OPENING OF THE LONG-EXPECTED GERMAN OFFENSIVE ON WEST FRONT

Field Marshall Haig's Report States That Enemy's Losses Were Very Heavy—British Positions Penetrated but Enemy Failed to Attain Objective.

A despatch from London says: On the British front in Northern France the Germans on Thursday began what may be the greatest battle of the war. The attack was made on a scale hitherto unknown during this war of major offensives.

Field Marshal Haig's report from British headquarters in France describes the German offensive as comprising an intense bombardment by the artillery and a powerful infantry attack on a front of over 50 miles. Some of the British positions were penetrated, but the German losses are declared to have been exceptionally heavy.

On no part of the long front of the attack did the Germans attain their objective.

A despatch from British Army Headquarters in France says: The Germans on Thursday launched a heavy attack against the British lines over a wide front in and near the Cambrai sector, and the assault bears all the ear-marks of being the beginning of the enemy's much-heralded grand offensive.

Hard fighting is proceeding from a point north of Lagnicourt southward to Gauche Wood, just below Gouzeaucourt. The attack was preceded by a heavy bombardment from guns of all calibres, and the duel between the opposing heavy batteries has been rocking the countryside for hours.

The Germans have employed gas shells freely, and a constant stream of high velocity shells has been breaking with frightful concussion far back of the British lines.

Germany is staking everything on this play, and if the great attack fails to break clear through, it is believed that the Germans will be finished, for they have nothing further to offer, except a gradually weakening defence.

A despatch from British Army Headquarters in France, says: The Germans on Friday continued their assault against the positions in the Cambrai sector, notably in the region of Croiselles and Hargicourt. At least forty divisions have been identified on the battle front. No such concentration of artillery has been seen since the war began.

On the southern battlefield a bitter struggle waged on Friday. The enemy had 1,000 guns in one small sector—one for every 12 yards. Severe fighting was proceeding Friday morning in St. Leger, south-west of Croiselles.

The hardest fighting on Thursday in the northern battle was between the Canal du Nord and Croiselles. Doignies was retaken on Thursday evening in a brilliant counter-attack. A bright sun at midday to-day rendered observation possible.

Great numbers of Austrian cannon are declared to have been transferred to the western front to reinforce the German artillery. Bulgarians, too, have been brought into the field by the German command, it is declared, the understanding being that they are to be used as a strategic reserve.

Altogether the indications are that the Central Powers have massed all possible forces at their disposal on the western front for their present drive. The prospects seem, however, that they will need every man of them if they keep up their attack long with anything like its initial force, as all the reports indicate that the German losses have been terrific, under the withering fire of the British artillery and machine guns. The German artillery, too, has suffered heavily through counter battery work by the British, who found the massed guns fine targets for effective destructive work.

A despatch from London says: British aircraft during the fighting along the front in France Thursday aided materially the infantry forces below, killing or wounding many Germans with their machine guns while flying at low altitudes, according to a British official statement issued on Thursday night dealing with aviation.

In addition, British aircraft bombed important military positions behind the line and aviators accounted for numerous German airmen in battles in the air.

NAVAL BATTLE OFF DUNKIRK

Results in Sinking of Four German Raiders—No Allied Vessels Sunk.

A despatch from London says: Two German destroyers and two torpedo boats were sunk in a naval engagement off Dunkirk on Thursday morning. The British official report reads:

"Vice-Admiral Douer reports that an action occurred off Dunkirk between 4 and 5 o'clock on Thursday morning. Two British and three French destroyers were engaged with a force of German destroyers which had previously bombarded Dunkirk for 10 minutes. Two enemy destroyers and two enemy torpedo boats are believed to have been sunk. Survivors have been picked up from two enemy torpedo boats.

"No allied vessels were sunk. One British destroyer was damaged, but reached harbor. The British casualties were slight. There were no French casualties."

RED GUARDS CAPTURE SIBERIAN TOWN

A despatch from Moscow says:—Red Guards and revolutionary troops have recaptured Blagovieshtchensk, after a battle with the Cossacks. They have restored the Soviet authority as well as order in town.

Recent despatches said that the Siberian Bolsheviki had murdered a number of Japanese at Blagovieshtchensk, which lies 500 miles north of Harbin. The Bolsheviki leaders, including the president of the local Soviet, later were arrested and imprisoned by Cossacks and volunteer militia. The Red Guards and sailors in the city were disarmed.

The world needs men who can change cents into dollars and dollars into sense.

GERMAN ATTACKS ARE CHECKED

French Drive Back Three Enemy Assaults in the Champagne Sector.

A despatch from Paris says:—Violent artillery engagements are reported in the official statement issued by the War Office on Friday. The statement reads:

"Great activity by the artillery early Friday became most violent this afternoon at divers points north of Chemin-des-Dames, in the region of Courcy and Pompelle and in the Champagne south of Moronvilliers. Three attacks made by the enemy north of Souaine and east of the Tetons were without result.

"Two German airships were destroyed and four badly damaged in a series of combats with our air squadron. Three enemy machines were shot down by our special artillery."

FARM WORK BEGINS IN SASKATCHEWAN

A despatch from Regina says: Spring work has begun on the farms in Southern Saskatchewan, the earliest start in several years. Farmers of the Forget and Carlyle districts are plowing, while harrowing has started near Fillmore. Hon. George Brown, who has been organizing local farm labor committees in the South country, brought the news to the city on Friday morning. The soil is in are holding back to avoid unnecessary good shape for seeding, but farmers chances. The earliest start of seeding in this province was April 3, according to official records.

When making mustard mix with a little milk and a pinch of salt. It keeps the mustard soft and makes it go farther.

Markets of the World

Breadstuffs

Toronto, Mar. 26—Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, $2.23½; No. 2, do., $2.20½; No. 3, do., $2.17½; No. 4 wheat, $2.10½; in store Fort William, including 2½c tax.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., 96½c; No. 3 C.W., 92½c; extra No. 1 feed, 91½c; No. 1 feed, 90½c; in store Fort William.

American corn—The War Board in the United States prohibit importations.

Ontario oats—No. 2 white, 94 to 95c; No. 3 white, 93 to 94c, according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—No. 2 Winter, per car lot, $2.22; basis in store Montreal.

Peas—No. 2, $3.50 to $3.60, according to freights outside.

Barley—Malting, $1.78 to $1.80, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat—$1.83 to $1.85, according to freights outside.

Rye—No. 2, $2.50, according to freight outside.

Manitoba flour—War quality, $11.10, new bags, Toronto.

Ontario flour—War quality, $10.70, new bags, Toronto and Montreal freights, prompt shipment.

Millfeed—Car lots—Delivered Montreal frights, bags included—Bran, per ton, $35; shorts, per ton, $40.

Hay—No. 1, per ton, $17 to $18; mixed, $14 to $16, track Toronto.

Straw—Car lots, per ton, $8.50 to $9, track Toronto.

Country Produce—Wholesale

Eggs—Current receipts, cases returnable, 39 to 41c.

Butter—Creamery, solids, 48½ to 49c; creamery, prints, 49 to 50c; dairy, 34 to 38c.

Live poultry—Buying price, delivered, Toronto:—Chickens, 27c; Milk fed chickens, 30c; hens, 3½ lbs., un. 22c; hens, 3½ to 5 lbs., 25 to 28c; hens, over 5 lbs., 30c; roosters, 20c; ducklings, 25c; turkeys, 30c.

Dressed poultry—Chickens, 30c; milk fed chickens, 32c; hens, 3½ lbs., un. 25c; hens, 3½ to 5 lbs., 28c; hens, over 5 lbs., 30c; roosters, 20 to 25c; ducklings, 27c; turkeys, 35c.

Cheese—New, large, 23 to 23½c; twins, 23¾ to 23¾c; spring made, large, 25 to 26c; twins, 25½ to 26½c.

Beans—Canadian, prime, bushel, $7.50 to $8; foreign, hand-picked, bushel, $6.75 to $7.

Comb honey—Choice, 16 oz., $3.50 per dozen; 12 oz., $3 per dozen; seconds and dark comb, $2.50 to $2.75.

Provisions—Wholesale

Barrelled meats—Pickled pork, $49; mess pork, $47.

Green meats—Out of pickle, 1c less than smoked.

Smoked meats—Rolls, 30 to 31c; hams, medium, 34 to 35c; heavy, 28 to 29c; cooked hams, 46 to 47c; backs, plain, 42 to 43c; backs, boneless, 45 to 47c; breakfast bacon, 39 to 42c; cottage rolls, 34 to 35c.

Dry salted meats—Long clears, in tons, 28c; in cases, 28½c; clear bellies, 24½c; fat backs, 25c.

Lard—Pure, tierces, 30 to 31c; tubs, 30½ to 31½c; pails, 30½ to 31½c; shortening, tierces, 26 to 26½c; tubs, 26¼ to 26¾c; pails, 26½ to 27c.

Montreal Markets

Montreal, Mar. 26—Oats—Canadian Western, No. 3, $1.07½; extra No. 1 feed, $1.07½; No. 2 local white, $1.07; No. 3, do., $1.04½; No. 4, do. $1.03. Flour—New standard Spring wheat grade, $11.10 to $11.20. Rolled oats—Bag of 90 lbs., $5.60. Millfeed—Bran, $35; shorts, $40; middlings, $48 to $50; mouillie, $60 to $62. Hay—No. 2, per ton, car lots, $17.

Winnipeg Grain

Winnipeg, Mar. 26—Oats—No. 2 C.W., 96¾c; No. 3 C.W., 92¾c; extra No. 1 feed, 91¾c; No. 1 feed, 90¾c; No. 2 feed, 85¾c. Barley—No. 3, $1.82½; No. 4, $1.77½. Flax—No. 1 N.W.C., $3.96; No. 2 C.W., $3.91; No. 3 C.W., $3.74.

United States Markets

Minneapolis, Mar. 26—Corn—No. 3 yellow, $1.75 to $1.80. Oats—No. 3 white, 89½ to 90½c. Flour unchanged. Bran—$32.78.

Duluth, Mar. 26—Linseed—$4.24 to $4.33; arrive, $4.24; May, $4.28; July, $4.26 asked; October, $3.74 asked.

Live Stock Markets

Toronto, Mar. 26—Extra choice heavy steers, $12.50 to $13; do., choice, $12 to $12.25; butchers' cattle, choice, $11.60 to $11.85; do., good, $11 to $11.50; do., medium, $10.50 to $10.75; do., common, $9.25 to $9.50; butchers' bulls, choice, $10.25 to $11; do., good bulls, $9.25 to $9.50; do., medium bulls, $7.85 to $8.50; do., rough bulls, $6.50 to $7; butchers' cows, choice, $10.25 to $11; do., good, $9.25 to $9.50; do., medium, $8 to $8.50; stockers, $7.75 to $9; feeders, $9.25 to $10.25; canners and cutters, $6 to $6.75; milkers, good to choice, $90 to $125; do., com. and med., $65 to $80; springers, $90 to $125; light ewes, $13.50 to $15; sheep, heavy, $6.25 to $7.50; yearlings, $11.75 to $12.75; lambs, $18 to $20.50; calves, good to choice, $16 to $17.25; hogs, fed and watered, $20.50; do., weighed off cars, $20.75; do., f.o.b., $19.50.

Montreal, Mar. 26—Steers, according to quality, $9 to $12; butchers' bulls, $8 to $10.50; butchers' cows, $7.50 to $10.50; canners' cattle, $5.50 to $6.00; sheep, $11 to $13; lambs, $14 to $16.50; milk fed calves, $8 to $13.50; select hogs, off cars, $20 to $21.25.

BRITISH GIRLS STUDY RADIO.

Later May Become Operators on Coastwise Ships.

English girls are taking up wireless telegraphy, says a London correspondent. The Marconi Company has started a special school for training women in wireless telegraphy at its North Wales station. At present the company is taking only women of experience in Morse telegraphy, but this is only a temporary restriction.

The course deals with slip reading, punching, record reading and the general duties of a wireless station. The girls will be drafted to land stations when efficient and will go on night duty in rotation.

It is not proposed to extend the use of women to ships for the present, but if this is to be altered it probably will apply only to coastwise shipping.

SUBMARINE LOSS 11,827,572 TONS

This Has Been Replaced by New Ships of 6,606,275 Tonnage.

A despatch from Washington says:—Secret figures of the British Admiralty on submarine losses and world shipbuilding were made public here on Thursday by the British Embassy. They show that from both enemy action and marine risk on January 1, 1918, allied and neutral shopping had lost since the war began 11,827,572 gross tons, while shipyards outside of the Central Powers were turning out 6,606,275 tons.

These figures, long withheld, are now made public, an Admiralty memorandum says, because they will not stimulate the enemy and because they will impress upon the people the necessity of united action in making good losses by submarines. With them goes an appeal to British builders to speed up their efforts by bringing more men and women to work on the task, and warning that the recent falling off in British production must not continue.

DAYLIGHT SAVING BILL HAS NO DEFINITE TIME.

A despatch from Ottawa says: No definite time is fixed for the coming into effect of the Daylight Savings Bill. The Act, which has been printed for distribution, states that its provisions will be in force in each year during such time as may be prescribed by the Governor-in-Council. The expectation is that the time fixed will be the same as in the United States. The bill gives the Railway Board power to advance by one hour the standard time used by the railways of Canada for such period as may be prescribed by the board.

TO STIMULATE FOOD PRODUCTION

Dominion Treasury to Grant Aid to Various Provinces.

A despatch from Ottawa says: More than $250,000 will be furnished from the Dominion Treasury to aid the provincial Governments to carry on their part of the campaign for greater production of foodstuffs in Canada, Sir Robert Borden announced in the course of his opening address in the Commons. The appropriation, which has been promised by the Dominion Government, will be distributed as follows:

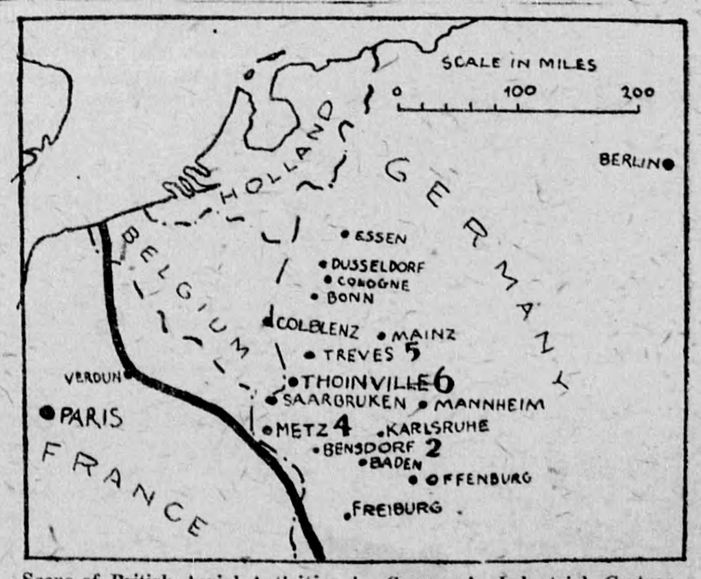
Ontario	$60,000
Quebec	60,000
Nova Scotia	30,000
New Brunswick	25,000
Prince Edward Island	5,000
British Columbia	15,000
Saskatchewan	35,000
Alberta	25,000
Manitoba	25,000

THREE PALESTINE TOWNS CAPTURED BY GEN. ALLENBY.

A despatch from London says: The British have made another advance in Palestine, capturing three towns, it is announced officially. A counter-attack by the Turks was repulsed. The statement follows:

"We occupied Beit Rima and Kefrtut, both east-south-east of Deir Ballett, unopposed. We drove off a counter-attack at Deir Ballett and secured Elowsallabeh and the high ground to the westward. Airmen dropped 470 bombs on establishments in the vicinity of Elkutrani station. Direct hits were observed on the objectives."

Heaping the measure helps a heap in the marketing.



Scene of British Aerial Activities in Germany's Industrial Centres.

Map shows most of the more important German towns well within German borders bombed some as many as six times by Allied aviators. Berlin is about 450 miles from the Western Front, and within range of the Allied airplanes.

CANADA TO ASSIST IN SHIPBUILDING

Orders Placed for 43 Steel and 46 Wooden Vessels at Cost of $64,500,000.

A despatch from Ottawa says: Details of the Canadian Government's plan for assisting in meeting the need of the allies for merchant ships were given by Sir Robert Borden in the course of his speech at the opening of Parliament. Already much has been done in the Dominion by the Imperial Government through the Imperial Munitions Board for 43 steel ships, with an aggregate tonnage of 211,300 tons, and 46 wooden vessels, with a total tonnage of 128,400 tons. The total value of these vessels is $64,500,000; 12 shipyards are now working on orders from the Imperial Munitions Board and their capacity is being brought up to approximately 250,000 tons a year.

Berths vacated by the completion of ships ordered by the Munitions Board will be utilized at once by the Dominion Government. Four cargo steamers with a total tonnage of 23,500 tons are to be completed and placed in commission this year. Next year, however, 50 steel ships are to be constructed. For the present year, the Government has authorized by order-in-Council an expenditure of $25,000,000 on shipbuilding.

ITALY ENROLLS ALL CITIZENS

Both Sexes Between 15 and 60 Must Serve the State.

A despatch from Rome says: From March 20 to 31 the Italian Government called upon civilians of both sexes, between the ages of 15 and 60 years, to enroll for voluntary service, giving part or all of their time, without pay, to aid the following industries: Agriculture, metallurgical, textile, chemical, building and road making, also the minor crafts, such as saddlery and military clothing.

If voluntary recruiting fails to give enough workers the Government reserves the right to enforce enrolment. Italy is the third belligerent to adopt this service. Germany, at the beginning of 1916, adopted it, and England the following year. France now awaits the Chamber's sanction to enforce a similar scheme. The movement here was directed by the Central Committee, under Ciuffelli, Minister of Industries.

URGE THE FARMERS TO GROW FLAX CROPS.

A despatch from Toronto says: The defection of Russia deprives the allies of and gives to the Germans the largest flax-producing area in the world. In consequence there will be a tremendous demand by the allies for flax, which is used extensively in the manufacture of airplanes and other instruments of war, and the Provincial and Federal Departments of Agriculture are now discussing plans to encourage the production of flax in this province. The Canadian Flax-Growers' Association recently called the attention of the authorities to the need for flax production. They claim that flax does not exhaust the soil to so great an extent as barley or wheat, that profits are assured irrespective of weather conditions, that when flax has been pulled the land is in excellent condition for the cultivation of fall wheat, and that flax production on old sod land kills the destructive wire worm.

RUSSIA SPENT ON WAR OVER $25,000,000,000

A despatch from Petrograd says:—Russia's total war expenditures are now 50,599,275,000 roubles.

Russian troops in the Pokov sector have retired ten versts, a German ultimatum having been presented to them as a result of an attack on German troops.

In consequence of the disorganization of transport, an aerial postal service between Petrograd, Moscow and the Crimea, and between Petrograd and Sweden is planned for the near future.

It is reported that the Ukrainian Government is negotiating a loan from German banks.

The Doings of the Duffs.