# GUNS PREPARE FOR ADVANCE ON THE SOMME

## Allies Again Pounding the Enemy Lines for a New Attack.

## BRITISH GAIN

### Haig's Troops Pressed Ahead to the Mouquet Farm.

London Cable.——The allied artillery to-day developed a terrific fire along practically the whole front in Picardy, apparently in preparation for a great, new attack. The German guns to-night are responding vigorously to the bombardment, it is announced, and the fighting, which for days has been in the hands of the infantry, has developed into a heavy artillery action.

The howitzers took up their cannonade at an early hour this morning, following a violent night battle, in which the British regained the greater part of the erenches between Thiepval and Pozieres lost in the German counter-offensive of Monday. Not only was practically all the lost ground reconquered, but General Haig's troops succeeded in one place in pressing ahead as far as the Mouquet farm, well behind the main front of attack, and capturing some prisoners.

The English are engaged in a comprehensive regrouping of their forces in Picardy in preparation for the new attack. The veteran Canadian forces four divisions strong, have been brought from Ypres to the Somme front, where they have taken their place beside the Australians, New Zealanders, Indians, Irish and territorials, who so far have borne the brunt of the fighting.

The visit of King George to the trenches has cheered and quickened the spirits of the men, who are anxious to again assume the offensive in strength.

CONFLICT ON WESTERN FRONT.

A semi-official explanation is received from Paris to-day of the comparative slowness of operations on the western front as compared with those of the Russians in the east. It is pointed out in this document that conditions in the two areas are entirely different, both as to ground and political considerations. The German front in France and Belgium, it is shown, is far more strongly fortified than that which the Russians are facing, while in the west also, the Entente armies, by nature of Teutonic positions, are prohibited from employing their wings.

It is pointed out that the present method of warfare in the west is more than justified in view of the fact that the allied losses are steadily decreasing, although their blows are increasing. Since the opening of the Somme offensive, it is stated, the casualties have been smaller than those of the Champagne drive of last Autumn, or even of the opening months of the Verdun fighting.

BRITISH.

London Cable.——Tuesday night's statement from headquarters in France reads:

"There has been the usual artillery bombardments at various places on the British front. The situation is unchanged, and there are no important incidents to report.'

FRENCH.

Paris Cable.——Tuesday night's War Office statement reads:

"Except for quite violent cannonading south of the Somme and on the right bank of the Meuse there were no important events on the whole of the front to-day."

# RUSS FIGHT IN JAP. EQUIPMENT

## Little Brown Ally's Aid Has Been Marvelous,

## But Czar's Men Alone Enter Battle.

Paris Cable.——(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—The extent to which Japan is clothing, shoeing, arming and munitioning the Russian army was forcibly presented to a military observer who has just returned from a trip along the Russian front.

"I was astonished," he said, "to find great numbers of Russian soldiers clothed from head to foot in uniforms made in Japan, not only the tunic and trousers, but even the leggings. They carried on their shoulders Japanese guns. Their cartridge belts were filled with cartridges made in Japan. Their leather belts and buckles were from Japan. And the stout hob-nail shoes they wear are from hides gathered in Korea and made into shoes in Japan. So that, there you see a Russian soldier in Japanese clothes. Japanese shoes, with Japanese gun, Japanese ammunition and Japanese accoutrement.

"It is strange," he went on, "that Russia went to war with Japan over Korea, and now Korea, the source of all the trouble, is supplying Russia with the shoes in which her soldiers are marching to victory. Korea is a great grazing country, and is proving a vast reservoir of raw hides, which the Japanese are rapidly turning into boots, shoes, saddles and leather furnishings."

"How did these supplies get from Japan to the Russian front?" the observer was asked.

"It was noted", said he, "that about the only vital point where the Germans had not been able to send their submarines was in the waters of the East China Sea, the Straits of Korea, and the Sea of Japan. These are the waters separating Japan from Russia and the Asiatic mainland, and the routes over them, commercial and military, are open and without menace."

"What sort of arms and munitions is Russia geting from Japan?" was asked.

"All sorts," was the reply, "from the service rifle and small field pieces up to the big 12-inch guns. The Japanese 12-inch is a terrible weapon, and they are content not to make any of the 14-inch and 16-inch guns, as they consider, from a military standpoint, that the immobility of the monster gun offsets its advantages, whereas the 12-inch is a mobile gun and very deadly."

"It is said that French and Japanese officers are now furnishing the expert direction of the Russian artillery fire, which has made it so effective. Did you see any of these officers?" was asked.

"No, and the report is not correct," said the observer. "The Russian artillery officers are directing their own fire, and are getting splendid results. The only Japanese and French officers are those temporarily assigned to explain the workings of a new piece, just as an expert is sent along to explain any complicated piece of machinery. Japanese experts accompanied the big 12-inch Japanese guns, not to manoeuvre them in action, but to explain how it was to be manoeuvred. That is the extent of their help, and the Russians should get full credit for what they have accomplished in operating their artillery. No, the Japanese have done remarkably in arming, clothing and munitioning the Russians, but they have not had a chance to do the fighting."

# WAR IN CLOUDS AMONG THE ALPS

## Lord Northcliffe Tells of Italy's Struggle.

## Fighting Not Only Man, but Nature.

London Cable.——(New York Sun cable).—Lord Northcliffe sends another despatch about the Italian army, this time from the Cadore front, on the central portion of the long battle line from the Steivio pass to the Isonzo.

"I am writing in brilliant sunshine," he telegraphs, "and yet in several degrees of frost. It is not usually realized that the Italian front is nearly 500 miles long. In the parched wilderness of the Carso plateau the chief enemy of the fighting man is thirst. His chief enemy on the Cadore front is the frost. These two facts should bring home some of the difficulties the Italians have faced for fifteen months.

"Picture to yourself men 9,000 feet up in the clouds, for seven months, and surrounded by deep snow, and so close to the Austrians at some points that they can see the enemy's eyes through the holes inobservation posts."

Lord Northcliffe, after describing the cables by which guns, food, materials for huts, are taken up to the troops on the high mountain peaks, continues:

"The first sensation of transit down these seemingly fragile tight roops is much more curious than one's first trip in a submarine or aeroplane, and tries even the strongest nerves.

"Man is not only fighting man on these heights, but both the Italians and the Austrians have been fighting nature in some of its fiercest aspects. The gales and snowstorms are excelled in horror only by the avalanches. Quite lately the melting snow has revealed a heap of frozen bodies—horribly lifelike—of a whole platoon swept away nearly a year ago.

"While there have been heavy casualties on both sides from sniping, bomb throwing, machine and mountain guns, and from heavy artillery fire, there has been little sickness among the Italians, for the men know that visits of a doctor are practically impossible. Therefore, they follow the medical advice of their officers. King Victor Emmanuel, whose life has been passed almost entirely among his troops since the beginning of the war, told me, however, that, despite the greatest care, occasionally death resulted from frost bite.

"In addition to the heavy guns, there are guns carried on mules, guns partly carried by mountain artillerymen, huge fellows whose weight and carrying capacity entirely put in the shade that of the Constantinople porters. When Queen Margherita arrived at Gressony some years ago, four Alpine gunners presented arms with guns of their battery. They were cheery fellows, proud of their strength, and with backs like bulls.

"Higher yet than the mountain fighting line stand sentinels, whose work resembles that of expert Alpine climbers. They carry portable telephones, with which they can communicate with their platoon. The platoon in turn telephones to the local commander.

"When thinking of our own brave men who held the trenches in Flanders for two years, and who now alongside the French are slowly forcing back the Germans on the Somme it is only fair that we realize that but for the work of those Italians in weakening Germany's chief ally, our advance would not have been possible."

# BRITISH REPULSED VERY HEAVY HUN ASSAULTS

## Enemy Attacked Six Deep on the Somme, But LostEnormously

## While Gen. Haig's Troops Seized Another 100-Yard Trench.

London Cable.——The nightly despatch from British headquarters on the Somme front describes the sanguinary defeat of powerful German counter-attacks to-day. In one of these attacks the Germans advanced six deep, but were taken under so heavy a fire that they fled in retreat before even reaching the British lines. Their losses are described as enormous.

General Haig also announces the seizure of a 100-yard trench northwest of Bazentin-le-Petit at the prow of the British advance toward the Martinpuich heights. Counter-attacks delivered from the latter region, he asserts, were unsuccessful.

The French to-night announce that they spent the day in consolidating the captured ground, while General Haig reports the further penetration for 300 yards of the German front west of the High Wood.

The Germans to-night are engaged in a series of violent counter-attacks which they claim have enabled them to regain the greater part of the ground lost in the actions of yesterday. Only south of the Somme, in the sector of Belloy-en-Santerre, does the German general staff admit the allies were able to hold the conquered terrain.

FIGHTING WAS HEAVY.

Yesterday's attack from late details received to-day, was delivered on a considerable front, stretching from the Somme as far north as Pozieres. Five successive French night attacks were broken up, Berlin reports, and only after a day of terrific fighting were the French able to gain a foothold in the advanced trenches. Artillery fire and infantry attacks, launched immediately, resulted in their withdrawal, the statement adds.

The British effort failed completely, it is stated, although apparently later attacks resulted in some local gains.

French officials point out to-day that the action was purely local in character. The object of these comparatively small actions, critics find their success not so much in the gain of a few trenches, but in preventing the Germans from transferring troops to the threatened eastern sectors, while at the same time wearing them down, so that when the great, final allied offensive begins it will be all the easier to smash through the weakened front.

BRITISH REPORT.

London Cable.——Thursday's War Office statement from headquarters in France reads:

"On our right there was considerable artillery fighting all day.

"Last night and early this morning the enemy delivered a series of determined counter attacks on our trenches northwest of Pozieres on a broad front and with considerable forces. Six lines of his infantry advanced and attacked, but ran back suffering heavy losses. Our guns and machine guns did great execution. In no case did he succeed in entering our lines.

"Northwest of Bazentin we captured a hundred yards of trench. A counter-attack made from Martinpuich to-day was repulsed and some prisoners were taken by us.

"A German aeroplane was downed behind our lines near Pozieres.

FRENCH REPORT.

Paris Cable.——Thursday night's War Office statement reads:

"On the Somme front our artillery was active to-day, and carried out numerous destructive bombardments against enemy organizations. There has been no infantry action.

"The number of unwounded prisoners taken north of the Somme yesterday exceeds 200. We also captured five machine guns.

"There has been the usual cannonade on the remainder of the front."

# ALLIES GAIN IN BALKANS

## Franco-Serbian Attacks On Macedonian Front.

## Town and Strong Fortified Work Taken.

London Cable.——Heavy attacks by French and Serbians on the Macedonian front in the Balkans have resulted in further gains, according to information reaching here to-night. In addition to the five villages reported captured in yesterday's review of operations issued by the French War Office, the town of Dolzeri and a fortified work known as "The Turtle," have now been taken. Official announcement to this effect was made to-day by the French headquarters staff in Saloniki and cabled here.

The statement says: "In the Doiran zone the action which has now been going on for several days continued to-day with new developments. This morning we captured the fortified work known as "The Turtle" and the town of Dolzeri.

"The enemy's artillery in the evening attempted to bombard the positions we captured, but there was no counter-attack.

"German aeroplanes bombarded Ostrovo without causing damage."

A Bulgarian statement reaching here to-day also reports heavy fighting, but says the allied forces were repulsed, while a statement from Berlin declares the Entente troops were defeated in an attempt to advance from Dolzeri.

"Southwest of Lake Doiran," says this statement, "weak Bulgarian advance guards drove back enemy detachments which attempted to push forward from Dolzeri."

# ROADS BEAT THE AUSTRIAN GUNS

## Italy Held Back 360,000 With Many Great Guns.

## Enemy Hesitated, and Result Was Fatal.

London Cable.—New York Times cable)—Lord Northcliffe sends the following to the London Times from the Trentino front, under yesterday's date:

"The Kaiser has sown his dragon's teeth well. All through this beautiful province of Venetia are soldiers drilling, soldiers marching, infantry, Alpini, cavalry, motor transports, ammuition columns, big guns and field guns. Women, who look as though they had walked out of Titian's pictures, are gathering the third harvest. Old men and boys—thousands of them on this part of the front alone—are making and repairing the wonderful roads that lead to victory.

"Climbing by new war roads to 3,000 feet, we came upon a front, not unlike that of the Somme, with the difference that the ground was covered by a vast amount of rock and stone, even in the woods where the hostile armies is facing each other.

"Here are Italians recently repulsed 360,000 Austrians, equipped with twenty-six batteries of 12-inch guns. The fighting in this region presents, as it does on every front, its own particular difficulties. Here aeroplane observation is both difficult and dangerous, owing to the presence of vast scattered rocks with little landing space.

"The trenches must here, as in Cadore and on the Carso, be drilled by machinery and blasted. The Austrians are extremely well provided with petrol-driven machine drills. With these they also excavate deep caverns for hiding their guns.

"What I may call the prisoner is accentuated by the fact that the prisoners recently taken here are of remarkably fine physique, unlike those I saw yesterday. They are mostly Austrians, Germans, Poles and Ruthens.

"I will seek to convey an idea of the problem imposed upon his soldiers by General Cadorna when the great Austrian 11-inch guns suddenly began last May. Against the concentration of Austrian 12-inch guns and masses of infantry the Italians were for the moment powerless. Though holding well on both the flanks in the centre, the Italians were overwhelmed, and their bases of supplies disorganized. Could the foe be stopped before reaching the plain?

"Mark that the problem resolved itself into one of time. A few hours might turn the scale. The full story of the rapid concentration of the Italian forces, the organization of fresh bases of supply, including water, of which there was none on the Asiago plateau, and particularly the problem of the conversion of mountain mule tracks over night into splendid motor roads, cannot yet be told. When told it will form one of the most thrilling chapters of the war. It was roads versus big guns, and the roads won.

"In the face of the strengthening of the Italian counter pressure the Austrians hesitated. Bringing forward their heavy batteries with hesitation proved fatal to their plans. The completion of the roads enabled Cadorna to hold them and to baffle them, until the Russian offensive prevented the Austrians from making good their severe losses, and relieved the pressure on the Italians.

"The only dor into Italy was slammed in the enemy's face. Now it is bolted and barred. I saw the bars yesterday. They are the stout Italian commander who holds the gate. He does not under-estimate his enemies. He is a keen, hard, experienced soldier, with a splendid staff. He has no illusions as to the effort required, but he knows the foe will be beaten.

"'We may knock the fragments off the Austrian mass here and there,' he said, "but we must go on hammering until we and others smash the whole block of Hapsburg concrete to atoms.'"

## LIVING COST DOWN.

### Ottawa Claims Slight Decrease is Shown.

Ottawa Report.— Cheering news for householders appears in the advance proofs of the Labor Gazette issued to-day by the Labor Department. It is to the effect that prices are showing a downward tendency and that the high cost of living, despite the war, has lately been somewhat on the wane again.

"The cost of a budget of staple foods was $8.46, compared with $8.51 in June," states the report. "The department's index number of wholesale prices stood at 178.8 for July as against 180.6 for June."

However, prices are still much higher than in ante-bellum days when the index number stood at 134.6, this being the month before the war started. In retail prices mutton, salt pork, milk, butter, potatoes, beans, evaporated apples and prunes declined slightly, but beef advanced somewhat. In wholesale prices, fodder, cattle and beef, sheep, fresh fruits, soda, raw silks, jutes, tallow, metals, chemicals and raw furs averaged lower, but grains, hog products, dairy products, vegetables, breadstuffs, woollens, cottons, flax products, leather, implements, paints, oils and glass, iron beds and sundries averaged higher. Retail prices of coal and wood also averaged higher. As compared with July last year prices were higher in all groups except grain and fodder. In the retail prices of foods all commodities were higher than in July, 1915, and 1914, except milk. Rent, however, averaged lower.

# FRENCH DRIVE IS CLOCKWORK

## Masterly Precision in Their Work On the Somme.

## Steady Gains, With Small Casualties, Result.

Paris Cable—"The operations on the Somme yesterday were merely a detail of the offensive and of only local bearing," a high military officer explained to-day to the Associated Press "but significance is derived from the fact that the Germans did not counter-attack as usual. Never before have they failed to react when successfully attacked, and their failure to do so in this case is either a sign of weakness, or, more likely, because of confusion of orders.

"The precision with which the French offensive has been carried out is shown by the fact that every objective designated in advance of an action has been reached. At Maurepas a certain number of houses were selected, and every one of them was captured and occupied; it never was intended to attempt the occupation of the entire village.

"One consequence of this precision in the French operations is the reduction of losses to a minimum. The operations in Artois and in Champagne cost five times more than all the ground gained on the Somme. The purpose is to destroy the German forces, and the Franco-British defensive also has accomplished the feat of holding on the western front the greater possible portion of the German forces.

"It is fallacious to figure out the probable duration of hostilities on French soil by computing the average surface of ground gained per day. Every time an action takes place, even though the gain may be no more than a hundred yards or so, the opposition is beaten. He loses heavily and the weakening moral effect cannot be measured in yards. It is a cumulative effect which sooner or later will wear the enemy down so that he will be unable to hold the French gains to a few hundred yards."

## SUB. WAR IS ON.

### Campaign Against Merchant Ships in Full Swing.

Paris Cable.——Germany's submarine warfare against merchant ships is again in full swing, according to the naval expert at the Temps.

The Temps declares that this new submarine campaign follows the German note to the United States of Feb. 10, in which it was said: "Merchant ships carrying guns cannot be considered as peaceful ships." According to the Temps, the Germans are now acting under this notice, and it says that three days ago the Italian ship Plata repulsed with gunfire attacks of an enemy submarine. This article concludes with an emphatic declaration that a similar course will be followed by other commanders of allied merchant ships, undismayed by "the murder of Capta Fryatt."

### MAY ASK GERARD'S RECALL.

Rotterdam, Cable.—Germany is seriously considering the advisability of asking for the recall of United States Ambassador James W. Gerard, according to reports in diplomatic circles here. Mr. Gerard's approval of the British censorship and his criticisms of Germany are said to have displeased the German Government.

### GUARANTEE COCHRANE'S BONDS.

Toronto, Cable.—The Ontario Government has decided to assist the Town of Cochrane by guaranteeing its bonds and purchasing its school debentures. Schools, sidewalks and other civic assets were destroyed by the fire and have to be replaced. The action of the Government is in response to a request made several days ago by a deputation from Cochrane.

# RUSS READY TO DRIVE HUN FROM POLAND

## Forces On Central Front Splendidly Equipped for the Move.

## ENEMY MAY RETIRE

### German Troops in Danger of Flank Attack From South.

With the Russian Armies on the Central Russian Front, Cable.——via Petrograd special cable to London —The continued success of General Brusiloff's two powerful movements, which bradually are enveloping Kovel and Lemberg, have begun to have a marked effect in the situation in the central portion of the front which, except for small Russian gains in the lake region south of Dvinsk, has remained virutally unaltered since the Russians fell back last August to the line from Dvinsk to the Pinsk marshes. The Austrian line now has receded so far before the repeated thrusts of the southwestern Russian forces in southern Poland and Galicia that the Germans are in danger of a flanking movement from the south and the automatic retirement of the forces opposed to the Russian centre.

Despite the desultory bursts of activity at various points Russian officers say there are many indications that the eGrmans are prepared to abandon their present line on this part of the front at any moment.

The correspondent of the Associated Press made a week's tour along the front commanded by General Alexei Evert from Lake Narocz to the region of Baranovichi, and found the Russian soldiers most anxious for an opportunity to advance as soon as the command is given. The armies commanded by General Evert are the same which, crippled by a shortage of ammunition and supplies, were forced to surrender a large part of Poland a year ago. Commanders who brought back only broken remnants of their divisions to the present positions now are in charge of splendidly-equipped units. The men share with their officers the determination to recapture the ground lost in Poland.

A corps commander, who showed the correspondent of the Associated Press a huge supply of ammunition and material at the disposal of one part of the force engaged in this section of the front, said: "We have enough ammunitnon stored away to take us to Berlin."

The soldiers seem to be plentifully supplied with wholesome food, and are living under the best sanitary conditions. They are surrounded by comforts and conveniences comparable to those of a model American summer camp. The spirit and fighting strength of the Russian soldiers appears to be very high and the troops confidently expect to occupy their original quarters in Western Poland.

Compared with conditions prevailing a year ago the percentage of disease on this section of the front is declared to be appreciably lower. Not only has universal vaccination and personal cleanliness, which are now insisted upon, removed the danger of epidemics, but individual cases of a disease of any sort are said to be rare.

# RUSS HAMMER THE AUSTRIAN

## Mass Attacks Along Front Before Lemberg Persist.

## Heavy Fighting Also North of the Dniester.

London Cable.——Russian troops are attacking heavily along the whole front of General von Boehm-Ermolli's army before Lemberg.

For twelve hours, without a single lull, infantry has been hurled against the Austro-German positions between Paraplinska and Pinishl, according to the official Vienna statement.

The Austrians claim that most of the attacks collapsed before the Russians reached their wire entanglements. At some points the Russians gained a foothold in the first-line trenches, only to be driven out by Teutonic reserves.

Near Manajoa, the Austro-German line was pierced, but Vienna claims a counter-attack threw the Russians back to their original positions.

Particularly severe fighting is in progress on both sides of Horozanka to the north of the Dniester. The town has been destroyed by shell-fire.

Thursday night's Russian War Office statement reads:

"The situation is unchanged both on the western and Caucasus fronts."

### DUBLIN'S MAYOR ASKS PROBE.

London, Cable.—The Lord Mayor of Dublin, accompanied by other officials of the city, presented a petition to the House of Commons to-day asking for an inquiry into the death of civilians at the hands of soldiers during the Dublin uprising.

Never ask a woman for her reasons. If you will only keep still and wait awhile she will give them to you.—Boston Transcript.