

Allies Have Stopped the Great German Drive

Wednesday night's London report said: "The British retirement is at an end. The road to Amiens is effectively barred. Reserves are pouring into the fighting area and smashing back the German storm troops, regaining ground and some strategical points."

OPTIMISM IS HIGHER AMONG THE ALLIES

Counter-Attacks by British and French and Regaining of Ground Relieves Tension-- Allied Resistance One of Finest Pages in Annals of the War.

London, March 28.—Last 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 both the French and British are bringing up reserves. The correspondents also are showing greater confidence that the enemy will be held on this terrain. The German official communication last 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 yesterday 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 yesterday, indicating that the most phase of the German offensive here has been finished. From the southern sector, however, came word that the Germans were still pressing the attack with great fury against the unwavering defense.

To Bring Up Artillery.
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 Sully-le-Sec, where the Germans on Tuesday night gained a footing, the British yesterday morning delivered a smashing counter-attack which pushed the invaders back. The spirit of optimism was higher along the front to-day. The resistance of the Allied troops to the German advance constitutes one of the finest pages in the annals of the war. The gallant sacrifices which those hardy warriors made in covering the withdrawal and delaying the German sweep forward undoubtedly will have an important effect on the final outcome of this greatest of all battles.

Germans Bombard Canadian Line.
(Canadian Press Despatch.)
British Army Headquarters in France, March 28.—The German artillery this morning put down an intense bombardment along the front between Acheville and the Soutchez river, south of Lens, where the Canadians are. Up to the time of the filing of this despatch at 10 a.m. no infantry action had been reported.

The Germans made several assaults near Rossignol wood, but on each occasion were driven back. Near Sully Laurette, another sharp engagement occurred and, here also the British maintained themselves and secured prisoners. The Germans are continuing to bring up artillery and rush in new troops from various parts of the line in preparation for the continuance of the drive.

The Allies Are Holding Well.
News received from the extreme right wing is that the Allies are holding well. This referred to the southern sector, where the French have been falling back. Near Beaumont Hamel, the enemy attacked heavily. Severe fighting followed. This morning it appeared that the village was No Man's Land, with the contending lines drawn close on either side. Hard fighting occurred at several points along the battle front during the night in consequence of enemy attacks. The latest reports indicate that the British have kept the situation well in hand.

British Gains Greater Than German.
(Canadian Press Despatch.)
London, March 28.—In the last twenty-four hours the Germans have made but one comparatively trifling gain as the result of numerous massed attacks along the whole front, says Reuter's correspondent at British Headquarters. For the British there may be claimed several distinct local successes, either in completely repelling enemy blows or in wresting back ground won by counter-attacks.

LLOYD-GEORGE URGES HASTE IN SENDING AMERICAN TROOPS

New York, March 28.—An Associated Press despatch from Washington to-day says: The appeal of Lloyd George for urgent haste in American troop movements to France, received in New York last night by Lord Reading, British Ambassador, was viewed here to-day as a call to the American people. British officials are already fully advised as to the situation here and know that the American government is straining every resource to get men to the front and has confident hopes of placing a force of a million or more men in the field during the present year.

A CHANCE FOR RUSSIA TO RE-ORGANIZE

And Declare War Against Germany When the Offensive Fails.

Petrograd, March 28.—The Bolsheviks declare the German offensive offers Russia a chance to reorganize and declare war against Germany when the offensive fails. The War Minister, M. Trotsky, yesterday proclaimed universal military training. The highest grades were ordered to report immediately. The old officers reporting en masse.

Driving Austrians Back.

Moscow, March 27.—Bolshevik troops, an official announcement says, have been successful in fighting the Austrians in the Southern Ukraine. The cities of Nikolayev, Kherson and Znanaka have been recaptured by the Russians.

Engineers Abandon Strike.

London, March 28.—In view of the critical situation at the front, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers has abandoned the strike movement it has been long threatening in a protest against the Government's man-power measure.

THE SITUATION LESS CRITICAL

The Total British Losses in Guns Are Only About 600.

ENEMY DEFINITELY CHECKED

NORTH OF THE SOMME—HIS TROOPS EXHAUSTED.

Fully Half the German Divisions Face the British—If This Drive Fails Crown Prince Will Launch One in Champagne.

London, March 28.—The British delivered a counter-attack yesterday between the angle of the Ancre and Somme and recaptured Morlancourt and Chipilly, the War Office announced last evening. The British again advanced their line south of the Somme to Proyart yesterday.

The capture of Albert by the Germans is purely secondary to the saving of Amiens. Albert is without strong natural defenses and its abandonment by the British means no more than an intention to strengthen their positions, blocking the road to Amiens. Situation Less Critical. London, March 27.—"The situation is less critical than at any time in the last three days," declared Gen. Maurice, director of operations, at three o'clock yesterday afternoon, summing up the reports received up to one o'clock. "The enemy is in Albert," Maurice said. "We hold the railway embankment on the western outskirts. Our airmen last night dropped 22 tons of bombs on enemy reserves at Bapaume and Peronne. Our total losses in guns have been about 600. German estimates of prisoners are likewise exaggerated. "The enemy has been definitely checked north of the Somme. Their troops show exhaustion. Reserves, however, are coming up north of Albert. "South of the Somme, fresh enemy attacks are expected. Their reserves are approaching Roye and Noyon. French reserves also are approaching those places. "The battle is far from over. Other crises are possible, but time is on our side. The enemy is further from his rail heads. His lines are congesting, creating difficulty in moving. "Our reserves, especially the French, are coming nearer and nearer the battlefield. "There have been two critical moments—Saturday, the enemy crossed the Tortille, seriously endangering the separation of our forces north of the Somme. But the gap was filled. "Monday, they broke through and took Martinpuich and Courcellette. Again the gap was filled."

ENEMY CLAIMS EXAGGERATED

As To the Capture of British Men, Guns and Tanks.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)
London, March 28.—Britain has lost six hundred guns and one hundred tanks in the present big battle, said Major-General F. B. Maurice, chief director of military operations. The Germans have been claiming one thousand guns. Gen. Maurice intimates that the German claims of prisoners are similarly exaggerated.

THE R.C.H.A. DID GREAT WORK

Helped to Slaughter Huns in the Great Battle This Week.

CRASHED RIGHT THROUGH

SOME GERMAN CAVALRY TRYING TO STOP THEM.

All Through the First Day the Guns of the R.C.H.A. Swept Gaps in the Thick Advancing Germans.

Ottawa, March 28.—In a cable message, given out by the Prime Minister's office last night, Roland Hill states that "in the stupendous gun duel which was the prelude to this greatest of all battles now raging between the Scarpe and the Oise, Canadians played their own little but not altogether insignificant part. The railway construction troops, the horse artillery, and the motor machine-gun batteries were in the thick of the great struggle, yet every unit to-day is congratulating itself. Our casualties were very light, our losses in material not worth considering. "We had horsehoes strung all round us," declared the commander of the railway battalion whose old camp is for the present in the Huns' hands. "All through the first day the guns of the Canadian Horse Artillery swept gaps in the thick advancing hordes of Hun storm troops. Sometimes before they limbered up to take a new position they were firing point-blank on the Germans, moving lines in each succeeding wave," said a Canadian officer. "Sometimes the attackers were dislodged, and they would sweep by us and we would find we were actually in front of our own infantry, but not for long did that sheer weight of human flesh stay in our rear. "But Two Batteries Destroyed. "Fighting, sometimes outnumbered, by ten to one, some Irish troops around us with bayonets and bombs came flinging back into the fray until the infantry was again secure in front of us. Those men were wonderful, and never for a minute looked as if they could be beaten. During most of the early morning the work had to be done with gas masks on, so great was the number of gas shells poured in on each battery. After locating the desired positions the enemy made a complete and narrowing circle of light shrapnel shells around it, and then poured in heavy shells on the gunners. As yet I cannot obtain details of what the R.C.H.A. suffered, but I hear that in spite of changing positions, seven or eight times bringing horses inside the barrage and taking the guns out, only two of the Canadian batteries were lost or destroyed. At one time some Hun cavalry were behind them, but the teams with the undamaged guns drove crashing through the small troops that tried to stop them. All the guns that fell into the enemy's hands were blown up before the crews left them. "In another part of the attacked line I met a Winnipeg major who had a battery of heavy guns. He was alert and smiling after two days of ceaseless fighting, and quite ready to go in again at a minute's notice. Two of his subalterns were Canadians who had served their apprenticeship in Canada's heavy batteries. "We kept the game going," said one of them, "until we had the strict orders to get further back in case the way was closed behind us. We ran into one break and the crew that came to the rescue was a Canadian Railway Construction Battalion. "Heavy Canadian batteries are in action," concluded the message. "Where they came from and how they got there is a marvel. When I found the battery it was peering, awfully as it had been in that position, all their military lives."

The Board of Control, Toronto, is sending on a tax rate of 30.5 mills to the City Council.

WIG CONTENTS.

- 1—Optimism is Higher; Situation Less Critical; A New Stroke of Enemy.
- 2—Two Batteries Were Lost; Incidents of the Day.
- 3—Practical Patriotism; Theatrical News.
- 4—Editorial; Rippling Rhymes.
- 5—To Start Tree Cutting; Shipping of Liquor.
- 6—Eastern Ontario News.
- 7—The Forum; Amusements; Announcements.
- 8—Miscellaneous.
- 9—Music in the Home; Awaiting Counter Blow.
- 10—The Woman Who Changed.
- 11—Tasty Blossoms; Illustrated; British Flight Double Numbers.
- 12—The Sunday School Lesson.
- 13—News from the Countryside.
- 14—The World of Sport; Misc and Misc.

GERMANS VICTIMS OF FRIGHTFULNESS

The People Would Rise But Are Too Weak From Starvation.

Chicago, March 28.—Miss Blanche Slocum, held a virtual prisoner in Germany since the outbreak of the war, arrived at her home in Chicago yesterday and told of the suffering of the German people, and of their rising detestation of the war and of the Government. "The people are literally starving and are very mutinous," she said. "Small riots and seditious talk have reached such proportions that the Government has posted placards about the city of Berlin offering a reward of 3,000 marks for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person participating in the food riots or uttering seditious remarks. "I have had German soldiers tell me they wished Germany would lose the war, so they could get out of the terrible situation. If the people were not victims of frightfulness and half starved, there would be an immediate revolution."

Will Prove Worthy Of Empire's Trust

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

London, March 28.—In response to Premier Lloyd George's message that help was on the way, Field Marshal to-day sent the following: "The assurances that no effort will be spared at home to give us all assistance are of great encouragement to us. We will do all in our power to maintain the honor of the empire in this hour of trial, and prove ourselves worthy of the trust reposed in us."

\$1,358.62 SUBSCRIBED

To the Y.M.C.A. Campaign Fund Up To Thursday Noon.

Things are going along very nicely in connection with the campaign for funds being conducted by the local Y.M.C.A. The workers report a very kind reception on all hands, the majority of the subscribers renewing their former pledges and some increasing in view of the advantage it would be if the association could wipe out its deficit. The total till to-day noon in cash and pledges was \$1,358.62 received from the following: \$21.62—Previously reported. \$50—William Jackson, P. S. Maxwell. \$30—George R. Smith. \$25—Robertson Grocery Co., Hugh C. Niekke. \$20—Fred Welch, H. W. Newman. \$15—J. B. Bunt, John Donnelly, Dr. G. W. Mylks, Hanson, Crozier & Edgar, Isaac Cohen, Dr. S. H. Simpson, Samuel Green. \$5—W. M. Shurtliff, Dr. O. W. Daly, E. A. Turner, J. Taber, A. Rawson, C. H. Boyes, Norman Brothers, C. A. Bunt, J. C. Strange, C. D. Home, J. F. McMillan, James Stewart, W. R. Clugston, H. W. Watts, William Anderson, A. H. Muir. \$2—J. Gordon, Thomas Gaskin. \$1—H. S. Hittman, Hy. Harkness, M. C. Dunn.

MOVE TO PROHIBIT FAIRS

W. F. Kay Will Move So In Interests Of Production.

Ottawa, March 28.—W. F. Kay, member of Missisquoi, Que., has given notice of the following resolution: "That it is of the greatest importance that, all measures tending to increase agricultural production or for conserving agricultural labor should be taken by the Government in the interests of the allies and of Canada's whole-hearted participation in the winning of the war, and that as a means to this end all exhibitions and fairs throughout the country should be prohibited for the present year."

REDUCED OPERATIONS

In Ukraine to Throw All Artillery Against the Allies.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)
Petrograd, March 28.—A grand council of German generals, presided over by von Hindenburg, decided that operations in the Ukraine should be continued to a minimum in order to throw all artillery against the Franco-British forces. Canadian Casualties. Wounded—J. W. Fox, H. H. Hignett, Smith's Falls; D. O. Hamilton, Colden; C. H. Sly, Gananoque; John Pearson, Halesburg; A. Jacques, Martintown. Gassed—D. Paterson, Cornwall; R. J. Wilson, Almonte.

NEW STROKE IN NORTH; HOLDING THE ENEMY

The Fighting is Fierce on Both Banks of the Somme—A Drive for the Channel Ports Is Said To Be German Objective in New Developments.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)
London, March 28.—Prisoners and machine guns have been captured by the British, the War Office announces. The fighting continues fiercely on both banks of the Somme. This morning the enemy opened a heavy bombardment on the British defenses east of Arras. An attack is developing in this section. Repeated attacks were made by the enemy along the valley of the Somme in the neighborhood of Beaumont Hamel, Puisieux and Moyenneville. They were repulsed. The reference in the official British statement of the attack east of Arras, evidently means that the Germans have widened their battlefront and are delivering a new stroke on the north. The battle was begun last week on the front extending as far north as the River Scarpe, the junction of which with the battle line is almost due east of Arras. No fighting north of river has been reported. The attacks which are developing to-day may mark the beginning of the second phase of the battle. German military writers in the last few days have been hinting surprises were in store for the British and there has been much discussion of the possibility of a German drive for the coast, with the Channel ports of Calais and Dunkirk as the objectives. The statement follows: "Severe fighting took place again yesterday evening and during the night astride of the Somme, and northward from Albert to Boyells. Repeated attacks were made by the enemy along the Valley of the Somme, and in neighborhood of Beaumont Hamel, Puisieux and Moyenneville. They were repulsed. We captured a number of prisoners and a number of machine guns. The fighting is continuing fiercely on both banks of the Somme. This morning the enemy opened a heavy bombardment on our defenses east of Arras, and an attack is developing in this sector."

The French Fall Back. (Canadian Press Despatch.)
Paris, March 28.—Fighting was continuing with violence yesterday evening and last night on the battle front the War Office announced to-day. Blocked on Lassigny and Noyon fronts and on the left bank of the Oise the Germans last night threw forward important forces in the region of Montdidier. The War Office announced to-day. Here fighting rapidly took an extraordinary ferocity. The French regiments fought hand-to-hand with the enemy and inflicted heavy losses. Finally the French fell back to the heights immediately to the west of Montdidier.

FIND NEW CHECK FOR SUBMARINE

When Used on Extensive Scale Steady Toll Will be Taken.

London, March 28.—Although there is no boast that it is a sure panacea for the submarine menace, one of the latest British inventions to combat the U-boats has aroused unusual interest. It is being tried out now, and it is said to be certain that some undersea craft never will return to port again, and that when it is used on a more extensive scale a steady toll will be taken. The splendid results so far have aroused great enthusiasm among naval experts, especially as it is believed the device is proof against any counter devices which the Germans may resort to, therein differing from many others which have been used during the war only to be discontinued. High naval authorities here never have banked their hopes on any single invention to outwit the submarines, but nevertheless have encouraged inventors to submit their plans. This, too, has been the attitude of the Board of Inventions, which now is linked up with the American Board by an American professor of high standing.

REFUSE A PENSION TO THE LATE KING

The Monarch's Intrigues Have Rendered Promise Null and Void.

Athens, March 28.—The Greek Budget Committee has voted against the grant of a pension of 500,000 drachmas annually to former King Constantine. (At normal exchange rate a drachma is equivalent to 19.5 cents.) This pension had been promised the former King of the recommendation of the Allied powers when Constantine left Greece, but the engagement was considered by the committee null and void owing to the incessant intrigues of Constantine and his court in Switzerland, conducted by means of German gold, against the present regime in Greece. The pension will probably be rejected by the Greek Parliament, and the Government, it is indicated, will not insist upon it.

THEY FOUGHT ON THOUGH OVERRUN

Traditional British Steadfastness Never Better Demonstrated.

British Headquarters in France, March 28.—Never has the traditional quality of British steadfastness been more wonderfully illustrated than now. Time and time again troops have been overwhelmed and overrun by swarming legions and as often they have managed to emerge and regain their lines. What would be regarded as unimpeachable feats of skill in field manoeuvres are being constantly performed in the most grim struggle. Prisoners attribute the German success to the wonderful concentration of artillery, the full advantage of which they are losing. At various places the enemy is most reluctant to occupy excavated positions. Whether they are afraid of traps or of being shelled to rags is only conjecturable. Now that we are operating in the open, our great superiority in mechanical transport is giving us the advantage of mobility over the enemy. The back areas are teeming with motor buses packed with soldiers speeding to threatened posts.

British Canadian Recruiting Brisk

Chicago, March 28.—The British-Canadian Recruiting Mission here announced yesterday that volunteering for the British forces has increased 25 per cent. since the German drive began. The Scotch are conspicuous among the British subjects who are offering themselves.

THE ALLIES MASTERS OF THE SITUATION

Paris, March 28.—"Within forty-eight hours the Allies will be masters of the situation," Premier Clemenceau declared yesterday on his return from the front.

The Premier said Amiens is well defended.

British Saved Heavy Guns. Paris, March 28.—The Berlin Lokai Anzeiger publishes a despatch from Lausanne declaring the British saved their entire complement of heavy artillery.