BRITISH LINE HOLDING; COUNTER-ATTACKS BEGIN WITH SUCCESS

Enemy Thrown Back All Along Front—British Reserves Regain Terrain, Including Strategical Villages.

A despatch from London says:—Wednesday night's news from the battle-front confirms the hopeful impression formed early in the day that the British now appear to be on a line they are able to hold firmly, at least on the Somme and the Ancre Rivers.

Further south in the Roye-Noyon region the situation is less well defined, but it is stated that both the French and British are bringing up reserves there. The correspondents also are showing greater confidence that the enemy will be held on this terrain.

The German official communication of Wednesday night was significantly brief and reserved. It reports the crossing of the Ancre, but only refers to Tuesday's events, while the British War Office statement shows that the Germans who had crossed that stream were thrown back today in counter-attacks.

The news from the Somme front is distinctly encouraging, the British having recaptured Morlancourt and Chipilly, and advanced to Proyart.

The infantry fighting along the major portion of the British front in the new battle zone showed a marked slowing down on Wednesday morning, indicating that the first phase of the German offensive here has been finished. From the southern sectors, however, came word that the Germans were still pressing the attack with great fury against the unwavering defence.

The enemy has paused in the northern sector, probably to reorganize and bring forward much-needed artillery before beginning the second round against the stiffening opposition of the British.

Hard local battles were still in progress, but the first fury of the German onslaught had spent itself. Several attacks which the Germans essayed were smashed, and at Sailly-Le-Sec, where the Germans gained a footing, the British on Wednesday morning delivered a smashing counter-attack, which pushed the invaders back.

The spirit of optimism is higher along the front at the present time.

BIG FRENCH SHELLS — Photo by INTL.

Huns do not have all the say when it comes to ordinance. Here are some of the latest production of the French munition shops.

239 AIRPLANES BROUGHT DOWN BY BRITISH IN SEVEN DAYS

British Aviators Dropped 30 Tons of Bombs and Work Havoc Among Enemy Troops.

A despatch from London says: The official report on aerial operations on Wednesday night says:

"Great concentrations of our airplanes were carried out on Wednesday over points threatened by the enemy, and masses of our machines attacked with machine-gun fire and bombs the enemy infantry and cavalry.

"Thirty tons of bombs were dropped by us and hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition were fired into the enemy. While this fighting was maintained throughout the day, our infantry airplanes kept watch along the front and reported changes in the situation as they occurred.

"Twenty hostile machines were brought down in air fighting and two others were shot down by anti-aircraft guns. Twelve of ours are missing.

"During the night our night-flying squadrons kept up a continuous attack on the enemy's troops in Bapaume, Cambrai and Peronne. Seventy-five thousand rounds were fired by them. Twenty-four tons of bombs were dropped on important centres of the battle front. In addition, four tons of bombs were dropped on the Valenciennes railway station, through which the enemy's troop trains were passing on the way to the front."

HINGE WILL NEVER BREAK

Anglo-French Junction is Now Covered by Strong Allied Forces.

London, March 29.—Telegraphing from French army headquarters this evening Reuter's correspondent says:

"The situation is now clearer than at any time since the beginning of the offensive. The enemy, arrested in mid-course, has abandoned marching straight upon objectives and breaking down resistance by overwhelming numbers. He is striking at estimated weak spots in order to drive us back as far as possible before he himself is brought to a standstill. Thus the enemy drive down the Oise valley is finally arrested. Attempts to cross the Oise farther north failed and the bridges are now destroyed.

"The village of Pont l'Eveque, below Noyon, has been recaptured and the enemy driven from the heights above Susey, north-west of Noyon.

"The enemy's capture of Montdidier was just too late for him to profit by it, as French forces were able to engage the Germans to the west and bring the advance to a standstill, thus nullifying their efforts to pierce the junction of the Anglo-French armies. The hinge between the English and French armies will never be broken, as the junction is now covered by French forces strong enough to meet all eventualities.

A recent patent covers a piano or organ keyboard that can be moved laterally for transposing a musical composition written in one key to another.

EXPECTED TO CAPTURE VIMY RIDGE

Ten German Divisions Took Part in the Assault, But Enemy Met Severe Defeat.

A despatch from Field Marshal Haig says: "It is known from captured documents that the German attack astride the Scarpe had for its objective the capture of Vimy Ridge and Arras. This attack was carried out by at least six divisions in the front line, with four assault divisions in support. Despite the force of the attack the impression made upon our battle positions was inconsiderable, and the fighting resulted in a severe defeat for the enemy."

GERMANS CROSSED BRIDGE OF BODIES OF THEIR OWN DEAD.

With the French Army, March 29.—At one point on the Crozat Canal, where the Germans eventually gained a crossing, they made 16 different attacks on one day. Finally the British corps which was holding the position fell back, absolutely exhausted, and the Germans crossed over a bridge of piled-up bodies of their own comrades.

Sir John Bennett Lawes in 1842 took out the first patent for the making of superphosphate, or acid phosphate as we now call it, and established the first fertilizer factory near London, England. English farmers adopted the use of fertilizers in connection with all other good farming practices to such an extent that in 1914 the British Isles were using over 3,000,000 tons annually.

BRAVE PART PLAYED BY FRENCH

The Anglo-French Line Holds Through Heroic Deeds of Poilus.

A despatch from the French Armies says:—The German effort by a terrific rush to get between French and British forces, with the object of defeating each separately, has failed up to the present, and is likely to continue to fail. The fighting qualities of the allied soldiers have served to stay the impulsive advance, and today the Anglo-French line is on strong positions.

The next few days may change the situation entirely, as the allies have had time to get their "manoeuvring reserve" to take the initiative. Noyon was evacuated late Tuesday night in good order, and the French took up a position near by.

The correspondent passed on Wednesday among troops who have borne a great share in the fighting of the last five days. Everywhere cheerfulness was to be found and perfect confidence in the future. Nowhere has the correspondent seen such spendid morale among troops after long, hard fighting, more especially when those troops had to fall back. Both officers and men, whether French or British, tell narratives of wonderful heroism on the part of the individuals and units.

The gunners of a battery of French 75's, in the neighborhood of Chauny, were surrounded for three days, without food, but fought until the last round was fired; then, taking advantage of some confusion among the Germans in the course of the third night, they somehow made their way through their encircling force and escaped, carrying their wounded comrades with them. This is merely one instance among many similar daring deeds.

28 BRITISH SHIPS SUNK BY U-BOATS

Submarine War in Connection With Big German Drive.

A despatch from London says: Submarines and mines have increased their weekly toll of British shipping. The Admiralty's report shows that in the last week 28 merchantmen were sunk, 16 of the vessels being 1,600 tons or over and 12 under that tonnage. One fishing vessel was lost.

Nineteen merchantmen were unsuccessfully attacked. The arrivals at ports in the United Kingdom numbered 2,471, sailings 2,488.

The Admiralty report for the previous week showed the loss of 17 British merchantmen by mine or submarine, while for several weeks preceding that the weekly loss was 18.

GERMANS WOULD DESTROY BRITISH ARMY, SAYS HAIG.

A despatch from London says: Field Marshal Haig has issued the following special order of the day, dated March 23:

"To all ranks of the British army in France and Flonders: We are again at a crisis in the war. The enemy has collected on this front every available division and is aiming at the destruction of the British army. We have already inflicted on the enemy, in the course of the last few days, a very heavy loss, and the French are sending troops as quickly as possible to our support.

"I feel that every one in the army, fully realizing how much depends on the exertions and steadfastness of each one of us, will do his utmost to prevent the enemy from attaining his object."

GERMAN LOSSES 400,000, 50 PER CENT. OF EFFECTIVES.

A despatch from British Headquarters in France says: From the average of casualties in the various German units, as given by prisoners, one arrives at the conclusion that the enemy has lost 50 per cent. of these men. The official British statement of Tuesday said it had been established that more than 70 German divisions had been engaged in the battle. The present strength of a German division is 12,000 men, so that a loss of 50 per cent. would mean casualties in excess of 400,000 for the Germans in less than a week of fighting.

ADMIT SUFFERING DIRE PRIVATIONS.

A despatch from London says: The tenacity of the British resistance in the big encounter, German prisoners say, exceeded anything the Germans deemed possible. They complain of great privations, on account of lack of supplies, and extreme weariness also is telling heavily. Owing to the dense masses of supporting troops, however, the enemy is able to replenish his forward line with fresh units.

CATEGORY B TO SERVE

Exemption Machinery Will be Put Into Service Throughout Canada.

Ottawa, Ont., March 29.—Responding to a demand from the military authorities, the Military Service Council has decided to call up for service men in medical Category B, under the Military Service Act. Category B men are liable for overseas, but not for combatant service. They are being called out because of the necessity of securing men for railway construction and similar service.

"A demand for men for railway construction and other similar work has arisen, and it has therefore become necessary to draft all men in medical Category B in respect of whom no other grounds for exemption exist.

The Military Service Council is therefore issuing instructions to registrars to take immediate steps to call up such men.

"Under the procedure heretofore adopted, questions arising in regard to the exemption of men in medical Category B on other grounds were postponed until men in the same medical category should be called up, and these men, as well as their employers and relatives will therefore be given an opportunity of presenting claims for their exemption."

VALUE OF NORTHERN FRANCE.

Why Germany Hangs Desperately to This Rich Region.

France will never consent to a peace that does not at least restore her northern districts to her for the reason that her national industries cannot be rebuilt to their pre-war standard without the wealth that these provinces hold. At present Germany holds them at a great sacrifice of life because they contain the richest products of the soil and underground stratas.

This territory, according to Lectures pour Tour (Paris), supplied one-fourth of France's wheat crops in 1912. In 1913 it furnished 87 per cent. of the sugar beets for the distilleries and 24 per cent. of the beets used for feeding purposes.

The invaded regions gave France 90 per cent. of its iron ore and 83 per cent. of its cast-iron. Half of the iron foundries are located in this captured land.

Of 55,000 shops devoted to the weaving of wool, 45,000 are held by the Germans. Ninety-four per cent. of the spinning mills of combed wool are lost; over half of the mills spinning carded wool are found in the occupied territory. Of 550,000 looms whirring before the war only 50,000 are now turning.

In cotton the same story is true. Of 7,525,000 looms in France 4,475,000 are in the Huns' grasp, and of 140,000 mechanics in the work 81,000 were taken.

The loss in dwelling houses, factories, warehouses and shops has been enormous. Thirty-eight per cent. of French factories are in German hands; 23 per cent. of the total number of dwelling houses in France are destroyed. The total damage done to northern France is estimated at 95,225,871 francs.

Germany has, with systematic precision, destroyed everything that she could not use and used everything not worth destroying. The coal and iron mines have made possible the German offensives.

Markets of the World

Breadstuffs

Toronto, April 2—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., 95¾c; No. 3 C.W., 91¾c; extra No. 1 feed, 90¾c; No. 1 feed, 89¼c, in store Fort William.

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

Ontario oats—No. 2 white, 93 to 94c; No. 3 white, 92 to 93c, according to freights outside.

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

Peas—No. 2, $3.60 to $3.70, according to freights outside.

Barley—Malting, $1.76 to $1.78, according to freights outside.

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

Rye—No. 2, $2.25, 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 freights, bags included: Bran, per ton, $35.40; shorts, per ton, $40.40.

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, 38 to 40c.

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, 30c; hens, 3½ lbs. un., 22c; hens, 3½ to 5 lb., 25 to 28c; hens, over 5 lbs., 30c; roosters, 20c; ducklings, 25c; turkeys, 30c.

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

Cheese—New, large, 23 to 23½c; twins, 23½ 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

Smoked meats—Hams, medium, 34 to 35c; do., heavy, 28 to 30c; cooked, 45 to 47c; rolls, 30 to 31c; breakfast bacon, 40 to 42c; backs, plain, 42 to 43c; boneless, 45 to 46c.

Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 28 to 29c; clear bellies, 27 to 28c.

Lard—Pure lard, tierces, 30 to 30½c; tubs, 30¼ to 30¾c; pails, 30½ to 31c; compound tierces, 25½ to 26c; tubs, 25¾ to 26¼c; pails, 26 to 26½c.

Montreal Markets

Montreal, April 2—Oats—Canadian Western, No. 3, $1.07½; extra No. 1 feed, $1.07½; No. 2 local white, $1.07; No. 3 local white, $1.04½; No. 4 local white, $1.03. Flour—New standard Spring wheat grade, $11.10 to $11.20. Rolled oats—Bags, 90 lbs., $5.60. Bran—$35.40. Shorts, $40.40. Middlings, $48 to $50. Mouillie, $60 to $62. Hay—No. 2, per ton, car lots, $17.

Winnipeg Grain

Winnipeg, April 2—Oats—No. 2 C.W., 93¾c; No. 3 C.W., 91¾c; extra No. 1 feed, 90¾c; No. 1 feed, 89¼c. Barley—No. 3 C.W., $1.65; No. 4, $1.60; rejected, $1.45; feed, $1.40. Flax—No. 1 N.W.C., $3.94; No. 2 C.W., $3.89½; No. 3 C.W., $3.71½.

United States Markets

Minneapolis, April 2—Corn—No. 3 yellow, $1.75 to $1.83. Oats—No. 2 white, 91¼ to 92¼c. Flour unchanged. Bran—$33.14.

Duluth, April 2—Linseed—$4.21 to $4.29; arrive, $4.21; May, $4.24; July, $4.22 asked; October, $3.65 asked.

Live Stock Markets

Toronto, April 2—Choice heavy steers, $12.25 to $12.75; good heavy steers, $11.75 to $12; yearlings, $12.50 to $13.50; butchers' cattle, choice, $11.50 to $11.85; do., good, $11 to $11.35; 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, $8 to $9.25; feeders, $9.50 to $10.50; canners and cutters, $6 to $7; milkers, good to choice, $90 to $125; do., com. and med., $65 to $80; springers, $90 to $125; light ewes, $13.50 to $15; yearlings, $11.75 to $12.75; lambs, $18 to $20.50; calves, good to choice, $16 to $17.50; hogs, fed and watered, $21; do., weighed off cars, $21.25; do., f.o.b., $20 to $20.25.

Montreal, April 2—Choice steers, $11 to $13; good steers, $10 to $10.50; med., $9 to $10; choice heifers, $10 to $12; good cows, $9 to $11; medium, $8.50; choice butchers' bulls, $8 to $11; canners' cattle, $5.50 to $6.25; milk-fed calves, $7 to $14; sheep, $11 to $13; lambs, $14 to $17; choice select hogs, off cars, $21 to $22; sows, $19 to $19.50.

TROOPS PATROL STREETS OF QUEBEC WITH RIFLES LOADED

Mobs Attacked Newspaper and M.S.A. Registrar's Offices—Destroy Military Records.

Quebec, March 29.—An anti-conscription riot broke out in Quebec tonight. An angry mob destroyed two newspaper offices and wrecked the premises of the local Registrar under the Military Service Act. The building in which the offices are located are adjacent to the Auditorium Theatre, and it caught fire. The intention of the crowd, it is believed, was to destroy all the records of cases which have been heard in the exemption courts.

Rioting broke out afresh at 9 o'clock and mobs of young men paraded the main street of the city. The unruly element in the throng soon got the upper hand and attacks were made upon the newspaper offices of the Chronicle Publishing Company and l'Evenement, two papers which have supported the Military Service Act, the enforcement of which caused the outbreak last night, when three Federal policemen, engaged in rounding up absentees from duty, were savagely attacked and badly mauled.

The crowd, after visiting the newspaper offices, rushed up to the Government offices, which are in the same building with the Auditorium Theatre. Men broke in the doors of the Registrar under the Military Service Act and destroyed the furniture and records there. In the excitement a stove was knocked over and the building set on fire. The firemen got the blaze in the Registrar's office under control.

The militia were given orders to turn out. The militia were ordered to load their rifles and to fix bayonets. The troops marched through the streets and the appearance of the soldiers had a quieting effect on the mob. The troops made a cordon around the Auditorium Theatre, while the firemen worked to get the fire under control.

SEEDING SEASON EARLY IN WEST

Week of Mild Weather Sees Spring Work Under Way.

A despatch from Winnipeg says: The weather in the Prairie Provinces has been Springlike for the past fortnight, exceptionally mild for March, and there is every prospect of a very early seeding this year. In the Brandon district of southern Manitoba seeding will be general within a week if the mild weather holds.

It was 67 degrees Fahrenheit at Moose Jaw, and it is raining at this and a number of points. At practically every point on the prairies temperatures have been well above 50 degrees for a week or so. At the Pacific coast it has been about 10 degrees colder.

Wemen of Canada—the kitchen is your fort. Food will win or lose the war.

The Doings of the Duffs.