

# THE ALLIED ARMIES ARE SMASHING FORWARD IN FRANCE

## Enemy Forced Back to Northeast of Canal of St. Quentin—Many Desperate Encounters Near Aisne.

A despatch from London says: Along the entire battlefront between the Scarpe and the Aisne in France the allied and German troops have come to grips. At some places the battle waged by infantry, cavalry and artillery attained the biggest proportions of any engagement this year. Standing before the Hindenburg line from the region of Arras to Laon, the Germans launched a counter-attack after counter-attack at the Scarpe, the French and British forces, but the Teutons were hurled back suffering heavy losses.

Some observers here see in the recent developments signs that Hindenburg intends to fight a decisive battle over the despoiled and desolated country stretching from the Somme to the Aisne and from St. Quentin to La Fere. If such a battle should develop it will probably be the greatest struggle in every way that has been fought in this war, not excepting the battle of the Marne. And with it Hindenburg will reveal his strategy and the prime reason for the great German withdrawal.

The most desperate encounters of the day took place along the French front south of St. Quentin, where less than two and a half miles separate Nivelles' troops from the enemy's defensive system. One struggle developed around St. Simon, along both sides of the Somme-Croisat Canal, and slightly north, near the villages of Artemps and Seracourt-le-Grand. Here the Germans delivered a violent counter-blow that almost swept the French off their feet.

Shortly afterward the French launched a wide offensive in this same region, and in the face of stubborn resistance pressed the Germans back to the northeast of the St. Quentin Canal, to a depth varying from one and a quarter to two and a half miles.

North of Soissons and along the Ailette River, two other mighty engagements were fought. In the former sector, to the west and south of Margival, the line swayed backward and forward as first the French and then the Germans scored successes. Despite the ferocity of the opposition, the French advanced along this front at several important points, moving considerably nearer Margival.

Along the Ailette front, on both sides of the Oise, the forces of Nivelles pushed ahead also, continuing their crossing of the Ailette and advancing on the heights of the Oise to the northeast of Terghier. From the dominating positions the French can now look down on the German defenses, and with the bringing up of their heavy artillery the enemy's positions will be exposed to a raking fire. The French soldiers in this sector report that the Germans have inundated the entire countryside, including the stronghold of La Fere, to impede the allied advance.

The British forces on the front southeast of Arras struck up against even more powerful opposition than the French, despite the fact that they are several miles farther from the German's reserve line than their allies. Everywhere British patrols and advanced detachments came into contact with strong German forces of rearguards, and succeeded in clearing up these outposts and continuing the advance. At three points—near Aizecourt-le-Bas, Baumetz-le-Cambrai and Vraucourt—the enemy counter-attacked in force. In the region of Comant and Croiselles Haig's troops made progress, but even here they are groping forward so cautiously that the advance is slow. The British Commander is refusing to force the issue here, as he knows that eventually the Germans will be forced back to their general line of defence, and also because he is finding it more profitable to show his strength in the sector southeast of Peronne, where his troops are lined up with the French and there is little danger of them falling into a German trap.

thorities or through fear of German submarines."

### FLEET OF 15 SHIPS LEFT DUTCH PORT

#### Sent by Holland to Load Grain at United States Ports.

A despatch from New York says: An Associated Press despatch from Washington Friday night says: "A fleet of 15 Dutch steamships was said here on Friday to have sailed recently from a port in Holland for the United States, by way of Halifax. The vessels all steamed out the same day and now are believed to be well north of the German submarine zone around the British Isles.

"It is intended by the Netherlands Government, which has the ships under charter, to have them load grain, probably in New York, and then return by the same route they came. It was explained here today made it no danger of the seas than individual ships. Many Dutch ships loaded with grain now are being detained in British ports either by the British au-

# Markets of the World

### Breadstuffs

Toronto, Mar. 27—Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, \$2.03; No. 2 do., \$2.00; No. 3 do., \$1.97; No. 4 do., \$1.94; track Bay ports.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., 73c; No. 3 C.W., 70c; extra No. 1 feed, 71c; No. 1 feed, 70c; all rail delivered.

Ontario wheat—No. 2 Winter, per car \$1.83, according to freight; according to freight outside.

Ontario flour—Winter, according to sample, \$7.55, in bags, track Toronto; export shipment, \$7.15, bulk seaboard.

Country Produce—Wholesale: Butter—Fresh cream, 40 to 40c; creamery prints, 43 to 45c; solids, 42 to 43c.

Eggs—New-laid, in cartons, 39 to 40c; out of cartons, 37 to 38c.

Provisions—Wholesale: Smoked mutton, 23 to 24c; medium, 25 to 26c; roasts, 23 to 24c; breakfast bacon, 33 to 34c.

Montreal Markets: Montreal, Mar. 27—Wheat—Canadian western, No. 1, \$1.77; No. 2, \$1.74; No. 3, \$1.71; No. 4, \$1.68; extra No. 1 feed, 75 to 76c.

Winnipeg Grain: Winnipeg, Mar. 27—Wheat—May, \$1.84; No. 1 Northern, \$1.84; No. 2 Northern, \$1.81; No. 3 Northern, \$1.78; No. 4 Northern, \$1.75; No. 5 Northern, \$1.72; No. 6 Northern, \$1.69; No. 7 Northern, \$1.66; No. 8 Northern, \$1.63; No. 9 Northern, \$1.60; No. 10 Northern, \$1.57; No. 11 Northern, \$1.54; No. 12 Northern, \$1.51; No. 13 Northern, \$1.48; No. 14 Northern, \$1.45; No. 15 Northern, \$1.42; No. 16 Northern, \$1.39; No. 17 Northern, \$1.36; No. 18 Northern, \$1.33; No. 19 Northern, \$1.30; No. 20 Northern, \$1.27; No. 21 Northern, \$1.24; No. 22 Northern, \$1.21; No. 23 Northern, \$1.18; No. 24 Northern, \$1.15; No. 25 Northern, \$1.12; No. 26 Northern, \$1.09; No. 27 Northern, \$1.06; No. 28 Northern, \$1.03; No. 29 Northern, \$1.00; No. 30 Northern, \$0.97; No. 31 Northern, \$0.94; No. 32 Northern, \$0.91; No. 33 Northern, \$0.88; No. 34 Northern, \$0.85; No. 35 Northern, \$0.82; No. 36 Northern, \$0.79; No. 37 Northern, \$0.76; No. 38 Northern, \$0.73; No. 39 Northern, \$0.70; No. 40 Northern, \$0.67; No. 41 Northern, \$0.64; No. 42 Northern, \$0.61; No. 43 Northern, \$0.58; No. 44 Northern, \$0.55; No. 45 Northern, \$0.52; No. 46 Northern, \$0.49; No. 47 Northern, \$0.46; No. 48 Northern, \$0.43; No. 49 Northern, \$0.40; No. 50 Northern, \$0.37; No. 51 Northern, \$0.34; No. 52 Northern, \$0.31; No. 53 Northern, \$0.28; No. 54 Northern, \$0.25; No. 55 Northern, \$0.22; No. 56 Northern, \$0.19; No. 57 Northern, \$0.16; No. 58 Northern, \$0.13; No. 59 Northern, \$0.10; No. 60 Northern, \$0.07; No. 61 Northern, \$0.04; No. 62 Northern, \$0.01; No. 63 Northern, \$0.00; No. 64 Northern, \$0.00; No. 65 Northern, \$0.00; No. 66 Northern, \$0.00; No. 67 Northern, \$0.00; No. 68 Northern, \$0.00; No. 69 Northern, \$0.00; No. 70 Northern, \$0.00; No. 71 Northern, \$0.00; No. 72 Northern, \$0.00; No. 73 Northern, \$0.00; No. 74 Northern, \$0.00; No. 75 Northern, \$0.00; No. 76 Northern, \$0.00; No. 77 Northern, \$0.00; No. 78 Northern, \$0.00; No. 79 Northern, \$0.00; No. 80 Northern, \$0.00; No. 81 Northern, \$0.00; No. 82 Northern, \$0.00; No. 83 Northern, \$0.00; No. 84 Northern, \$0.00; No. 85 Northern, \$0.00; No. 86 Northern, \$0.00; No. 87 Northern, \$0.00; No. 88 Northern, \$0.00; No. 89 Northern, \$0.00; No. 90 Northern, \$0.00; No. 91 Northern, \$0.00; No. 92 Northern, \$0.00; No. 93 Northern, \$0.00; No. 94 Northern, \$0.00; No. 95 Northern, \$0.00; No. 96 Northern, \$0.00; No. 97 Northern, \$0.00; No. 98 Northern, \$0.00; No. 99 Northern, \$0.00; No. 100 Northern, \$0.00.

### GERMANS FINANCED A BOMB FACTORY

#### Light Thrown on Method of Destroying Vessels at Sea in 1915.

A despatch from New York says: An alleged admission that money for the establishment of a bomb factory in Hoboken, N.J., was furnished direct from officials of the German Embassy at Washington was read on Thursday when the trials were begun here of six men charged with having attempted to create a reign of terror on the high seas by destroying vessels sailing from American ports with cargoes for the Entente allies.

The defendants are Captain Charles von Kleist, a chemist, who is accused of having been engaged in the making of the bombs; Karl Schmidt, formerly chief engineer of the steamship Friedrich der Grosse; Erns Becker, electrician; and Frederick Karbade, George Praedel and Wilhelm Parades, assistant engineers of the same vessel.

How the police captured the alleged plotters after bomb explosions in 1915, had destroyed vessels and cargoes worth upwards of \$4,000,000 was recited to the jury by Detective H. Barth, who gained the confidence of von Kleist by representing himself as an agent of Wolf von Igel, who has been head of the German spy system in this country.

von Igel was an attache of the German Embassy, and returned to Germany with Count von Bernstorff, former German Ambassador.

The detective said he telephoned to von Kleist, last April, and told him that he had been informed that von Kleist had written to Wolf von Igel, offering him to join the German cause. von Kleist, he declared, had told him later that he had accepted the offer, and that he and Dr. Walter T. Scheele, also a chemist, were partners in the manufacture of fire bombs and dealt also in fertilizer as a blind.

"Scheele, von Kleist, told me, had received \$10,000 from Captain von Papen of the German Embassy, to finance the bomb making, but he was in need of more cash."

The head of the alleged plotters was said to have been Dr. Scheele, who escaped arrest by flight to Mexico.

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A despatch from London says: It is understood in shipping circles that the Government has extended its control over shipping and has now requisitioned in the Australian, South American and South African trades. This extension of the control plan apparently is intended to deal systematically and to the best advantage with virtually the entire British tonnage and bring it under the management of the Shipping Controller.

### GERMANS MASS IN MEXICO TO RAID UNITED STATES

A despatch from Wilmington, Del., says: Orders of the Norwegian steamer Vera arriving here Friday afternoon from Porto Barrios reported thousands of Germans have entered Mexico through Guatemala with the acknowledged intention of forming an army to wage war on the United States. They say many German reserve officers are at the head of the movement, and are equipping the Mexicans for war.

# MURAD CIGARETTES

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### GERMANS FINANCED A BOMB FACTORY

#### Light Thrown on Method of Destroying Vessels at Sea in 1915.

A despatch from London says: The food question is pressing daily with increasing stringency on the British public, and according to authoritative reports, a few days will see new and drastic steps on the part of the Food Controller, Lord Devonport, to meet the situation and prevent exploitation of the public by traders.

The Controller announced in the House of Lords on Thursday that although voluntary rationing had brought about excellent results, much more in this direction was required, otherwise it might be necessary to resort to compulsory rationing, which would be a national calamity. He was very desirous of avoiding this, owing to the tremendous machinery needed. This declared, if required, and a great reduction in bread and sugar was still imperative. The Controller also in-

tended, he said, to introduce a strict measure to prevent the hoarding of food.

According to an unofficial report, the Government intends to introduce two meatless and two potatoless weeks in all restaurants and public houses, and to forbid more than five ounces of uncooked meat to be served to each person.

With regard to hoarding it is stated that the police will be empowered to search private houses, and if found there a fortnight's supply of sugar on a basis of a weekly allowance of three-quarters of a pound per person, the persons so hoarding will be severely punished. Traders will also be prohibited, under penalty of attempting to compel purchasers to buy other things before being supplied with sugar, potatoes, and similar commodities, as this system has led to mischievous waste.

### NEW DANGER AREA CREATED IN ARCTIC

#### Germany Announces That Ships Entering Waters Do So at Own Risk

A Reuter despatch from London says: The German Ministry of Commerce has communicated to the Norwegian Government an order from the German Arctic Sea Line, east of 24 degrees east longitude and south of 77 degrees north latitude, excluding the region territory, is to be considered dangerous for all navigation. Ships entering this zone will be met with all weapons. Neutral vessels entering these waters must do so at their own risk. Neutral ships already on the way for returning from ports in this zone will not be tackled without warning.

The effect of the German declaration is to extend the barred zone of the waters giving access to the northern Russian ports.

### UNITED STATES DECIDES "WAR TO THE KNIFE"

#### Military and Naval Co-operation With Allies is Possible and Will Be Unsparring in Money and Supplies.

A despatch from Washington says: The United States Government has decided upon sweeping measures to be put into effect following the expected declaration by Congress soon after it meets April 2 that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany.

Fully appreciating Germany's policy of acting in war first and talking afterwards, the Government has determined to provide against every possible emergency.

Broad questions involved were discussed today at the long Cabinet meeting to which heads of departments

# YOUNG FOLKS

The Stones on The Roof. Marjorie and Robert had their lessons for the morning, and it was still half an hour before bedtime. Marjorie sat up behind her father, who was sitting before the open fire, and whispered something into his ear. "Father, what kind of a story?" he asked, with a smile.

"Oh, a story of the time when you went to school and had to study?" "Bob and I do," answered Marjorie. "That was a long time ago."

"But lots of things happened then, didn't they?" persisted Marjorie. "Father admitted with a laugh that many things happened in those days, and that probably a story was hiding somewhere among them."

"Did I ever tell you about the music lantern exhibition in our schoolhouse?" he asked.

"No, please tell us about it," said both Marjorie and Robert at the same time, and Robert added, "What was the magic lantern, anyway?"

"Well, it is not so exciting as a movie show," said father, "but it was the best we had in our town. Perhaps it was a similar affair. I remember you have heard of it as a street show, and you arranged to give an entertainment at the schoolhouse on the North Road. Saturday night late in the fall. My brother George and I had been planning to add something to the programme."

"Beside the schoolhouse, there was a great willow tree with branches that stretched out over the road. Our plan to climb up in the tree and drop a lot of stones on the people who were passing by. It sounded so funny, but it was just as silly. When it came our turn to talk over the thing, my brother and I did not intend to disturb the entertainment itself. We were to be the stones that gave the entertainment its name, and give everyone a good scare. Then we were going to slip down the tree and run home."

"George had filled a basket with stones—most of them smooth, but a few of a hon's egg, with two or three large ones—his heads—and hid them in the schoolhouse Saturday night. When evening came and the schoolhouse was closed with the exception of the neighborhood, the basket was climbed up into the willow and drew up by a rope. Then we were out on one of the main branches, extended over the roof, and waited down to wait our time."

"But of course something had to go wrong. George and I were to reach it when the rope slipped, and the basket tipped over, and in a moment all the stones were crashing down on the roof, six or seven thousand, and rolling from there to the ground."

"What a racket they made! While the stones were falling, we were on the roof, something was going on. George had a result of the basket when the basket tipped over and he and I were on the roof. The fall was not so tight to the ridgepole to keep rolling over the eaves to the ground after the stones."

"You may be sure I was well off, and when George and I were on the roof, he had better get out of the tree as fast as he could. I tried to follow him, but I hesitated an instant, and he had half a hundred persons rushing through the schoolhouse by that time, and we were gone."

"It was light again for a moment, and there was a great deal of shouting. When we were both on the ground, we expected to be punished for what we had done, but my father, who was a crowd, simply marched us into the schoolhouse and made us take the audience. There was a great deal of laughing and shouting all the time, and when we got home."

"And did you father punish us when you got home?" asked Marjorie as his father paused.

"Do you think we deserved punishment for the silly joke we had played?" asked father.

Robert thought a moment, and then said, "I don't think so."

"Well, that's what my father thought," said father, laughing. "He was usually right. And now it is time for you to go to bed." "Yes, Companion."

"Unique Collection. When the Prince of Wales came home of short leave a few weeks ago, he brought with him another interesting lot of battlefield relics to add to his already unique collection of trophies in which he takes a great pride. His latest collection is a pair of wonderful, from the great Somme battles, and these he has now placed in their places. A present rate of progress the collection fair to become historic."

New Postmaster-General. A despatch from Ottawa says: Hon. E. L. Patenaude, Secretary of State, has been appointed to act as Postmaster-General in the place of Hon. P. E. Houdin, who has announced his intention to join the overseas forces.

