

ONLY COURSE WAS TO RETIRE

In Face of Such Overwhelming Odds in New German Drive.

ENEMY HAS ADVANTAGES

BUT PAID A BIG PRICE FOR QUICK ADVANCE.

The Division of the Crown Prince's Forces Over Three Fields of Offensive A Serious Thing For the Germans.

London, May 30.—G. H. Perris, with the French armies writes:

In the circumstances an attempt to retain the line of the Chemin des Dames would have meant that our troops would be massacred before reserves could reach them, and there was nothing for it but to fall back steadily and in good order, using successive lines of trenches and deep folds of ground to punish the enemy for every forward step he made.

The method of the first phase of the German offensive was again employed, with some improvements. This method rests, as I have shown, upon two main elements—prodigal expenditure of large reserves obtained by the collapse of Russia and Rumania, and skilful use of the great advantage of what are called interior lines of communication to throw a mass of attack suddenly upon a chosen sector, and so to gain a further advantage of surprise.

Division of Foe Armies.

The front now chosen was held until a day or two ago by parts of two armies belonging to a group of which the German Crown Prince is the titular chief. General von Boehm's army, extending from the Oise at Noyon to east of Craonne, numbered nine divisions in the sector. That of General Fritz von Below, extending across the Rheims front to Sulpes, near Anberive, numbered eight divisions. The whole twenty-five miles' attacked yesterday had been held until the eve of the battle by seven or eight divisions.

The exact number of divisions engaged yesterday is not known, but it is over a quarter of a million combatants. There is here a curious difference and a likeness, as compared with the first phase of the offensive. On March 16th to the seven divisions already there were added another seventeen. This time the same number has been added where there were only eight holding the line. Two months ago the front of attack was about forty miles long. This time a rather denser force was employed, perhaps because the Alsine heights constituted a formidable position and it was intended to carry it at a single rush.

German Advantages.

While the front keeps its present shape the German Staff has necessarily a great advantage over that of the allies, in that it is acting from the centre of a crescent, while the allies are around the outside of it. I have described the elaborate measures taken by the enemy to secure complete secrecy and utmost speed in bringing the army of shock to its starting points. If enough time can be given to preparation, and as my last message has been added there has been abnormal, they must gain certain benefits of surprise, and with this benefit such a mass of shock must win a certain depth of ground. It is out of the question at present for the allies to hold any possible sectors of attack strongly enough to make them perfectly secure, and indeed if we had men enough that is not the way in which they would be used.

Not Easy to Lose.

Nothing is more difficult for the layman to seize, and yet nothing is more certain than the change of values as the war evolves. Our only notions of Chemin des Dames were obtained in a time very different from the present emergency, at a time of fixed fronts and of methods, defence.

LIVER TROUBLE and HEARTBURN

CURED BY MILBURN'S LAXA-LIVER PILLS.

When the liver is torpid and inflamed it cannot furnish bile to the bowels, causing them to become hard and costive. The symptoms are a feeling of fullness or weight in the right side, and shooting pains in the same region, pains between the shoulders, yellowness of the skin and eyes, floating specks before the eyes, coated tongue, bad taste in the morning, heartburn, water brash, etc.

Milburn's Laxa-Liver Pills gently unlock the secretions, clear away all effects and waste matter from the system, and give tone and vitality to the whole intestinal tract, and are by far the safest and quickest remedy for all diseases or disorders of the liver. Mrs. A. Cummings, Manchester, Ont., writes: "I have used Milburn's Laxa-Liver Pills some time, and can faithfully recommend them to any one suffering from heartburn and liver trouble. I tried a great many other remedies, but they only relieved me for a time. I believe Laxa-Liver Pills to be a valuable remedy for all sufferers from liver troubles." Milburn's Laxa-Liver Pills are 25c a vial at all dealers, or mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

ally and offensive, that are already old-fashioned to those of us who have watched these blood-soaked hills and gullies for nearly four years, through heart-rending vicissitudes; who remember Haig's and Smith-Dorrien's first attempts to scale what seemed an impregnable fortress, who saw the French blue-coats rush forward last summer till at length they stood firm on the cliffs of Craonne and Hurtebise, who explored the Dragon's Cave, Malraux Fort, and the vast Mont Parasasse, when they still stank of rotting flesh. It is not a light thing that ground so full of tragic memories should be lost. It seems the only the other day that I was adventuring along the Allette by Anisy-le-Chateau, sleeping in a dug-out in Piron Forest, and examining the outposts that then held the northern edge of the hills.

War pays little regard to sentiment and it is not any spectacular stroke or sentimental score that will restore the falling fortunes of the Hohenzollerns. No doubt the French command found it grievous yesterday to order a retreat to the Alsine. French men might have lost many good lives which, after all, are more sacred than the most sacred earth.

Paid a Big Price.

The attack could not be anticipated. It was far beyond the powers of our small forces to ward it off. With sound sense the heaviest assault was directed toward the eastern of the Alsine hills at Craonne. Soon it became evident that the cornucopia could not be held, and that from here the whole line was in danger of being turned. The German forces included some of the specially trained units that fought in von Hutier's army in the March attack, two divisions of the Prussian Guard and other crack divisions. It was only at heavy cost that they got forward so quickly.

Our men retired from position to position without confusion, firing continuously. The fact that our losses are small in comparison with those of the enemy is the essential point. What, then, has the Crown Prince gained? A showy advertisement to set off against his long list of failures, as the position, whether for defence or offense, on the Alsine line is for him no stronger than that of the Allette, with the Laon hills behind it.

Looking beyond the Crown Prince to the German effort as a whole, how does the account stand? This success does strengthen an important southern flank, but against this slight or theoretical benefit must be counted a serious dispersal of forces over three large fields of offensive which have been successfully opened, extending beyond Ypres to near Rheims. None of them can be neglected; all of them must be fed under a system entailing a ratio of loss constantly higher than that of the allied defenders.

The Cause of Indigestion

This blooded people generally have stomach trouble. But they seldom recognize the fact that this blood is the cause of their indigestion, but it is.

This blood is one of the most common causes of stomach trouble; it affects the digestion very quickly. The glands that furnish the digestive fluids are diminished in their activity, the stomach muscles are weakened and there is a loss of nerve force. In this state of health nothing will more quickly restore the appetite, digestion and normal nutrition than good, rich, red blood.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills act directly on the blood, making it rich and red, and this enriches blood strengthens weak nerves, stimulates tired muscles, and awakens to normal activity the glands that supply the digestive fluids. The first sign of returning health is an improved appetite, and soon the effect of these blood-making pills is evident throughout the whole system. You find that what you eat does not distress you, and that you are strong and vigorous instead of irritable and listless. You are on the road to good sound health, and care in your diet is all you need. If your appetite is feeble, if you have any of the distressing pains and symptoms of indigestion you should begin to cure yourself at once by taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

These pills are sold by all dealers in medicine or you can get them by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

ONE UNION EXPRESS COMPANY

Adams, American, Wells Fargo and Southern Concerns Merged.

Washington, May 30.—One union express company for the United States was created by agreement between Director-General McLeod and the Adams, American, Wells-Fargo and Southern companies, whose transportation business will be merged under a new private corporation with capital of more than \$30,000,000, to be known probably as the Federal Express Company. George C. Taylor, now president of the American will be head of the new concern.

After July 21st when the combination becomes effective, shippers will direct shipments "by express" without regard to company and soon thereafter the individual names of the separate companies will begin to disappear from wagons, stations, and cars.

Across the Border.

Dr. William J. Ross, Clayton, N.Y., has been summoned to active service in the medical corps of the army. W. Morrison Blake, a former resident of Cape Vincent, N.Y., received a commission of second lieutenant in the United States army. Mr. Blake enlisted in the quartermaster corps while in Rochester. He was a graduate of Cape Vincent High school. At Alexandria Bay, N.Y., on May 28th, Capt. Luther G. Davis for many years commander of Colonel Orrin G. Staples' yacht, "Marion," died following an attack of acute indigestion, aged 57 years.

When a shiftless man gets sick his neighbors seldom lose much time worrying about it. Some men make friends and others make them tired.

GENERAL ELECTION NEEDED

IN GREAT BRITAIN TO CLEAR THE ATMOSPHERE

And Give Government Strength—Get Rid of Snipers—Lloyd-George Stands Out as Great Leader of the People.

London, May 18.—In the present period, that after the introduction of the measure bringing Ireland under conscription and before the terms of the Home Rule Bill are known, the political conditions in Britain closely resemble those in Canada on Sir Robert Borden's arrival from the last Imperial Conference. Britain has a moribund Parliament, unrepresentative or misrepresentative, and so had Canada. The Government is subjected to guerrilla warfare from friend and foe. Nothing but a general election will clear the political atmosphere by ridding Parliament of political snipers, adding to its virility and above all give the Government that popular endorsement that is the chief requisite of vigorous administration. Many hope and some believe that in an appeal to the electorate the present administration would be defeated, but once let the British people be compelled to make a decision and the coalition administration pledged to destroy German autocracy, preserve British nationality, liberty and in addition to make every part of the country share in the burden, the result will never be in doubt. The Government would win and with such an emphatic endorsement as would give it a force and power that it does not at present possess. Provided, however, that the British line holds in France; if it breaks, it matters little who rules in Britain.

Subject of Attack. Premier Lloyd-George is the subject of bitter attacks, but he remains a fighter and in his counter-attacks generally "gains ground." The Asquith Liberals hate him, the old Tory element have no greater affection for the Welsh schoolmaster, and those of these classes represent British thought or desire. Ask those of the masses who criticize him who they would put in his place. In nearly every instance they will admit there is no one else, and when the day of decision comes the Britisher will give effect to that opinion. The Prime Minister, vigorous, force and fight, and the Britain of to-day wants vigorous, forceful measures in this time of strife. The Britain of to-day is militant and practical, pre-war Britain was peaceful and theoretical. Britain has a vital object to attain and will not replace in leadership one who would reach the objective by most direct way, by one who would wander in the country lines to pluck daffodils or halt to consider whether it was worth the while to go on to the end.

Has Virile Forces.

In his administration, whatever may be its shortcomings, the Prime Minister has the most virile forces in Parliament, but it is a Parliament that has in a great measure lost its virility. The Hon. Bonar Law has the confidence of the people. He is honest, safe and sincere, and in many respects occupies the place in Britain held by Sir Robert Borden in Canada. His supporters trust him, his opponents do not distrust him. Lord Milner is not a political force but a great administrator and in council. Then come the men who must never be without their steel helmets or gas masks. Chamberlain, Northcliffe and Chamberlain. Churchill's strength is not apparent. He has proven a vigorous administrator as Minister of Munitions, but to many he is responsible for the failings of the administration. Although a Canadian, I cannot speak of Lord Beaverbrook from personal knowledge, but Canadians in Britain have the greatest confidence in his judgment and patriotism. He has made enemies, but no man could attain his position in such a brief period without making enemies. Beaverbrook is believed to be responsible for the coalition, and in the preservation of the power of his creation.

The Land Where I Was Born.

I have walked in crowded cities— Where the glamor and their glare, Where the helmet of men are hidden And an honest smile in rare. I have made the rounds of pleasure, Glorious night and drowsy morn, Yet my heart cries out within me, For the land where I was born.

I have worshipped at the churches

With their peaceful, kindly rest, I have wandered o'er the hillsides When Old England's at her best. Yet weary for the prairies, Where the steadfast daylight shines, For the grandeur of the Rockies And the perfume of the pines.

I have roamed in English valleys

'Mid the charm of many flowers, I have spent in joy and gladness Golden days in leafy bowers, I have loved the sylvan beauty In the first sweet flush of morn: But I missed the little, wild flower Of the land where I was born.

I am sick for creek and muskeg,

I just long for home today, And the charm of England's glories Cannot chase the ache away. Oh, the dear old apple blossoms And the maples that adorn Are calling from the homestead Of the land where I was born.

You can have your dear old

"Blighly," Though it's very nice, I know; And its men were heroes always From the days of long ago. But when this war is over I'll go back to wheat and corn, To the glinting snow and sunshine Of the land where I was born.

J. McLETCHE,

Canadian Camp, Seaford, Sussex.

BOUGHT BLACK WALNUT.

Essency Tried to Retard Output of

Airplanes.

New York, May 30.—German agents, prior to the entry of the United States into the war, spent time and money throughout the east in buying up black walnut trees such as are needed for airplane manufacture, according to William Guggenheim, chairman of the army and navy committee of the American Defense Society. Mr. Guggenheim said he had found this to be so after personal efforts made on Long Island to induce property owners to offer their black walnut trees to the Government.

Women may be divided into two

classes: Those who are married and those who are still hopeful.

will play a great part. He is practical, an indefatigable worker, and a keen judge of men and public sentiment. In event of an appeal to the country his power of organization will be invaluable to the coalition.

Might of Press.

Lord Northcliffe controls a mighty press. Rumor is rife with reports of a breach between him and the Prime Minister, but let Lord Northcliffe be forced to make a decision between a patriotic and a pacifist Government, and his influence will not be for a premature peace. The inclusion of Austen Chamberlain in the Government was a surprise. He is the son of his father, but to wear his father's clothes he must tighten the hat band and have a double roll on the trousers. He is a pacifist sentiment in the Midlands, and may be a greater political factor than he has been an administrator. Lord Rhonda and Sir Eric Geddes have brought to the administration practical business ability, and have secured for it greater confidence of the business interests.

In opposition to the coalition

are the die-hard Tories, many of Mr. Asquith's followers, socialists, some labor representatives, pacifists, nationalists and Ulsterites, a motley aggregation with only one common object, the destruction of the coalition. They make an opposition, they could never make a Government. Mr. Asquith is not factious, but his opposition to the Government is he generous in his support. He is not distrustful by the people as much as they distrust his supporters. Sir Edward Carson, Lord Hugh Cecil, Sir John Simon, are among the chief snipers. Among the Nationalists, the standing hand of the patriotic Redmond has been removed and John Dillon can never hold in check his turbulent followers.

Hard to Restrain.

The die-hard Tories do not know what they want except the destruction of the Government. To them the drift of power from blood to brains is a bitter pill. They are intense patriots, but desire that a British selection comes from a Stanley or a Howard rather than from a George or a Law. They cannot support Asquith, they detest Lloyd-George. Ulsterites are bitter, but while the Ulster representatives may condemn the Government they will support a patriotic administration even if it gives Ireland the Rule, rather than have Germany win. In the aggregate the Opposition is formidable at present, but to-morrow his various factions may be sending each other.

Women Vote Unknown.

The Prime Minister will have the support of commercial England, the army and many of the great families. The women vote is an unknown factor, but British women are as patriotic as their Canadian sisters, and will vote to continue the fight until victory is obtained. There will be but two issues in the coming contest whether in June or October is the Quebec of Britain. Already the issue is apparent. The same unfortunate racial and religious issues will obtain here as in Canada, and the result will be the same. Without the Government is challenged to an appeal to the electorate, there cannot be a general election before October owing to the new Franchise Act, but it would not be a surprise if conditions develop that may force a contest in June. The sooner the better for effective administration in Britain.

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Letters to the Editor

Canada Food Board Order.

Bollingsbrook, May 27.—(To the Editor)—Here are some facts and figures concerning the recent order of the Canadian Food Board, relating to the staff of life in Canada. I do not believe in kicking unless there is good reason, and I have agreed with every move that the government and the food board has made for any possible advantage, either to help win the war or to economize. But I have viewed this measure in every way and fail to see any advantage or benefit to anyone except the Germans. This is the way it hits me. Being a poor man with a large family and living a good ten miles from where I do my shopping, I am not a farmer and have no way of conveyance of my own. So if I do not get a chance, which does not occur very often in my experience, I have to walk to the town, pay forty cents for my dinner, hire a livery to take me and my groceries home. This is the way I have been doing and I know others who are farther from town than I am, and who use more flour than I do, but I am giving my own experience as a sample of how this measure will affect the farmer and other people living in the country.

To sum up the situation, it is like

this: Meat that we could buy some years ago for five cents a pound has risen to forty-eight now, and oatmeal has gone up from two and a half to eight; corn meal from one-fifty to over nine. Flour has risen from two dollars to over six a bag, and now comes the order that no householder can have in his possession more than twenty-five pounds. Now if little else is going to save, better buy it by the ounce. It's not the amount of flour saved or wasted by dabbling that's going to help the enemy, but the time that the farmer is going to lose running to the store every few days for something he can't do without, no matter how his work is pressing him. Time is money and flour is the staff of life. Now in my experience, the more I can buy of anything the less waste, and there is nothing so wasteful as dabbling. Anyway, twenty-five pounds of flour will not feed my family a week if I bought it by the ounce. So here is the sum, as far as I am concerned: Lost two days each week; paid eighty cents for meals, six dollars for livery; multiply it by fifty-two and you have just what the staff of life is going to cost me.

What about the farmer who uses

one hundred pounds a week? What's the sense in this? A farmer has a ton of flour at home, say his year's supply, as lots of farmers do. He is compelled to take it, say, ten miles to the store where he deals, and then he must buy it back twenty-five lbs. at a time. How much is going to be saved, and at what expense, and again when every means are being used to raise money to carry on the war. What about the expense? A man is being employed in every township in the Dominion to enforce this act. They should receive about five dollars per day, and the Food Board uses up about fifteen or twenty thousand a year. All this the ratepayer will have to pay. It is certainly necessary to send men to the front, but it is not necessary to send the remaining farmers on the road, when they are needed so badly on the farms. But it will certainly tickle the Germans, and it looks like bad German plot from my point of view.

Here is the way I look at the food

situation outside of Europe. Crops last year were a good average. In some places more was produced than in any previous year. There is good prospect of a bumper crop this year. If the Food Board does not drive all the remaining farmers off their farms, there will be more produced this year than ever before. Then, looking on the other side, if there are seven millions or more starved to death in Europe and seven millions more killed, there is fourteen millions less to feed, and the same with the Allies. We have lost millions of men in the last four years, and it takes a lot to feed a million men; but to hear some people talk you would naturally suppose that it costs more to feed soldiers than civilians, but it does not. Our boys in the trenches do not get as much to eat as they did at home. Now I don't believe the Belgians are one whit better than the Armenians, or Serbians or any other people that are suffering in Europe and Asia. One thing I notice is that the Germans in this country contribute more to the Belgian relief fund than to any other, and I believe there's a reason. The Russian peasants destroyed their food rather than let the enemy have it. The Belgians let the Germans take all they have while they depend on the Allies for support. There's nice in the corn crib. Now, it's all right to save and economize and produce and do all we can in a common sense way, but because people are starving to death in Europe is no reason that we should send them all our living and starve ourselves. Charity begins at home. Besides, these people are liable to turn and cut our throats in the future. The trick in this act is to make flour so hard to get and as such a waste of time and money that the poor man and his family cannot get it at all, and to keep the farmer on the road so he cannot produce, and thereby cause a real famine.

—W. D. SHAW.

Protection and Profit

When money is in a Savings Account in The Merchants Bank, it is absolutely safe from loss, as far as you are concerned. All the time it is here, it is earning interest—so that the bank actually pays you to let it take care of your money. Don't carry unneeded sums on your person or hide them at home. Protect them against loss, theft and fire by opening a savings account.

THE MERCHANTS BANK OF CANADA Established 1864. Head Office: Montreal. KINGSTON BRANCH, G. E. HAGUE, Manager. Safety Deposit Boxes to Rent.

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