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KINGSTON, ONTARIO, MONDAY, APRIL 16, 1917.

LAST EDITION

BRITISH GRADUALLY ENCIRCLING THE GREAT COAL CITY OF LENS

Two German Counter-attacks Failed—The British Artillery Concentrated in a Devastating Fire and Slaughtered the Massed Attacking Forces of the Teutons.

By Wm. Philip Simms. (Special to the Whig.) With the British Armies Afield, April 16.—British troops fought their way forward into the outskirts of St. Quentin and Lens to-day. Just north of St. Quentin they took the village of Troisles-Uvages. Around three sides of Lens they were fiercely fighting against the German defenders and slowly encircling the coal city.

The Germans fought desperately while in the town itself, and strove frantically to remove their guns and supplies. Again early to-day the Germans made two more strong attacks against British positions at Monchy-le-Preaux. Both failed. The British artillery, concentrated in a devastating fire, slaughtered the massed attacking forces of the Teutons.

Another German attack likewise in great force was made on both sides of the Bapaume-Cambrai road against Hermettes, Noreuil and Lagnicourt. The British held firm at Hermettes and Noreuil, but the enemy obtained a foothold on a spur 2,000 yards to the north of Pennebaling and Lagnicourt. Immediately, however, the British counter-attacked and swept the enemy out. The Germans lost heavily in this attack and subsequent British counter-attacks.

Germans Destroying Their Stores.

The civil population were removed on Friday, and three months' rations gathered in Lens by the American Relief Commission were seized. Great fires are burning, showing that the Germans are destroying their stores preparatory to their departure.

Along the entire front from the Scarpe river to south of Loos, the British have pressed forward, and have reached points two to three miles east of Vimy Ridge.

Gen. Haig's sledge-hammer blows have been too much for the Germans to withstand. All along the front from Loos, north of Lens, to a point well to the south-east of Arras, the Germans are reported in retreat, fighting as they go to delay as best they can the British advance and give time to complete the preparation of defensive positions in the rear.

BALFOUR ARRIVES IN UNITED STATES

British and French Commissions to be Received at White House.

(Special to the Whig.) Washington, April 16.—The British Foreign Minister, Arthur J. Balfour, has arrived in the United States. He will reach here at 5.30 o'clock this afternoon.

Mr. Balfour and his party, together with the French commissioners, including former Premier Viviani and Gen. Joffre, until recently commander-in-chief of the British armies, will be tendered a reception at the White House on Wednesday. America's part in the world war of democracies against autocracy will then be definitely determined. Not only the question of co-operation on the fighting front but problems of feeding and furnishing the European nations with munitions and money will be considered.

CANNOT DICTATE TO WHOLE WORLD.

Amsterdam, April 16.—The Socialist newspaper Vorwaerts of Berlin says editorially: "The German Government must have the courage to tell the German people the simple truth, which is simply that it is impossible to dictate terms of peace to a world of enemies."

BRIDGE BLOWN UP.

(Special to the Whig.) Petrograd, April 16.—The blowing up of the bridge over the Stry river, near Liasowa, (in Galicia) was reported in today's official statement. A loaded 3-inch shell weighing 15 pounds, made in the United States, was found Friday night in the press room of the New York Globe.

OFFICIAL WAR STATEMENTS

British. London, April 15.—The official statement says: We advanced our line slightly during the night east of Henel. "North of the Souchez River our progress has been continued. We captured the enemy defences east of Lievin, from Riamont Wood to the eastern corner of Cite St. Pierre, and our troops are pushing on in the direction of Lens. "Yesterday and during the night of April 12th large quantities of explosives were dropped by our aeroplanes with good results on enemy stations, ammunition depots and aerodromes and hostile infantry and convoys were attacked successfully with machine gun fire. In the course of the fighting behind the enemy lines four German machines were brought down and six others were driven down. Two of our machines failed to return. "We further progressed in the neighbourhood of Havrincourt wood, and east of Lievin where our troops are approaching the outskirts of Lens. Our aeroplanes carried out successful bombing raids yesterday. Valuable work was performed in co-operation with our artillery. Severe fighting occurred in the air throughout the day. Four German aeroplanes were brought down and eleven others were driven down by our machines. Ten of our aeroplanes are missing.

Italian.

Rome, April 15.—"In the Trentino snow and bad weather again hindered operations yesterday," says today's War Office statement. "On the Carso on Friday night the enemy attempted a surprise attack on Hill 144. He was driven off and dispersed by our rifle and machine-gun fire. The enemy afterwards carried out a violent bombardment, which our batteries promptly silenced." Saturday's report told of the destruction by Italian artillery of railway stations, moving trains and ammunition depots in the Zugna district. Two hostile aeroplanes were brought down in the Gorizia basin.

PRESENT BATTLE LINE IN RELATION TO GERMAN BOUNDARY



This map shows the extent of gains of the last three weeks. The gain at some points is as deep as 25 or 30 miles, and affects a frontage of about 120 miles. Elsewhere the battle line is unchanged as yet, though the fruits of the past week's victory at Arras may be important. From the Canadians' position at Vimy ridge to the German-Belgian frontier is about 125 miles.

ENEMY LOSES 200 BIG GUNS

And the German Defensive Power Has Become Greatly Weakened.

HUNS MAY BE OVERWHELMED

BY THE PERSISTENT OFFENSIVE OF THE BRITISH.

The Germans Are Nervy and Jumpy—The Victory of Vimy Will be Repeated at the Next Enemy Position. London, April 16.—Reuter's correspondent at Army Headquarters in France sends the following: "The number of guns and howitzers captured by the British is now believed to be 200. The loss of these weapons must considerably weaken the German's defensive power. Trained teams of artillerymen now accompany the infantry in every advance in order to make prompt use against their former owners of any guns taken. "The great batches of prisoners in the cages are causing some annoyance because they disregard entirely their own officers. This absence of discipline is regarded as significant because nothing like it has been observed before among German prisoners. It seems indicative of a change of mind in the German army. German officers and non-commissioned officers complain that the chief cause of the present disaster has been the difficulty experienced in controlling the men.

ROYALTY ADOPTS NATIONAL RATIONS.

London, April 16.—It is announced that, realizing the urgent need for economy, particularly with regard to breadstuffs, the King and Queen, together with their household and servants, have adopted the scale of national rations since early in February.

Approval of Flying Services.

London, April 16.—King George has become colonel-in-chief of the naval and military wings of the Royal Flying Corps, "to mark his admiration of the splendid services both wings have rendered since the commencement of the war."

May be Overwhelmed.

The offensive has developed into a great push in the most literal sense of the word. The success of the operations which began on Monday has been greater than perhaps we realize, and the Germans are being pushed back from Loos southward. It takes an army a long time to get away, however skillfully the retreat may have been planned, and with a vigorous offensive clinging to its skirts in its efforts to avoid defeat it may be overwhelmed. "German garrisons sneaked out of some villages during the night, but this slipping away cannot be carried very far, and when they are forced back on the line to which they may have hastily withdrawn and without those guns and stores which they were unable to get away a decisive thing may happen."

German Nervous

From one end of the British front to the other the Germans are palpably nervous and jumpy. Where they have been driven from their old positions they are feverishly digging at every opportunity, particularly at night. Each morning new aeroplanes photographs show the result of the nocturnal activities behind the temporary line. Most of the new trenches are merely emergency defences built at angles with a view to giving cover to machine guns with which the Germans hope to delay the British advance until further work can be made the rear defences tenable. It is now stated that no part of

the Hindenburg line was expected to be completed until the end of April, despite the claim that the recent western retreat had been entirely according to German plans.

The Germans in the front line have long been worried by the inferiority of their artillery to that of the British. Another correspondent predicts that the victory of Vimy will be repeated at the next German position when the British guns are brought up, "unless the Germans denude the eastern front for the benefit of the west. This they may seek to do; the transfer of some German troops from east to west having already begun.

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CANADIANS USE GERMAN GUNS

Against the Retreating Enemy Who Abandoned Them in Large Numbers.

TEUTON DEFENCE AT LENS

GAVE WAY LIKE BURSTING OF ST. LAWRENCE ICE

Canadians Took Over Fifty Guns in One Week's Fighting—Lens and Other Places Set in Flames By The Enemy.

By Stewart Lyon, Special Correspondent of the Canadian Press. Canadian Army Headquarters, April 15.—Like the bursting of the ice in the St. Lawrence in spring the German defence on the western front about Lens gave way. The Canadian patrols have been feeling their way forward into the plain to the east of Vimy Ridge. The enemy's retreat has been hastened by the steady rain of shells upon him all night, not only by the heavy guns on the western side of the ridge, but also by guns which, by great exertion have been hauled

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across the ruined area pitted with shell holes. As we advance further into his country we find that the going is easier. At the moment of filing this message Artois is burning. In the region between Farbus and Artois the enemy has been forced to abandon much artillery. Heavy guns have been left in good conditions by the German runners because they were ringer by our fire. They have been turned upon the fleeing foe and most of the captured guns are in action already and others will be sent up as soon as gun crews can be utilized.

Canadians Capture 50 Guns.

Perhaps the best illustration of the way the enemy has hastily abandoned much of his best guns is that of a nest of batteries in a certain location. These guns were so absolutely isolated yesterday by a concentration of our fire on them that they were left unharmed when the Germans fled. The total number of guns taken by the Canadians during the week is over 50, many of them big ones, which are now in our service. This total will be greatly increased when the territory now under fire is explored. To the north of our line Lens is still burning. British troops there are reported to have occupied La Coulette, a mining village southwest of Lens, and are pushing on. In the abandoned enemy trenches east of Givenchy have been found two wounded British aviators, who were forced to remain there for five days without medical aid. One had a fractured leg.

Brigadier Captured Prisoners.

The first enemy prisoners secured in the Givenchy district were two found in a dugout by a brigadier, who had gone forward to observe the position in the region to the east of the scene of last Wednesday's battle for the last part of Vimy Ridge. Hundreds of enemy could have been seen who were victims of our artillery and machine gun fire while en route to reinforce their hard pressed companions in the front trenches. On this part of the field the enemy dead are most numerous. The total number of prisoners taken by the Canadians during the week now number more than four thousand.

The commander of the Canadian corps is very proud of the splendid work of his men and of the praise bestowed upon them from all quarters. It must not be forgotten that the battle of Vimy and the pursuit of the enemy was but one phase, though a very important one, in a series of titanic conflicts extended all along the western front, where the combatants number at least one and a half million men. The British troops are maintaining their most glorious traditions.

A MOMENTOUS WEEK AT WASHINGTON.

Many Things Are Timed to Occur During the Next Few Days.

(Special to the Whig.) Washington, April 16.—One of the most eventful weeks in American history lay before the United States today. With President Wilson's appeal calling for the co-operation of every man and woman of the nation in waging a successful war, Congress will put the war on firm footing this week. At the same time Allied high commission will probably be here. Such men as Arthur J. Balfour, former Premier Viviani, of France, and other notables, will offer suggestions; make known the peace terms of the Allies and clinch the co-operation of this government. The senate is expected to place an unwavering approval upon seven billions of war bond issue bill by tomorrow or Wednesday. Senator La Follette, however, may vote against it. With the bond issue out of the way, both houses will consider taxation problems. The selective conscription bill is now before the Senate Military Committee while other war-line bills like espionage, wood- and shipbuilding plans, and finance measures are due for early action. The selective draft measure now seems likely to pass, though President Wilson may have to exert further pressure upon the halting legislators.

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THREE TOWNS ABOUT TO FALL

Lens, Queant And St. Quentin Are Almost In Allies' Hands.

BRITISH BATTER THEIR WAY

CLOSE TO THE CAMBRAI-ST. QUENTIN LINE.

The Germans Resist Desperately and Lose Heavily—The Booty Captured by the British is Very Great.

(Special to the Whig.) London, April 16.—The British advance continues. The towns of Lens, Queant and St. Quentin are almost in the Allies' hands. The city of Lille is expected to fall soon. In the face of the most valiant resistance rallied against the British drive, Field Marshal Haig's forces to-day battered their way still further around Lens and pushed another wedge to within a mile and a half of the Cambrai-St. Quentin line. "We penetrated to the northwest of Lens," was the British commander-in-chief's laconic comment on that point in the fighting where the British forces have straddled the famed Hindenburg line.

Gen. Haig also to-day announced the capture of Villaret, southeast of Hargicourt, the taking by the British troops of a wedge thrust against the main Hindenburg line of communications from St. Quentin to Cambrai on a front of approximately five miles. Villaret is five miles to the north of Fresnoy-le-Petit and many thousands already in British hands, and both one and a half miles from the Cambrai-St. Quentin line.

Germans Resist Desperately.

The German defence was centring to-day around Monchy-le-Preaux. "The enemy attack at Monchy on Saturday," Gen. Haig's report to-day asserted, "was pressed in a most determined manner. The third Bavarian division was again hurled as reinforcement to the German line and ordered to retake Monchy at all costs. Its losses were that of other German troops, was exceptionally heavy. "An estimate of the booty captured Lievin and along Souchez river is not available yet, but it was exceedingly large, including some six-inch naval guns and many thousands of rounds of ammunition of all calibres, as far as eight-inch guns. "Out booty includes quantities of trench mortars, bombs, grenades, truck loads of new tools, many lengths of tram lines with trucks, complete, and two large engineer dumps. "More than one-third of our prisoners since the 9th were Bavarians."

DAILY MEMORANDUM

See top of page 3, right hand column, for probabilities.

DEED

BONNY—In Kingston, on April 14th, 1917, George Lewis Bonny, third oldest son of George Bonny, died at 12 years and 10 months. Funeral from his late residence, 32 Quebec street, Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock, to Cataract cemetery. Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.

BRANIGAN—In Kingston, on April 14th, 1917, Nora Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Denis P. Branigan, died at 2 years and 3 months. Funeral from her residence Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock.

MACDONELL—In Kingston, at Hotel Dieu Hospital, Tuesday, sister of A. J. Macdonell, manager of the Bank of Montreal, Kingston, died at 67 years. Funeral (private) took place from 23 Sydney street to St. Mary's cathedral where a solemn requiem was sung at 10.30 o'clock on Monday morning.

MARSHALL—In Kingston, on April 14th, 1917, Florence, wife of R. W. Marshall, in her 64th year. Funeral took place from her late residence, cor. Montreal and Bay streets to Cataract cemetery at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon.

SEARLE—In Kingston, on April 15th, 1917, Olive Coleman, wife of Geo. E. Searle, aged 37 years. Funeral at 2 o'clock.

SWALES—In Kingston, on Sunday, April 15th, 1917, Jane Swan, widow of the late W. E. Swales. Funeral (private) on Tuesday afternoon.

WOULD MAKE SEPARATE PEACE WITH RUSSIA

Austria-Hungary Has Made a Formal Bid—War Aims Identical.

(Special to the Whig.) New York, April 16.—The greatest interest attaches to-day to Austria-Hungary's formal bid for peace with Russia. A semi-official Vienna statement outlined the identical character of the war aims expressed by Russia, under the provisional Government's recent manifesto, and those heretofore stated by Austria-Hungary, and morally invited Russia to consider these identical aims as the basis of peace. This is the first admission from the Central Powers that they are angling for a separate peace with Russia.

Reichstag Called.

(Special to the Whig.) Amsterdam, April 16.—Advices from Berlin to-day declared that the Reichstag had been summoned to meet on April 24th, and that Imperial Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg was expected to make an early statement on Russia.

Mahlon E. Lyon, ex-Warden of Elgin county, died at Moorovia, Cal., at the age of seventy-two.

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The Leading Undertaker, Phone 577, 230 Princess Street

Familiar Quotations

I would not waste my spring of youth in idle dalliance; I would plant rich seeds, To blossom in my manhood and bear fruit When I am old. HILLHOUSE.