GERMANS HAVE NO SOLID GROUND

Coming Offensive Must Be Launched From Low Ground.

A despatch from the French Armies in France says: While awaiting the opening of the expected new German offensive the French and British are creating great confusion in the German plans by local operations which already have brought about an improvement in their defensive positions.

The Germans had hoped to have positions at solid points on the Flanders hills, on the Villers-Bretonneux plateau, and on the Grivesnes and Mailly-Raineval heights and Le Plemont and Renaud hills from which to launch their attack. Not only have these positions remained in the hands of the Entente allied troops, but in the vicinity of them the French and British recently have gained ground.

The activity of German airplanes and the exceptional violence of the artillery bombardment on the Avre and in the region of Albert are the only indications of the coming blow. The Germans have between Zonnebeke and Noyon nearly one-third of their whole strength in France, viz., 64 divisions out of a total of 210. They have carried out a redistribution of their forces along the whole front. They have notably withdrawn considerably in the rear.

All the official reports, British, French and German, refer to the intense artillery fire along the front. The chief zones under gunfire, according to the Berlin report, were Kemmel district, both sides of the Lys and between Arras and Albert. The last report from the French War Office mentions heavy artillery fire in the Somme region and near Noyon, where there was terrific fighting early in April.

HARVEST PROSPECTS BEST IN TWENTY YEARS.

A despatch from Paris says: Prospects for the coming harvest in France are better than any year since 1898. Victor Boret, Food Minister, informed the Associated Press upon his return from a week-end tour in the country.

"Unless unforeseen situations arise between now and harvest time," he added, "actual restrictions on food consumption will not be increased. I may even say that we are approaching the end of the era of restriction and that the restrictions at present in force gradually will be eliminated.

"But I want men for the harvest. If they can be obtained I can promise they will diminish the importations of cereals and release important tonnage."

CANNING TRADE UNDER LICENSE.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The canning trade will be brought under the license system of the Food Board by June 15. On and after that date it will be illegal for any person who has not first secured a "canner's manufacturer's license" to engage in the manufacture, for sale, of canned or preserved fruits or vegetables, meats, poultry, soups, seeds or grains or products made therefrom, jellies, jams, sauces, pickles, condensed, evaporated, dried, powdered or canned milk, or dried, evaporated or desiccated vegetables or fruits.

ARRANGE RATIONING FOR DANISH PEOPLE.

A despatch from Washington says: A Danish commission has just landed at a Canadian port on its way to Washington to continue negotiations looking to the rationing of Denmark and to the release of Danish ships to the United States. So far the United States and Denmark have come to no definite agreement respecting food shipments to Denmark and cargoes are going forward under a temporary arrangement.

TEN THOUSAND TON SHIP FOR EVERY WORKING DAY.

A despatch from Detroit says: During the month of May there has been delivered the equivalent of a 10,000-ton ship for every working day, according to Charles M. Schwab, Director-General of the United States Shipbuilding Programme, in a recent address here.

FROM OLD SCOTLAND

NOTES OF INTEREST FROM HER BANKS AND BRAES.

What is Going On in the Highlands and Lowlands of Auld Scotia.

The Distinguished Conduct Medal has been won by Sergeant Mann, R. A.M.C., Dundee.

The death took place recently in Ballathie of Sir John Wolfe Barry, a famous civil engineer.

At a patriotic sale held at Marycoulter House, Kincardineshire, over £250 was realized.

Captain John Wilson Lawson, son of W. H. Lawson, Union Bank, Dunning, has been awarded the Military Cross.

An anonymous donor has given £5,000 in War Bonds to endow two beds in Arbroath Hospital in memory of the donor's father and mother.

Sir William Robertson, Lord Lieutenant of Fife, recently opened a carnival at Cupar under the auspices of the Voluntary Workers' Association.

W. A. Rae, Douglasfield, Murthly, has donated £500 to the Perth Royal Infirmary in memory of his son, the late Lieut. W. A. Rae, killed in action.

The death took place recently at Strichen of John Sleigh, at 92 years of age, and he was probably the oldest constable in the United Kingdom.

Corporal D. Fletcher, Australians, son of the late Charles Fletcher, Inverhouse, has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

The Royal Red Cross has been awarded to Sister M. S. McDonald, Grantown-on-Spey, in recognition of services rendered in France.

The women of Fife have agreed to provide the labor for harvesting the flax crop and to train women as rabbit trappers.

Robert Dollar, of San Francisco, sent £3,000 to go toward the erection of public baths in his native town, Falkirk.

Lieut. Ronald M. Donaldson, Canadians, who was recently awarded the Military Cross, is a native of Burntisland.

The Leggatsden estate, near Invesamsay, was recently sold to Donald Mustard, a solicitor of Elgin, for £9,100.

Corporal Colin Barron, of the Canadian Infantry, who has been awarded the Victoria Cross, is a native of Boyndie.

The Military Cross has been awarded to Lieut. Vivian F. Murdoch, son of Rev. A. G. Murdoch, U.F. minister of Glaes.

Sister M. Mitchell, R.R.C., Fochabers, has left for service in Italy in charge of a party of nurses.

Corp. J. C. Jamieson, son of D. Jamieson, Bridge of Don, has been awarded the Military Medal.

The late Miss Ellis, of Devonside, left the sum of £146 as prizes for the pupils of Banff Academy.

G. O. Kinninmonth, Burntisland, has been elected to the Town Council to succeed John Robb, resigned.

Brig.-General Cheape, the laird of Wellfield, Strathmigio, has been awarded the D.S.O. for gallantry.

A successful concert was given by the Tullochgorum Club, of Kinross, in aid of Kinross Nursing Association.

FEAR RHINE CITIES WILL BE LAID IN RUINS.

A despatch from the French Armies in France says: Captured Germans testify to the brilliant work of the Entente aviators, who, they say, leave the Germans no peace. Fears are expressed regarding future operations on the Rhine cities, which they believe will be laid in ruins. The Germans declare their anti-aircraft defences are insufficient to prevent the allies visiting the Teuton camps, cantonments, depots, and airdromes, where, they say, enormous damage already has been done.

PLENTY OF MOISTURE FOR ALBERTA CROP.

A despatch from Calgary says: Reports received from Central and Southern Alberta show that the whole district has had lots of rain to carry the crop through until July. Oat seeding is 80 per cent. completed. Wheat is well above the ground. The season is a good two weeks advanced over the average.

Markets of the World

Breadstuffs

Toronto, May 28.—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., 85¾c; No. 3 C.W., 82¾c; extra No. 1 feed, 82¾c; No. 1 feed, 79¾c, in store Fort William.

American corn—No. 3 yellow, kiln dried, nominal; No. 4 yellow, kiln dried, nominal.

Ontario oats—No. 2 white, 80 to 81c; No. 3 white, 79 to 80c, according to freights outside.

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

Peas—Nominal.

Barley—Malting, $1.49 to $1.50, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat—$1.80, according to freights outside.

Rye—No. 2, $2.15, according to freights outside.

Manitoba flour—War quality, $10.95; new bags, Toronto.

Ontario flour—War quality, $10.65, new bags, Toronto and Montreal freights, prompt shipment.

Millfeed—Car lots—Delivered Montreal freights, bags included: Bran, per ton, $35.00; shorts, per ton, $40.00.

Hay—No. 1. per ton, $16.00 to $17.00; mixed, $14.00 to $15.00, track Toronto.

Straw—Car lots, per ton, $8.50 to $9.00, track Toronto.

Country Produces—Wholesale

Eggs, new-laid, 41c; selected, new-laid, 43 to 44c; cartons, 44 to 45c.

Butter—Creamery, solids, 44 to 45c; do., prints, 45 to 46c; do., fresh made, 46 to 47c; choice dairy prints, 41 to 42c; ordinary dairy prints, 38 to 40c; bakers', 36 to 38c; Oleomargarine, (best grade), 32 to 34c.

Cheese—New, large, 23½ to 24c; twins, 23¾ to 24¼c; spring-made, large, 25½ to 26c; twins, 26 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.

Maple Syrup—Imperial gallons, $2.25; 5-gallon tins, $2.10 per gallon. Maple sugar, per pound, 24 to 25c.

Provisions—Wholesale

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

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

Smoked Meats—Rolls, 32 to 33c; hams, medium, 37 to 38c; heavy, 30 to 31c; cooked hams, 49 to 50c; backs, plain, 43 to 44c; backs, boneless, 46 to 48c. Breakfast bacon, 40 to 44c. Cottage rolls, 35 to 36c.

Dry Salted Meats—Long clears, in tons, 30c; in cases, 30½c; clear bellies, 28 to 28½c; fat backs, 25c.

Lard—Pure, tierces, 31 to 32c; tubs, 31¼ to 32¼c; pails, 31½ to 32½c; 1-lb. prints, 33 to 33½c. Shortening, tierces, 26 to 26½c; tubs, 26¼ to 26¾c; pails, 26½ to 27c; 1-lb, prints, 27½ to 28c.

Montreal Markets

Montreal, May 28.—Oats, Canadian western No. 2, 97½c; do., No. 3, 94c; extra No. 1 feed, 94c. Flour, new standard Spring wheat grade, $10.95 to $11.05. Rolled oats, bags, 90 lbs. $5.15 to $5.30. Bran, $35. Shorts, $40. Mouillie, $73. Hay, No. 2, per ton, car lots, $17.

Live Stock Markets

Toronto, May 28.—Extra choice heavy steers, $15.00 to $16.00; choice heavy steers, $14.00 to $14.25; butchers' cattle, choice, $14.00 to $14.50; do., good, $13.50 to $13.75; do., medium, $12.00 to $13.00; do., common, $11.25 to $11.50; butchers' bull, choice, $12.00 to $13.00; do. good bulls, $11.00 to $11.50; do., medium bulls, $10.25 to $10.50; do., rough bulls, $7.50 to $8.50; butchers' cows, choice, $12.00 to $13.00; do., good, $11.00 to $11.50; do., medium $10.25 to $10.50; stockers, $9.50 to $11.25; feeders, $11.25 to $12.00; canners and cutters, 6.25 to $7.50; milkers, good to choice, $90.00 to $140.00;; do., com. and med., $65.00 to $80.00; springers, $90.00 to $140.00; light ewes, $15.00 to $18.50; lambs, $17.00 to $22.00; calves, good to choice, $14.00 to $16.00; hogs, fed and watered, $20.50; do., weighed off cars, $21.00; do., f.o.b., $20.00.

Montreal, May 28.—Choice steers, $11 to $13.50 per 100 pounds; choice cows, $9.50 to $10.50 per 100 pounds, common, $10.50 to $5.50; for canners. Butchers' bulls, $9 to $10.50. Calves, choice milk-fed, $13.25 per 100 pounds; common $10 to $12; sheep $14.

GEN. HAIG VISITS CANADIAN TROOPS

The Dominion Forces Celebrated May 24th With Baseball Game.

A despatch from Canadian Army Headquarters in the Field says: The Canadian force has again been honored by a short, unofficial visit from the Commander-in-Chief. Sir Douglas Haig spoke in the warmest terms of Canadian war services, and Canada will be as gratified as was the Canadian Commander at his high appreciation of the Canadian forces. Inspections and parades marked the visit, which was truly of a social nature.

Save for increased artillery activity in one sector and some scattered hostile gas shelling, there is nothing outside the usual patrol activity to report on the Canadian front.

We are enjoying a spell of delightful Summer weather. Concerts, sports and garden parties, featured and graced by the attendance of Canadian nurses from near and distant Canadian casualty clearing stations, are general throughout the back areas. May 24 was featured by a double-header baseball game.

LOSSES TO SHIPPING DURING MONTH OF APRIL.

A despatch from London says: The Admiralty official statement gives the losses of British, allied and neutral merchant tonnage due to enemy action and marine risk in April as follows:

	Tons.
British	220,709
Allied and neutral	84,393
Total	305,102

Clearances in and out of ports, 7,040,309 gross tons.

FORTY-FOUR KILLED IN AIR RAID ON LONDON.

A despatch from London says: The casualties in Sunday night's air raid are given in a supplemental statement as 44 killed and 179 injured.

Why not plan ahead to use potted plants or bouquets of flowers with which to make birthday gifts? A beautiful potted plant will add cheer and color to the home of your friend for weeks and is always an acceptable gift.

Girl workers on the land parade in London. Note the chickens and the vegetables.

From Erin's Green Isle

NEWS BY MAIL FROM IRELAND'S SHORES.

Happenings in the Emerald Isle of Interest to Irishmen.

A shipbuilding yard is to be started in Drogheda under the auspices of an English syndicate.

The Thomastown Council will dispossess all tenants of laborers' cottages who do not till at least half their plots.

While a farmer was ploughing in a field at Ballysopp, near New Ross, the plough turned up a gold sovereign, date of 1795.

The Derry War Hospital Supply Depot, formerly a ladies' school, has been acquired as a hostel for shipyard workers.

When Sergeant John Miney, V.C., paid a short visit to his home in Rathdowny, he was presented with a purse of £100.

A large portion of untenanted land on the Olphert estate near Falcarragh is now being ploughed up for tillage purposes.

The Westmeath Committee of Agriculture have granted a loan of £350 for improving Balrath mill for the grinding of oatmeal.

Four men lost their lives from the effects of gas fumes in the hold of a ship which recently arrived at the North Wall of Dublin.

Two salmon weighing thirty pounds each were caught in the River Shannon above Limerick.

During the year 1917, the New Ross division of the British Red Cross Society collected over £300.

The death occurred recently at Lecarrow, Ballyhaunis, of Mrs. Coen, who had reached the age of 108 years.

The Roscommon County Committee's tree planting scheme has resulted in thirty-three thousand trees having been planted in the county last year.

Thomas Duggan, J.P., and Hugh Ryan, have been appointed as the delegates of the North Tipperary County Council on the Council of Agriculture.

M. J. Collins, of Kingstown, has been elected a member of the Rathdown Board of Guardians in the place of the late James McCartlin.

Owing to the large acreage under crop in the Curry district, Sligo, an old and discarded mill will be renovated and put in working order.

Captain Maurice Balfe, of the South African Expeditionary Force, is home from France on a short visit to his father, Major Balfe, Castlerea.

Mr. Geoghan, of Ballyhay, has taken over the management of the Bank of Ireland at Ballina, succeeding Mr. Maginn, who has retired.

Clonmel plotholders, to the number of two hundred, have formed a Plotholders' Association and elected Ald. R. Stapleton as president.

Power has been given to the Agricultural Boards of Ireland to take possession of unoccupied lands and lands not properly cultivated.

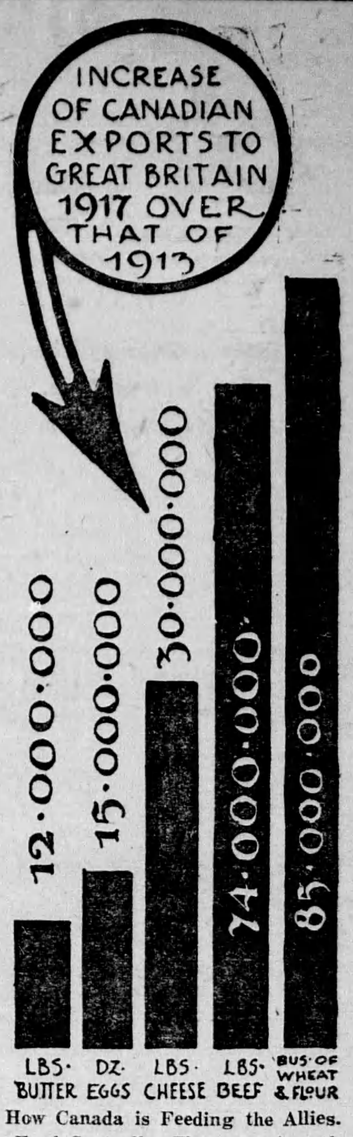
WASTE USED FOR RAW COTTON.

Germany Also Produces Yarns From Mixture of Woollen Rags.

No raw cotton is now being used for the production of goods anywhere in Germany, says the annual report of a firm in Munich. A fair number of looms still continue to run with yarns produced from waste cotton, cotton rags or a mixture of these with woolen rags.

A very serious view is taken of the position which will have to be faced when the war is over. It is pointed out that, in consequence of the depreciation of the German mark, raw cotton, even if it could be freely shipped from America to Bremen, would cost German spinners more than $1.25 a pound, so that to cover the pre-war requirements of raw cotton would entail an expenditure of about $1,250,000,000 a year. Under such conditions, it is considered inevitable that German spinners will have to curtail their consumption of cotton very materially for some years after the war.

Reports which have been published regarding the possibility of the nettle fiber industry are said to be greatly exaggerated. This year the land under nettle cultivation will be about 50,000 acres, yielding not more than 15,000 tons, or less than 3 per cent. of the normal German cotton requirements.



How Canada is Feeding the Allies.

Food Controller Thomson gives the above figures as the increased exports of foodstuffs by Canada in 1917 as compared with pre-war time.

The Spartan Mothers.

The mothers of the crowded towns,
The mothers of the farms,
They sit alone with patient eyes
And empty loving arms.
The boys they used to rock to sleep
In haste have buckled on
The stern accoutrements of war,
And with their blessings gone.

To one her son will come again,
A bearded soldier bold,
Upon his breast perhaps a cross
Of shining bronze or gold,
And one will hear a halting step
Uncertainly advance,
And find her joy in leading him
Who left his eyes in France.

But one will never see her boy
Unlatch the gate again
And tread the garden path between
The lilacs wet with rain.
His picture framed in gilt below
The flag upon the wall,
A letter, or a battered sword,
Or medal will be all.

The Spartan mothers—not a one
Regrets the glorious hour
Her darling marched away to break
The Kaiser's evil power.
"Would that I had," they proudly cry,
"Another son to give,
That generations yet unborn
In safety may live."

THE TELEPHOT.

Novel Instrument Enabling One to See Speaker Over the Telephone.

Among the inventions of the near future, according to the Electrical Experimenter, will be the telephot—an instrument which, when attached to our present telephone system, will enable a person to see the likeness of the one on the other end during a conversation.

The obstacle which has presented most difficulty is that of producing the desired result with a minimum of wires and a machine of simple organization. This will have to be done to make it adaptable to our present telephone system where messages are sent and received over a circuit of two wires.

The future telephot will have to be an instrument provided with a fluorescent screen or plate. The face of the speaker will be recorded on this and the impuses sent electrically to the other end, where they will be retranslated. In order that the person may see the speaker's face it will have to be illuminated, for if it were dark no impulses would be recorded. A light will therefore have to be attached to the telephot.

The Doings of the Duffs