

THE BIG BRITISH OFFENSIVE HAS BEGUN

TREMENDOUS SMASH MADE BY BRITISH

Against the German Lines on a Twenty-Mile Front North of the Somme--Drive Started At 7.30 Saturday Morning.

(Special to the Whig.) London, July 1.—The long-expected British offensive began at 7.30 o'clock this morning with a tremendous smash against the German lines on a twenty-mile front north of the Somme. The British swept forward with a rush, capturing some enemy front line trenches. Many German prisoners were taken. The British attacks were continuing with the greatest violence at the hour when the last despatches were filed. Newspaper extras were grabbed eagerly in the clubs, hotels, on the streets, and everywhere. Within a few minutes the word spread throughout London: "The big push has begun."

After Four Days of Lavish Shell Fire.

The British thrust forward this morning following four days of the most lavish expenditure of shell fire the world has ever known. The German front for nearly ninety miles, from the Yser to the Somme, was bathed in a never-ceasing flame of artillery pounding with the expenditure of millions of shells.

At dawn to-day the British bombardment, which grew more intense throughout yesterday, suddenly concentrated a terrific fire on the German line from Arras south to the Somme. For an hour and a half the German line was under a steady rain of high explosive shells that blotted out the trenches and human life. The big guns lifted their fire at 7.30, the first reports of which were heard in London. At the same instant rows of British troops sprang forward to the attack. "By 9.30," read one despatch, "we had occupied the German front line, digging in behind rows of German dead. British casualties thus far have not been heavy."

Official Statement From War Office.

British troops have broken the German forward defences on a sixteen-mile front, the War Office announced to-day, in the first brief statement on the beginning of the great offensive. French troops, attacking at the same time, penetrated deep into the German trenches.

"North of the Somme, in an attack in conjunction with the French forces, the British have broken the German forward defences on a sixteen-mile front," said the official statement. "The French attack on the immediate right was equally satisfactory."

NORTH PEEL BY-ELECTION

IS TO TAKE PLACE ON THE 10TH OF JULY

Conservative Majorities Reduced in Other Bye-Elections--North Peel the Centre of Political Interest at Present.

(Special to the Whig) Toronto, July 1.—North Peel with its bye-election contest scheduled for July 10th is the centre of political interest in the province. Although the Government majority in this riding at the general election of 1914 was 1,100 and although therefore one might judge hastily that the seat was a perfectly safe one for the Government, as a matter of fact very decided nervousness is being shown by the Government in regard to the result. Undoubtedly the chief reason for this uneasiness on their part is the fact that all bye-election contests since the last general election of 1914 have been disappointments and reverses for them. The contested bye-elections since 1914 and their results are as follows: Hamilton West—June, 1914, Conservative majority 1,411; bye-election November 1914, Conservative majority 36. Dundas County—June, 1914, Conservative majority 673; bye-election December 1914, Conservative majority 62. Peel—June, 1914, Conservative majority 627; bye-election Liberal majority 305. In Hamilton West, therefore, the Government majority was reduced by 1,375 in Dundas by 611 and in Peel the Government lost the seat with a drop of 932. In these three bye-elections, therefore, the change against the Government amounted to 2,918 or an average of almost a thousand. There is nothing to indicate that public opinion has shifted since these bye-elections, in fact there are many evidences that the standing of the Liberal party in the province is higher even than during these contests. It is little wonder, therefore, that the Government is worried over North Peel. Indications are that the movement towards the Liberal party will be maintained in that contest. Wellington, Ont., the Liberal candidate is a most representative man of the constituency. One who has always supported Mr. Rowell in his moral and social reform programmes and one who has been a leader in all the patriotic activities of Perth county.

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ROYAL PARTY RETURNING FROM KITCHENER SERVICE



Crowds lined the streets in solemn silence to see Britain's King going and returning from the service at St. Paul's in memory of Kitchener.

BRITISH RETAIN THE INITIATIVE

In the Great Artillery Duel on the Western Front.

INFLECTING HEAVY LOSSES

WITH VERY SMALL CASUALTIES TO THEMSELVES.

Major Morah says That when the British Really Undertake a Great Strategic Offensive It Will Mean the End of Their Army.

London, July 1.—All the newspapers print lengthy headquarters accounts of the fighting, which testify to the extravagant use of shells by the British forces. The Daily Mail says: "The Germans are answering our great bombardment and are well supplied with shells, but they have never before employed artillery on such a scale as so wide a front as we are doing. An extensive, as against an intensive, method is now on trial, and so far has clearly much agitated the enemy, caused him considerable losses and left our infantry free to enter his trenches at night, here, there and everywhere."

The Times headquarters correspondent says: "The British still retain the initiative and are inflicting heavy losses with surprisingly small casualties to themselves. At no point has there been any permanent change in position. The ground almost everywhere is deep in mud and the trenches full of water, and while the British have harried the enemy badly, no attempt has been made in any of the raids to hold or consolidate ground won. Our object at all points seems to have been to inflict local losses, in which we have been very successful."

What Morah Says. Paris, July 1.—Major Morah, the German military critic, commenting in a recent issue of the Berlin Tageblatt on the British activity in Flanders and Northern France, says: "We believe that when the English really make up their minds to undertake a great strategic offensive the end of the British army will certainly be in sight. We do not wish to underestimate the seriousness of such a fight. Neither, on the other hand, do we want to allow the British to frighten us. The British army has not, and never will, have the operative strength to drive us out of Northern France and Belgium."

BERNHARDT COMING BACK

Divine Sarah Will be in New York in September.

New York, July 1.—Sarah Bernhardt has announced her intention of making the visit to America which the illness that followed the amputation of her leg prevented her from making last season. W. F. Connor, her American manager, received the following cablegram from Mme. Bernhardt: "Sailing from Liverpool end of September, after an engagement in London, where I will present a very novel piece in English and French."

RUSSIANS WITHDREW

As the German Fleet Greatly Out-numbered it in Fight.

(Special to the Whig) London, July 1.—The German fleet attacked a Russian squadron off the Swedish coast Thursday night. The Russians withdrew, after a sharp encounter, owing to the superior number of the enemy forces.

ENEMY RESUMES VERDUN DRIVE

Makes Powerful Attacks on Both Banks of the Meuse River.

THE FRENCH HAVE REGAINED ALL THE LOST GROUND EAST OF HILL 304.

Thiaumont Redoubt Entirely Smashed by the Terrific Bombardment.—The French Retain the Outskirts.

(Special to the Whig) Paris, July 1.—The Crown Prince has resumed the drive on Verdun with the most powerful attacks on both banks of the Meuse, the War Office announced. The most violent fighting in many days has developed on the north-west sectors of the fortifications. The Germans gained some fortified work and the elements of connecting trenches in fighting east of Hill 304. The French counter-attacks later regained all the lost ground.

East of the Meuse, the Germans again penetrated the Thiaumont work which was recaptured by the French yesterday. The redoubt itself was entirely smashed in by terrific artillery. The French retain the outskirts.

THE BRITISH TERMS TOO SEVERE FOR HUNS

Regarding Relief for Poland, But Germany May Have To Yield.

Washington, July 1.—The State Department has forwarded to Germany England's last note on the subject of relief for Poland, and to-day awaited Germany's reply.

Some Washington officials believe the negotiations are bound to fail, due to Germany's unwillingness to comply with the strict conditions England lays down.

The view was privately expressed, however, that if the Allied offensive becomes general on all fronts, and there is any such success by the Russian right wing as has followed Gen. Brusiloff's drive with the Russian southern armies, Germany may be willing to concede some of the points.

THREE DROWNED; BOAT UPSET

Quebec Man, Young Son and Woman Friends Victims.

Quebec, July 1.—Mrs. W. J. Guillot, wife of W. J. Guillot, manager of the dry goods firm of Marceau & Co., St. Joseph street, this city; M. A. Jobin, a local correspondent of La Patrie, Montreal, and his young son, were drowned in the Jacques Cartier River at Stoneham. The body of Mrs. Guillot was recovered shortly afterwards, but as yet the bodies of Mr. Jobin and his son have not been found.

THE KING ORDERS CASEMENT DEGRADED

(Special to the Whig.) London, July 1.—An appeal has been filed on three technical points in the Casement case. King George has directed that Casement be degraded from his order of knighthood.

WANT TO CROSS OVER

Demand Has Been Made on Swiss Republic

Berne, July 1.—It is reported here that Germany is pressing Switzerland to allow transportation of troops across her territory.

WAR BULLETINS

Italian offensive in the Trentino has been extended to other portions of the front with great success.

It was officially announced that the Russians have captured Kolomea in eastern Galicia.

Night raids of German trenches continue on the western front. Information gained in valuable in preparing the way for the big drive.

TO RESTRICT TRAVELLING

(Special to the Whig) London, July 1.—The War Office this afternoon requested that in the interests of public safety, travel on the continent would be restricted to persons having the most serious business.

THE RUSSIANS HAVE TAKEN THE GALICIAN TOWN OF OBERTYN IN PURSUIT OF THE RETREATING AUSTRIANS.

The Russian advance in Galicia has been reported to have reached the town of Obertyn in pursuit of the retreating Austrians.

ANTI-UNIONISTS PLAN CAMPAIGN

Presbyterians Meet at Toronto to Discuss Means—Districts for Ontario.

Toronto, July 1.—Upwards of 200 prominent Presbyterians attended a conference at New St. Andrew's church to consider ways and means for nullifying the recent vote of the general assembly at Winnipeg in favor of church union.

After being in session for two hours, on the motion of Rev. Dr. Robertson, those present pledged themselves to start a campaign with the object of securing the perpetuity of the Presbyterian church in Canada.

It was suggested that the Province of Ontario be divided into three districts, with Toronto, London and Kingston as the respective headquarters, to rally the anti-unionists together for the purpose of safeguarding their great heritage.

The action of the majority at the general assembly was declared absolutely illegal.

TO HANG TWO UNLESS A THIRD SURRENDERS

Austrian Commander at Cetinje After Scalp of Montenegrin Cabinet Member.

Bordeaux, July 1.—The Montenegrin foreign office, which temporarily is established here, has given out a communication stating that Gen. Weber, Austrian commander at Cetinje, has issued a proclamation to the effect that unless M. Vukotich, former member of the Montenegrin Cabinet, surrenders himself within five days his two brothers would be captured and hanged. At the same time an order was issued offering 50,000 francs each for M. Vukotich and his brothers.

Gen. Weber's action is said to be due to popular agitation on the part of Montenegrins against the Austrian forces of occupation. It is stated that the principal Montenegrin tribe has been fined heavily.

KING NICHOLAS

Of Montenegro, Trusts Nation's Fate To France.

Paris, July 1.—The Temps prints an interview with King Nicholas of Montenegro in which he says: "I have placed my fate and that of my people in the hands of France, which I love. I have confidence in her and feel sure that her sense of justice will induce her to give Montenegro the compensation due it. Cattaro and Scutari are more than ever desired by my people. We hope that after their victory the Allies will not forget it."

HOSPITALS CARING FOR 2,000 SOLDIERS

Ottawa, July 1.—Two thousand returned soldiers, maintained, wounded or invalid at the front, are now under the care of the Military Hospitals Commission of Canada.

Sir James Lougheed, chairman of the Commission, said to-day that he anticipated that by Christmas the number would be 10,000.

NO CHURCH UNION TILL AFTER THE WAR

Statement Issued by the Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly.

Winnipeg, July 1.—The Rev. Dr. Baird, moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly, has prepared a brief statement on the church union question to be read in all Presbyterian churches throughout Canada on Sunday.

Dr. Baird points out that no steps for the final consummation of union will be taken until the close of the war. Meanwhile a special committee will seek legal advice about the legislation required and will confer with similar committees from other parties to the union.

DAILY MEMORANDUM

Band Concert, Macdonald Park, Monday. No Whig on Monday. Dominion Day holiday.

See top page 3, right hand corner, for probabilities.

Baseball, Cricket Field, Monday, 10 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. Baseball, Cricket Field, Monday, 3 p.m. Havana Red Sox vs. City League team. 15th Battalion Band in attendance.

Decoration of graves, by Oddfellows of the city, on Sunday, July 2nd, at Cataragui cemetery. Buses leave Y. M. C. A. at 9:30 o'clock sharp.

MARRIED

MacKinnon-Wright—On June 25th, 1916, at the home of the bride, 279 Alfred street, Kingston, by Rev. M. MacGillivray, D.D., Eileen, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Wright, to Rev. John MacKinnon, M.A., B.D., of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

BOCKING-MACDONALD—In Kingston on Thursday, June 29th, by Rev. Fr. Hanley, Lily Macdonald, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Macdonald, Galway, Ire., and Pte. Thomas H. Bocking, of the 16th Bait. C.E.F., youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. James Bocking, Lower Bagot street.

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FAMILIAR QUOTATIONS

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM MANY THINKERS. Life is too short to waste; 'twill soon be dark. —EMERSON



LORD ROSEBERRY. One of the strong thinkers in Britain today.