

## British Are Still Winning

London, March 30.—The capture by the British of the town of Royalcourt, about eight miles east of Bapaume, is reported by Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters in France.

"Yesterday we took Royalcourt, thereby advancing our line to about eight miles east of Bapaume." The correspondent telegraphed. "Our infantry is now in contact with the whole new German front from Arras to a point about six miles southeast of St. Quentin.

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"In the northern part of the line a violent bombardment by the enemy broke out yesterday afternoon, but it was silenced by a tremendous concentration of our counter battery fire. A similar outburst of trench mortars in the Ypres salient was smothered in the same way."

### WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES ON THE FRENCH FRONT,

Thursday, March 29, via Paris, March 30.—From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press.—The progress of the French advance in the vicinity of Coucy le Chateau, now firmly in French hands, continued methodically to day. Both cavalry and infantry are keeping in the closest touch with the Germans and forcing them to hasten the speed of their retreat. From the strength and thorough preparation of the German defensive works it was evident that a longer stand was intended.

The castle of Coucy le Chateau, a unique historical monument which ten days ago, although dismantled, was intact as constructed by Enguerrand III, in the thirteenth century, was found by the correspondent when he visited it today to be a mere heap of stones. The correspondent passed over the sites of what had once been the flourishing villages of Folembray, Gany, Grosly-Loire, St. Aubin, Blerancourt and Oute, and over hundreds of acres of sawn down orchards, while at the water's end on the Oise-Aisne canal he saw a number of barges burned to the

water's edge.

Paris, March 30.—German troops yesterday made an attack on the Russian line along the Oginski Canal, but, although an entrance to the trench was effected, the Germans afterwards were dislodged by a counter-attack, according to to-day's war office announcement. The statement reads:—

"Western front.—In the region of Gsovichi, 13 miles southeast of Baranovichi, we attacked with aphyxiating gas. Simultaneously our artillery bombarded the enemy's trenches with shells, charged with chemicals.

"Near the village of Marinovka, on the Oginski Canal, the enemy, after violent artillery fire, attacked our positions and forced an entrance to our trenches. He was dislodged by our counter-attack.

"Nothing of importance occurred on other fronts."

## Wronged Women and Pillage Mark German Trail Homeward

With the British Armies in France, March 29.—One day spent in the territory just wrenched from German domination by Franco-British arms would make the most timid American eager to take the sword against the Prussian.

If American voters could spend an hour among the pinched faces of babies, could hear the stories of wronged women, could see the pillaged towns, sacked cities and the devastated countryside, any Washington politician refusing to resist the Kaiser's decision to treat Americans in the same way would find himself suddenly kicked from office.

"Is America coming into the war?" a woman with a sick husband and several small children asked me at Nesle.

"Tell your people, for God's sake—for their sake, for everybody's sake—help us stop the war, because it won't end until those horrible Prussians are beaten. And with America in they'll be beaten the quicker.

"If you had lived as I have lived for two and a half years, compelled to kow-tow to them like a servant, you'd understand.

"My twenty-year-old sister, with lots of other girls and women, was sent away by these Prussians—to where and to what fate we don't know. My husband was not taken because he was ill; my babies because they were too young.

"We had cows, horses, pigs, chickens and the like, but the Germans took all. At first they paid for them in notes scribbled on any scrap of paper handy. But for over a year now they have taken what they wanted, without even

giving us these notes.

"Before they left I asked them if they wouldn't give me a little cash in place of some of their notes, but they laughed in my face.

"Take them to Poincare," they said, or to your British friends—they'll pay you—and then they laughed some more."

This story of the woman with the babies and the sick husband was not unique, or unusual. It was duplicated throughout the region.

Another woman, with a bandaged hand, said a German officer burst into her bedroom and that her hand had been cut by his sword while she was trying to defend herself against his advances.

I talked to an old man at Rouy Le Grand whose right hand was wounded by a splinter of wood during the bombardment.

"The Germans sent me here from my farm south of St. Quentin after taking my furniture and every thing else," he said. "I saved only the clothes on my back. The Germans dynamited my home, they chopped down my apple orchard, they ruined my well, filling it with manure.

"There were about 1,400 of us collected here after similar treatment. On Saturday night the Germans ordered us under penalty to remain indoors. On Sunday morning they were gone.

"Good God! we were happy when the British and French aeroplanes flew past, close to the ground. With flags flying we cried, sang and danced on the streets like old fools.

"About 1 o'clock the Germans began bombarding the village. They killed an old man, an old woman and a boy and girl, wounding two more, not counting me with my scratch.

"That's real German for you—concentrate the old folk and children in a village and shell it.

"They would have let us starve but for the American Relief Commission. If it hadn't been for the commission the babies would never have survived."

## The War News

(St. John Globe)

Unfavorable weather conditions have temporarily halted, military operations on the Western front. This delay which cannot be of long duration, will enable both sides to prepare for the next developments. The call Great Britain makes for more men, and the warning the Canadian war correspondent sends that the summer campaign will demand a heavy toll of Canada's young manhood, are alike reminders that the hardest part of the fighting is yet to come, and that to make victory certain more and yet more men must take their place in the firing lines. However the war may develop on the other battle fronts, there must be fought on the Western front great and decisive battles. An American correspondent, Wythe Williams, who on Wednesday was privileged to make a tour of the conquered territory, sends his paper, the New York Times, this cheering statement:

From other sources of information, as well as this, I hope the censor will permit me to state a few conclusions I formed concerning the military value of the pre-

sent advance. I would first refer to it—I mean this entire forward movement—as a successful conclusion of the offensive that began last July and which is known as the battle of the Somme. I would still further refer to it as the beginning of possibly the last great battle of the war, as yet unarmed. I had a different feeling while there than ever before when at the front. I had a feeling that the Germans are probably making their great last stand, that the war may be almost over. The same feeling permeates the entire French and British armies that have swept across the evacuated ground in record time—mending roads, throwing pontoons over rivers where bridges were destroyed, and bringing up heavy guns so swiftly that even while I was there the thunder of artillery all along the line was quite as great as when I stood on the plateau of Santerre in the midst of a vast semi-circle of fire during the opening days of the battle of the Somme.

Whether Mr. Williams is right or wrong in his impressions, time alone will tell. The claim that the retreat was a strategic move, and that Germany secured a decided advantage thereby, is thus dispelled by Mr. Williams.

The Germans hoped by the rapidity of their retreat to throw the Allied artillery organization out of gear long enough to give them plenty of time to prepare themselves on the "Hindenburg line," but they miscalculated. I never would believe it possible that a country so utterly ruined could have been reclaimed to serve every military purpose in such a short time. I have already said I rode through it for a hundred miles. I went through on roads that had been blown to bits, where trees had been felled across it for miles, where every culvert, every bridge, had been mined, but not once was it necessary to leave the automobile. Never once during the entire trip did we, on account of the roads, lose five minutes of time.

The German defeat opened the way for greater Allied successes in the near future, and they are fully prepared to take every advantage of every opportunity the war gives them.

### Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna

London, March 30.—The arrest and confinement to her home of the Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna, first cousin of the deposed Russian Emperor, is reported in a Reuter despatch from Kislovodsk, Russia. The arrest was made as a result of the seizure of a compromising letter to another cousin of Nicholas, Grand Duke Boris.

### Germany Against World Democracy

Amsterdam, via London, March 31.—The Munich Post, in an editorial, says: "In the past fortnight the world has become quite another place through Russia going over to democracy and the United States entering the lists against us. Germany now stands against an alliance of world democracy and the people of the world are persuaded and are daily becoming convinced that the triumph of the freedom of the world is impossible as long as Germany remains what it is."

## Germans In United States

There are about 9,000,000 persons of German stock in the United States, according to information obtained from the Census Bureau of the United States Department of Commerce. The 1910 census shows that there were in the United States at that time 8,282,615 persons of German extraction, distributed as follows: Born in Germany, 2,501,182; born in America of German parents, 3,911,847; born in America and having one parent born in America and the other in Germany, 1,869,590. Of the 2,501,182 persons born in Germany 1,278,567 were males 21 years of age and over. Of these 889,007 were reported as naturalized, 92,030 having taken out their first papers, and 127,103 as aliens.

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