.

A despatch from London says:—Two British light cruisers, the Nottingham and Falmouth, were sunk on Saturday in the North Sea by German submarines while the vessels were searching for the German high seas fleet, said to comprise fifteen warships, including large cruisers. One German submarine was destroyed by the British, while another was rammed and possibly sunk, according to the Armiralty statement, which follows:

"Reports from our lookout squadrons and others units showed that there was considerable activity on the part of the enemy in the North Sea Saturday, the 19th.

"The German high seas fleet came out, but learning from their scouts that the British forces were in considerable strength, the enemy avoided an engagement and returned to port.

"In searching for the enemy we lost two cruisers by submarine attacks—H.M.S. Nottingham, Captain C. B. Miller, and H.M.S. Falmouth, Captain John Edwards.

"All the officers of the former were saved, but 38 of the crew are missing. All the officers and men of the Falmouth were saved, but one leading stoker, Norman Fry, died of injuries.

"An enemy submarine was restroyed and another was rammed and possibly sunk.

"There is no truth in the German statement that a British destroyer was sunk and a British battleship damaged."

ROUMANIA FRIENDLY TOWARD BULGARIA

A despatch from London says:—Bulgarian and Roumanian relations have become more friendly, according to a telegram from Sofia, transmitted by Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent. The readiness of the Roumanian Government to agree to the exchange of goods between the two countries is very favorably commented upon in the Budgarian capital, says the despatch.

WILSON WILL WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM MEXICO

A despatch from Washington says:—President Wilson has taken the first steps towards withdrawing General Pershing's expeditionary force from Mexico. High army officials predicted on Saturday that all American troops would be out of Mexico by September 15th.

BRITISH DECORATION FOR BELGIAN QUEEN.

A despatch from London says: King George, during his recent visit to Belgian headquarters, decorated Queen Elizabeth of Belgium with the Royal Red Cross of the First Class, says a Government press bureau statement on Wednesday.

Belgian Troops Capture Karema

A despatch from Havre says: A brigade of Belgian troops has captured and occupied the Port of Karema on the eastern bank of Lake Tanganyika, German East Africa, says an official Belgian announcement. Karema is about 125 miles south of Ujiji.

GERMAN LABORING CLASSES ARE ON THE VERGE OF REVOLT

Authorities Endeavoring to Trace Some of Pamphlets Advocating Peace at Any Price.

A despatch from Rotterdam says: Throughout Germany the authorities have their hands full confiscating and trying to trace the source of pamphlets advocating peace at any price.

This symptom of revolt among a large section of the people recently assumed alarming proportions. A few days ago there was a house-to-house search in Berlin, resulting in the arrests of an editor and printer associated with the Socialist organization. Strongest measures, however, failed to suppress this form of agitation against war, which is so widespread as to baffle the efforts of the military and police. It is proof of the existence of a great undercurrent of discontent which approaches rebellion among the working classes of Germany.

The well informed Cologne correspondent of the Tyd writes:

"Complete removal of the censorship may be expected shortly, as the authorities can no longer oppose the increasing stream of protests and the bitter agitation among the people. The only result of the Government's measures of suppression is the appearance in succession of secretly produced pamphlets distributed from hand to hand, which are increasing the prevailing unrest and the general feeling of collapse. Removing the censorship would be a safety valve, for the feeling is now increasing in bitterness among the laboring classes."

FIVE MEN KILLED IN FACTORY FIRE

Powder Company's Blending House at Drummondville Destroyed; Loss $20,000.

A despatch from Montreal says:—Five men are dead, six are in a critical condition, eight are in Montreal hospitals more or less seriously injured, and several others are suffering from minor burns as the result of a fire at the plant of the Aetna Chemical Company's powder factory at Drummondville, Que., about 1.30 Sunday morning. The fire, which is said to have been caused by an electric spark from the conveyer belt igniting the powder in one of the bins in the blending house, completely destroyed the blending house, the material loss being estimated at $20,000. The fire will not affect the output of the factory, as all the other buildings at the plant escaped the flames.

FARMER IS OWNER OF GRAIN IN STORAGE.

Question Which Has Arisen in Interpretation of Grain Act.

A despatch from Ottawa says: Prof. A. Magill, chairman of the Grain Commission, and Mr. Staples, of the same body, are in the capital conferring with the Government relative to an important question which has arisen in connection with the interpretation of the Grain Act. The issue is whether grain dealers are empowered to treat grain in storage with them as their own. Hitherto they have been doing this, selling the grain and replacing it with other grain of the same grade. The farmers cleaim that they have no right to do this, that they can move the grain, but not sell it without authority. The matter has been taken up with Hon. Arthur Meighen, who, it is understood, has given his opinion in favor of the farmers' contention, and has been referred to the Justice Department.

Smallest day's attendance at the Canadian National Exhibition in 1915, 28,000 on Opening Day; largest, 141,000 on Labor Day.

BIG OFFENSIVE IN THE BALKANS

Allies From Salonica Engage Enemy on 150-Mile Front.

A despatch from Paris says:—Reports received here from Salonica show that the general engagement which began on Friday is continuing with intensity over an extended front, running from Florina, near Monastir, to the River Struma. This represents an irregular line measuring upwards of 150 miles.

Gen. Sarrail is directing the united operations of the allies, with Gen. Cordonnier commanding the French troops. The operations have been long expected as a part of the coordinated offensive of the allies on all fronts. Its opening follows the arrival of Gen. Cordonnier after extended conferences with officials here.

The advices received in Paris indicate that the Germans and Bulgarians are seeking to anticipate the movement by taking the offensive on the left, where the Serbians had moved up to within 25 miles of Monastir, holding Florina as an observation post. Their orders were not to attempt to retain Florina if they were attacked. The Serbian War Office says the Bulgarians were repulsed and thrown back on their old positions, but that later the Serbians, following their instructions, evacuated Florina. Thereupon the town and the station of Florina were occupied by the Bulgarians.

The Serbians retired slowly, and later delivered a heavy counter-attack against a large Bulgarian force which was debouching from Florina toward Banica, Fighting continues in this region.

In the centre French and British forces near Lake Doiran followed an intense bombardment with infantry attcks, in which the British contingent occupied the strategic point of Doldzeli. Further east the French right rushed a series of small villages in much the same manner as the French right carried the villages on the Somme front.

Reports in general show a condition of affairs along the whole line which is regarded here as satisfactory for the allies. There is every indication that the preliminary operations are extending rapidly.

BRITISH AND FRENCH GUNS UNITED IN THEIR THUNDER

German First Line Was Broken Everywhere and the Second at Many Points

A despatch from the British Army in France says:—With the skies clear for artillery observations, following the heavy rains, the English and French attacked the German lines on Friday afternoon along the entire front from the Anvre to the Somme, where their blows during the past two weeks have broken the German first line everywhere and the second line at many points.

From the ridge above Pozieres, where the battered stone ruins of a windmill stand, to the highest point on the horizon, along the edges of bloody High Wood, and thence along Delville or Devil's Wood to the lower levels of the river valley, where there has been no cessation in the fighting or the pounding of the guns, day after day, there was a continuous cloud of smoke from the bursting shells as the British and French guns united in their thunders.

The British made gains on either side of Guillemont, where the Germans still hold the fortifications of their old second line and have their heaviest concentration of guns.

TRANSFER SMELTING INDUSTRY FROM GERMANY TO BRITAIN

England Enters Into Agreement With Australia for Supply of Zinc Concentrates and Spelter.

A despatch from London says: An agreement has been reached between Great Britain and Australia, under which Great Britain contracts to purchase 100,000 tons of zinc concentrates and 45,000 tons of spelter annually from Australia during the period of the war, and for ten years afterward.

The effect of the agreement will be to ensure the transfer of the smelting industry from Germany to British hands. The amount involved in the agreement exceeds £25,000,000, covering more than half of Australia's annual output. The remainder of the output is expected to be taken over by France and Belgium.