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TERRIFIC STRUGGLE STILL IS RAGING AROUND VERDUN

Germans Make Small Gains, But Fail to Break Line---Hun Dead in Piles

Worst Since Ypres, 1914---French Have New Plan Which Works Well.

London Cable.——The German drive against the French fortress of Verdun won further successes last night, and to-day with the evacuation by the French of the four villages of Brabant-sur-Meuse, Maumont, Samogneux and Ornes. With the capture of Samogneux the Germans brought themselves within five miles of the nearest fort of the Verdun group Fort Sauville, and at Ornes they are about the same distance from Fort Douaumont.

The battle line, which the recent German victories has bent in the centre of the wooded country north of Beaumont until it resembled a loosely-drawn letter M, has now been straightened by the Germans, the French withdrawing under pressure from Brabant-sur-Meuse, Haumont and Samogneux on the western flank, and from Ornes on the eastern flank. Beaumont, which forms the basis of the present French centre in this salient, is still holding out against repeated desperate attacks.

FRONT STILL INTACT.

The French War Office, while admitting the withdrawal from the villages named, and the loss of considerable terrain, points out that the French lines have not been broken at any point. Paris despatches express confidence that the line will continue to remain intact.

The French official report admits that on both wings the French lines have been withdrawn, one part behind Semogneux, the other to the south of Ornes, and considerable terrain abandoned, but the French front has not been broken at any point. The report says:

"Between the right bank of the Meuse and Ornes the enemy has shown the same ferocity as on the preceding day, and multiplied his furious attacks, leaving on the ground piles of dead without having succeeded in breaking out front."

Although the village of Beaumont still held by the French, marking point of a wedge projecting into new German line, the woods to the northwest, north and northeast of the village, in which desperate fighting has been going on since the beginning of the offensive, have been occupied by the Germans L'Herbedois, in this part of the salient, also is in the hands of the Germans, the French having retired to positions in a ravine just to the south.

The German advi was made only at a cost of heavy losses, according to the French communiques, and was accomplished slowly, thereby giving the French opportunity to withdraw in good order from those positions which it was found impossible to hold without suffering useless losses. Thus, so far the retreating French have been able to establish themselves firmly in the positions to the rear, maintaining the integrity of their line in spite of their loss of ground.

In the region to the north of Verdun the Germans continued to bombard with the same intensity the French front from the Meuse up to south of Fromezey, but the artillery activity slackened a little between Malancourt and the left bank of the Meuse. No infantry actien has occurred as yet in this region.

The contest has already developed into the most serious battle since the Battle of Ypres, in the Autumn of 1914.

It is estimated that the Germans have concentrated about half a million men between the plains of Champagne and the Woevre. The veteran Field Marshal Count von Hasseler is acting as adviser to the Crown Prince in conducting the offensive. Count von Hasseler formerly was in command of the fortress at Mons, and is well acquainted with the country.

ENEMY LOSSES FRIGHTFUL.

Authoritative military opinion here indicates perplexity regarding the recent German attacks at different points of the front, because to all appearances they involved the enemy in exactly the same difficulties which the allies learned to their cost always follow partial or diffused offensives, namely, heavy local losses and speedy checks by the defenders, owing to the facility of bringing up reinforcements from the sectors that are not menaced.

Even the optimists hesitate to suggest that the Germans are so much in need of any success to encourage the morale of their troops that they will deliberately adopt methods they know to be costly and useless. Yet the enemy's determination precludes the idea that the attacks are merely tentative, with the object of finding weak spots, as has been hitherto imagined, or to wrest from the French vantage points that the Germans know will soon be utilized against them.

It is certain that the desperate fighting at Verdun, to say nothing of the Artois death trap, have caused the assailants frightful losses.

A despatch from Copenhagen dated Feb. 23rd, says:

"According to information received from Berlin Emperor William since his visit to the Balkans has been in Belgium and France. His headquarters now have been removed to near Verdun.

"It is reported the Emperor is more energetic than ever, making daily speeches to the troops and encouraging the soldiers not to yield. His Majesty is mainly inspired at present with a desire to defeat the French army at any cost."

NEW FRENCH METHOD.

To make matters worse, from the German point of view, the French have evolved a new method of resistance. First, when the enemy's activity indicates that an attack is probable, French aviators and long-range artillery bombard the railways feeding the enemy's front and local supply stations. Then comes the German bombardment of the trenches to be attacked, which generally wrecks them so that the assailants have a comparatively easy task. But, instead of launching a counter-attack, which, if successful, only gives possession of untenable trenches, the French, preventing the bringing up of reinforcements with their "curtain of fire," simply massacre the Germans, occupying them with their fearfully accurate "75," after which a mere patrol can round up what is left of the German assailants, while the French hold their position as strongly as ever in new trenches prepared just behind those that have been wrecked.

The British near Ypres, where the latest advices indicate that a big attack is brewing, have followed a similar plan in allowing the enemy to retain the "international trench," which is costing them terrible sacrifices.

Whatever may be the object of the German attacks, they have so far produced little save losses. Perhaps Germany can afford them better than the allies suppose, but it can be stated definitely that nothing would suit the French better. A war of attrition is the allies' strongest card, at least until summer permits their combined and (they hope) final offensive.

TEN MEN TO EVERY THREE FEET.

The Temps in its military review estimates that the Germans are employing on the average ten infantrymen to every three feet of front where the attack is fiercest north of Verdun—that is, over a line eight miles in length between Brabant and Ornes. The reviewer maintains that the operations are not necessarily preliminary to an attempt to besiege Verdun, but comprise an attack upon a wide part of the front of which Verdun forms a part of the rear support. The attacks, he declares, are still held within the first-line works, while there are three other lines at strategic intervals behind the first. These lines are more solidly constructed and more elaborate in their nature than the first lines, as work on them could be done at leisure without the workers being within the reach of the German fire.

ACTIVE AT OTHER POINTS.

In Champagne at several points and in the Argonne forest German works have been pounded by the concentrated fire of the French guns, while in Lorraine the French repulsed a German reconnoitring party which attempted to capture a French post north of St. Martin.

On their end of the line, near Hulluch, the British exploded a mine and occupied the crater and also bombarded German trenches near Frelinghien and Boesinghe.

BRITISH REPORT.

London Cable.——The British official statement issued to-night on the campaign in the western zone reads:

"We sprang a mine opposite Hulluch last night and occupied the crater. To-day an artillery duel about Bac St. Maur ended in our favor.

"Our artillery bombarded hostile trenches near Frelinghein, on the Ypres-Comines Canal, and east of Boesinghe with success."

FRENCH REPORT.

Paris Cable.——The text of the official communication issued by the War Office to-night reads:

"We have carried out a concentrated fire on the enemy organizations to the west of Maisons de Champagne and south of Sainte Marie-a-Py.

"In the Argonne destructive fires have been directed against the German works at La Ville Morte.

"In the region to the north of Verdun the enemy continued to bombard with the same intensity our front from the Meuse up to south of Fromezey. The artillery activity slackened a little between Malancourt and the left bank of the Meuse. No infantry action has occurred as yet in this region.

"Between the right bank of the Meuse and Ornes the enemy has shown the same ferocity as on the preceding day and multiplied his furious attacks, leaving on the ground piles of dead, without having succeeded in breaking our front.

"On both wings we have withdrawn our line, one part behind Samogneux, the other to the south of Ornes. Our artillery has replied without respite to the artillery of the enemy.

"In Lorraine we repulsed and pursued an enemy reconnoitring party, which attempted to approach one of our small posts to the north of Saint Martin."

The afternoon statement said:

"A strong attack which was participated in by at least one brigade was launched by the enemy in the forest of Caures. This attack succeeded in taking one part of the forest. We still hold the southern end. All the offensives directed against Beaumont, in front of which we are established, have failed to dislodge us. To the east of the front attacked we hold our own in front of Ornes, where our forces hold a ravine situated to the south of Herbe forest.

"The retreat of our troops in certain sections, which was ordered to avoid useless losses, was effected in perfect order and without permitting the enemy, who advanced slowly and at the price of considerable sacrifices, to break our front at any point. The bombardment continues in the region between Ortes and Fomizey. In Lorraine the enemy has succeeded in gaining a footing in one of our advanced posts in the forest of Cheznet. We have driven back some advance parties to the east of Reillon.

"One of our airship squadrons last night bombarded with 45 projectiles, some of which were of large calibre, the Metz Railway station at Sablon (on the southern outskirts of Metz) and a gas tank, in the region of which a great fire was observed.

"The losses on both sides are unofficially estimated at 50,000."

CAREER OF THE MOEWE ENDED?

Original Raider Said to Have Been Sunk,

And the Westburn Taken in Her Place.

London Cable.——The career of the British steamer Westburn, which put into Teneriffe, Canary Islands, yesterday in charge of a German prize crew, believed to have been from the German raider Moewe, has been ended in a highly dramatic manner. She was taken out of the harbor by her German crew to-day and blown up within sight of a British cruiser which was lying in wait to recapture her.

A despatch to The Daily Telegraph from Madrid says that when the Westburn was captured her name was changed to the Moewe, and that the original German raider named the Moewe was then sunk.

This action was taken, the despatch says, because the original Moewe had been badly damaged.

Shipping men would be glad to know that this is true, for the Moewe now has to her credit fourteen vessels captured or destroyed, all except one of which were British.

Despatches to The Times indicate that the exploit of the Westburn's German crew was fully as remarkable as that of the prize crew which brought the steamer Appam into Newport News.

With her 206 passengers taken from various captured vessels on board, the Westburn on her way to Teneriffe passed several British and French warships without exciting suspicion. The Times despatches state that she was under the command of Capt. Badewitz of the German navy.

Upon arrival in Santa Cruz harbor Capt. Badewitz was informed by the Spanish authorities that the Westburn would be returned to her British owners if he decided to intern her. A British cruiser which was lying in the harbor immediately put out to capture the Westburn if she should attempt to escape.

Commander Badewitz and his seven men started out with the Westburn, but as soon as they were outside the harbor, and while they were still within the three-mile limit, they blew the ship up. Badewitz and his men then returned to port. As the Westburn was still inside Spanish territorial waters, the British cruiser was unable to interfere.

HONOR THE MAID.

British Mission's Wreath On Joan of Arc's Statue.

Paris, Cable.—The British Parliamentary mission which is visiting Paris today deposited a wreath of palms at the foot of the statue of Joan of Arc in the Place des Pyramides. The wreath bore an inscription bearing it to be a "symbol of complete reconciliation between the two countries at the moment when both peoples, united in the same sentiment and veneration for the heroine of old France, defend together the liberty of the world."

The same sentiment was further developed in an unanimously signed statement issued by the Anglo-French Parliamentary Committee. The statement declares that the visit of the British Parliamenarians and their conferences with the French Parliamentary delegation had resulted in a close community in their sentiments and views. It affirms the desire of the signers to see the war carried on with greater co-ordination and increased energy. It alludes also to the notable military and financial efforts of the allies and gives a salutation to their heroic armies.

With a view to perpetuating the contact between the Parliaments of Great Britain and France, Commission will reassemble in London during the first fortnight in April.

NEW FACES.

Sculptor Doing Marvellous Work On War Victims.

London, Cable.—Derwent Wood, the distinguished British sculptor, who enlisted as a private in the army medical corps at the beginning of the war, is now turning his talent to a unique use. All his leisure time is at present employed in replacing the parts of men's faces destroyed by wounds in battle. These include mouths, jaws and even eyelids, all of which he has made to move naturally.

He has just finished remaking a nose for a soldier whose nose was blown away below the bridge. His addition, which he prepared of electrically treated metal, is so perfect that where it is joined is absolutely imperceptible, and the patient has regained his sense of smell.

Wood is now giving up most of his time to this work, and is able to treat ten cases daily. Surgeons who never thought that a sculptor's art could be adapted to this work are now absolutely amazed at the remarkable results Wood has attained.

We must consider that we were born for the good of the whole.—Seneca.

SHORT ITEMS OF THE NEWS OF THE DAY

Bank at Essen, Germany, Smashes; Krupp Workmen Lose Savings.

JUDGE MURDERED

Bulgaria Turns Over Copper Mines at Bor, Serbia, to the Germans.

The American tank steamer Polarine went ashore Wednesday near Helsingborg, Sweden.

The French ship Dacquoise, from Cardiff to Auray, has foundered at sea. The crew was saved.

The Japanese Foreign Minister, Baron Ishii denied in the Diet that Japan intends to send troops to the assistance of Russia.

The British Government has decided that the steamship Mauretania can be released from hospital duty and returned to her owners.

Hon. Dr. Pyne, Minister of Education for Ontario, with his wife, his secretary and Major James, left London Thursday for Canada.

It is officially announced in Berlin that Bulgaria has given Germany the copper mines in the region of Bor, in Serbia, for exploitation during the war.

Herbert Harding, the British District Judge at Trichinopoly, India, has been fatally stabbed while on his way to court. The assassin has been arrested.

The Rheinische Bank at Essen has liquidated, according to reports received in Zurich. Hundreds of workmen in the Krupp Works have lost their savings.

A man answering the description of J. Grant Lyman, wanted in New York for alleged defalcations of more than $300,000, was arrested late Thursday on a yacht at St. Petersburg, Fla.

It was officially announced in Vienna, that an Austro-Hungarian aeroplane had sunk in the harbor of Durazzo an Italian transport on which Italian troops were to be taken from Albania.

The death is announced of Sir George Laurence Gomme, Fellow of the Anthropological Institute and vice-president of the Folklore Society. He was born in 1853, and was an authority on folklore.

Two children of Armand Lapointe, Maisonneuve, Montreal, have died through eating catsup. They were aged four years and twenty months respectively. The Coroner who investigated the cases said the children died from "intoxication."

The lights of Paris were lowered at 11 o'clock Thursday night the Military Governor having issued a warning of the threatened approach of an airship. As the airship did not appear, the lights were turned on again at 11.40, when all danger was declared over.

James T. Gault, 58 years old, was seriously injured at the Ford Motor Company plant in Walkerville, when he attempted to step on a moving elevator. The door of the car struck him on the top of the head, fracturing his skull. At the Hotel Dieu, Gault is believed to have but slight chance for recovery.

NIAGARA BELT FRUIT GROWERS

Annual Convention Hears Addresses by Experts.

St. Catharines Report.—The annual convention of the Niagara Peninsula Fruit Growers' Association opened her this morning, with President John H. Broderick in the chair. Prof. L. Caesar, B. A., gave a most interesting address on injurious insects, diseases and sprays. He spoke principally on the control of cherry fruit flies. The cherry fly, he said, was one of the easiest insects to control by the prescribed mixture of arsenate of lead. The receipt of three pounds of lead to forty gallons of water and one gallon of molasses. The time to spray was just when the early Richmond cherry began to turn color.

Prof. W. F. Macoun spoke on "the best varieties of apples for profit. The speaker urged the growers to grow apples, as it is thought by most people that apples were going to be the most profitable fruit. Orchardists were urged to grow larger apples, and in planting out new orchards to try to get more off the land by planting the trees closer together. He urged the growers to put all apples in 11-quart baskets for local use, as people were now living in small quarters and were unable to handle fruit in large quantities.

Mr. W. A. McCubbin spoke on "The Diseases of the Year." He mentioned "currant rust," telling where it could be found and the damage done by this disease.

It was explained that if great care was not taken in this matter the Government would prohibit the sale of currant bushes.

Mr. McCubbin also spoke on the heart rot in peaches, and explained where this disease started, and that he thought it could be overcome by proper pruning. He explained also that much damage was done by the brown rot fungus, and asked the growers to destroy all fruit found infected with this disease.

In the afternoon importance of co-operation, organization, centralization and standardization was placed strongly before the convention by Dominion Fruit Commissioner D. Johnson, and S. J. T. Bush, of Rochester, N.Y.

Mr. Bush created enthusiasm when he said that Rochester and the States were behind the Allies, and should this district be invaded by the Germans they could be assured of every assistance from over the border.

Mr. Johnson and E. D. Reed, of Hamilton, also spoke on the importance of an advertising campaign, but said growers had made the mistake of cutting the prices among themselves.

C. A. Pratt, O. A. C., Guelph, spoke on culture, care and best varieties of strawberries.

FRENCH HONOR ON CANADIANS

Medals Conferred On a Number of Our Heroes

For Bravery On the Battlefields of France.

London Cable.—The French President has granted the Legion of Honor (Croix de Commandeur) to Colonel H. C. Lowther, of the Scots Guards, and formerly military secretary to the Duke of Connaught; Croix de Chevalier to Major Henry Poole, D. S. O., Royal Artillery, who graduated at Kingston in 1899; Captain Stanley Garuner, 30th Battalion; Captain W. A. Lalor; First Lieutenant Wheeler, Royal Engineers, graduate of Kingston, mentioned in the despatches in February, and belongs to Sydney, B.C.

The Croix de Guerre was awarded to Corporal Baker, 9th Reserves, formerly of the 10th; Sergt. Cecil Ferris, Canadian Engineers; Sergt. Walter Macinnes, Artillery; Sergt. Hugh Mackenzie, Patricias.

The Medaille Militaire was awarded to Sergt. Stanley Smith, Canadian Headquarters, and Sergt.-Major Stevenson, 23rd Reserve, formerly of 14th. The King has granted Prince Alexander of Teck permission to wear the Belgian Croix Militaire.

Flight Lieutenant Strachan Ince of the navy has been granted the Distinguished Service Cross for his services as an observer and gunner on December 14, when, with Lieutenant Graham he attacked and destroyed a German seaplane on the Belgian coast. Lieut. Ince belongs to Toronto, and was among the first students who graduated from the Curtiss flying school at Long Branch.

Captain W. James Austin Lalor, before enlisting for overseas service, was Captain Instructor of Musketry in the 23rd Regiment, Northern Pioneers. His rank on leaving Canada was lieutenant. His next of kin is Mrs. J. A. Lalor, Asquith, Ont. The 23rd Regiment was recruited from Parry Sound, North Bay, Bracebridge and other northern parts.

Capt. John Jacob Astor of the First Life Guards has been awarded the Chevalier's Cross of the Legion of Honor for gallantry.

SUBS. BUSY.

Said to Have Resumed Activities in the North Sea.

London, Cable.—The Daily News Rotterdam correspondent says:

Submarine activity threatened by the Germans has already begun in the North Sea. One Belgian fishing vessel sailing from Flushing has been sunk, another captured and taken to Zeebrugge, whilst a British steamer was chased for some distance. The whole activity so far reported occurred on Monday, German submarines reappearing around the North Under and Galloper lightships. At 11 o'clock on Monday morning when near the Galloper the British steamer Ousel saw a submarine appear two and a half miles away, but the vessel escaped. An hour later a Belgian fishing motor vessel was stopped six miles from the North Hinder lightship and sunk by a bomb.

LOST HOARDS.

Hungarian Stores of Food Seized by the Authorities.

London, Cable.—A despatch to the Morning Post from Budapest says:

"Consternation has been caused among the bakers and peasantry throughout the country, who are hiding enormous quantities of flour and wheat, through the inauguration of a new method for a proportionate distribution of foodstuffs under which the authorities have begun a systematic search and are confiscating all hidden stocks. The entire country is divided into district, and six thousand inspectors are employed in the search. Prizes have been offered to persons giving information concerning hidden stock."

WINTER FAIR.

Toronto, Report.—The annual meeting of the directors of the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, was held in the secretary's office, Parliament Buildings. The following officers were elected:—Honorary President, Wm. Smith, M.P., Columbus; President, W. W. Ballantyne, Stratford; Vice-President, John I. Flatt, Hamilton; Secretary-Treasurer, R. W. Wade, Toronto; Executive Committee, John Gardhouse, Weston; R. S. Stevenson, Ancaster; J. E. Brethour, Burford; William McNeil, London; A. McKenney, Amherstburg. The date for the next Winter Fair is December 1st to 7th, 1916. It was the decision of the directors to add a class for shearling ewes for the 1916 shows, to take the place of the class for shearling wethers.

OWEN SOUND FIRE.

Owen Sound, Report.—At 1 o'clock this morning fire was discovered in the warehouse of the Canadian Oil Company, on First Avenue east, opposite the C.P.R. local freight sheds. The brigade had a stiff fight, under dangerous conditions, as the ground floor of the building was filled with barrels of oil and gasoline. In the upper storey of the building was stored a stock of lubricating oils in pails and cases. It was here that the fire broke out and where the loss was sustained. The firemen were successful in keeping the fire from spreading, and the loss will be comparatively light.

GOOD ROADS CONVENTION

Plans to Ask the Government for Further Help.

President and Other Officers Are Re-Elected.

Toronto Report.—Mr. S. L. Squire, of Waterford, was yesterday re-elected by acclamation president of the Ontario Good Roads Association. According to precedent, Mr. K. W. McKay, of Thomas, would have been raised to the chair, but the latter believing that a continuance in office of Mr. Squire would be in the best interest of the association, declined the honor, a decision which was well received, as the president is not only popular, but has a splendid grasp of the good roads subject and makes an ideal chairman.

Complimenting the president on his address, in which he supported the establishing of a good highway between Quebec and Ontario, which he thought might lead to a better understanding between the peoples thus connected up, F. A. Senecal, of Prescott County, speaking for the French-speaking population of Canada, said French-Canadians realized to the full how much they owed to the British constitution under which they lived to-day. Their forefathers, said Mr. Senecal, had fought one against the other for many centuries, but to-day they were fighting side by side in the trenches in France, and were proud of such an opportunity to help to repay a little of the debt which they owed to the British rule. Out of the war Mr. Senecal fully expected would come a great consolidation of the races which populated Canada.

WILL MAKE REQUESTS.

The principal business during the closing session of the convention yesterday was taken up with resolutions, and among other decisions arrived at, it was agreed to ask the Minister of Highways to consider the advisability of making provision for supplying road-building materials at minimum cost; to ask the Legislature for an increased contribution toward the construction of county roads, and also to make provision for maintenance as revenue warranted; that the section of the Municipal Act be amended to provide for the approval by the Department of Highways of plans for county bridges 25 feet and over; to request that a uniform system of highway improvement accounting be kept and available for the use of counties; that the association arrangement with the department for an educational campaign throughout the counties to get the laggards to adopt a good roads system; that the executive continue their endeavors to obtain lower freight rates for building materials, and to ask that demurrage dues for coal be put on the same basis.

One resolution which asked that the Provincial Government consider the advisability of supplying standard bridges to counties working under the Highways Improvement Act caused much discussion. C. R. Wheelock expressed the opinion that to request the Government to go into such business was unreasonable, and other arguments against it were to the effect that a standard form of bridge would prove useless, as each locality required separate treatment, and many counties preferred cement to steel constructed bridges. All the grey matter in the Province, said one delegate, was not limited to the Provincial Legislature, and he thought each county ought to look after itself in the matter of bridge-building. The resolution was eventually withdrawn. Another contentious resolution asked the Minister of Agriculture to consider the amending of the Highways Improvement Act to provide for an assessment of lands adjoining and contiguous to county roads for benefits derived from the construction of good roads and after discussion it was referred to the County Councils to consider and if possible take concerted action if they thought it to be in the public interest.

Prof. Lang, of Toronto University, in a short address approved of the resolution which called for a systematic plan of keeping accounts for roadway improvement, because such would give beginners some idea of how to proceed when they come under the act. The professor also favored an educational campaign.

The officers elected were: Hon. presidents, N. Vermilyea, Belleville, and J. A. Sanderson, Oxford Station; president, S. L. Squire, Waterford; first vice-president, C. R. Wheelock, Orangeville; second vice-president, J. J. Parsons, Haldimand; secretary-treasurer, George S. Henry, M.P.P., Todmorden; directors, W. H. Pugsley, York County; K. W. McKay, St. Thomas; Major Kennedy, Peel County; L. E. Allen, Hastings County; F. A. Senecal, Prescott County; David Clow, Leeds County.

QUITE LEGAL.

Seizure of Ships by Lisbon Officer Was Authorized.

Lisbon, (via Paris), Cable—The Official Gazette publishes the decree under which 36 German and Austrian merchant ships, lying in the Tagus River, were seized by the commander of the naval division here yesterday.

It appears that the seizure was under law passed by parliament on February 7. The premier in an interview affirms that the seizure is not an act of war but simply a measure in the public interest.

The Portuguese minister in Berlin has been instructed to explain to the German Government the significance of the seizures and give assurances that the rights of the owners will be respected.

Portuguese crews have been placed on board the ships seized.

The brave love mercy and delight to save.—Gay.