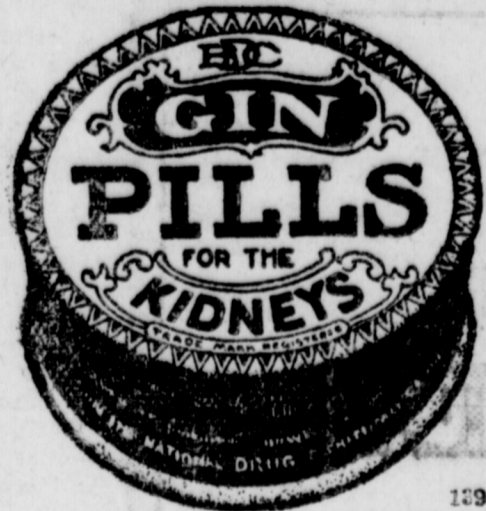


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Violent Battle on Western Front Continued to-day

France has thrown the weight of her forces into the great battle raging with unexampled intensity on the western front, and the British and French armies are now battling together against the onslaught of the common enemy in his desperate attempt to break through the Allied line.

The British armies are holding fast along the line of the Somme and also in the region north of Bapaume, Field Marshal Haig reports to-day. The Germans in their thrusts in the latter section reported the British trenches at only one point and there they were immediately ejected. Their assaults elsewhere were smothered by the British forces, with great losses to the enemy.

On the Somme line bodies of German troops which had succeeded in forcing their way across the river between Licourt and Brie, south of Peronne, were driven back to the easterly bank. On both sides of Bapaume the German attacks were resumed to-day.

The greatest danger point at present seems to be further south, where the Germans apparently have driven through the greater width of the region they devastat-

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TORONTO - - - ONTARIO

ed in routing in 1917, as the Paris statement to-day reports heavy fighting in the region of Noyon. This town itself is some ten miles to the west of Chauny, in the region of which Berlin yesterday reported the results of Franco-American reserves, but the German advance probably has been considerably short of Noyon.

The wedge driven into the Allied line is evidently a deep one, however, as the French troops are reported by Paris to be contesting for the heights to the north of the Oise, with important German forces. The Oise on this part of the front runs southwest past Chauny and passes to the south of Noyon.

Paris, Mar. 25.—The long range bombardment of Paris was resumed at 6.30 this morning, but was interrupted after the second shot. After a brief interval two more shots were fired. The bombardment was again suspended at 9.10 o'clock. As was the case yesterday the people did not take to shelter. Cellars which were filled on Saturday remained empty this morning. Little interest was shown in the bombardment.

After they were awakened by the first shells people were brought to their windows by the rattle of rifle drums. Policemen circulated through each quarter of the city introducing the new system of alarm in the case of air raids. The police came in for a great amount of chaffing, the people being greatly amazed at their lack of proficiency with the drum sticks.

This appeared to mark their limit of interest in the bombardment. Work was resumed under normal conditions. All the transportation lines were running. The streets were full of people whose sole subject of conversation was the new battle of the Somme, which is generally compared with Verdun.

The War News

St. John Globe

With the Germans now in possession of practically all the terrain won from them in the long, grueling fighting that finally forced the great retreat from the Arras, salient, it would be idle to deny or belittle the importance of the successes gained in the initial stages of their great offensive. To-day they hold Peronne and are battling on both sides of Bapaume, the two centres which filled so much space in the news of a year and more ago. These facts tell all too plainly what has happened. In four days the Germans have regained ground it took months to capture. Official assurances that a retreat was foreseen and prepared for, that the lines are holding and that the future is regarded with confidence do not in any way minimize the undoubted fact that the first onslaught forced a more rapid retirement than had been anticipated. It was in the first rush that the Germans made most of their gains, and with those gains secured the larger number of prisoners. In fact, the official German reports make it apparent that of their thirty thousand prisoners and four hundred guns twenty-five thousand and three hundred guns were captured in the first day. British losses in the three succeeding days were, by the Germans' own claims, only five thousand prisoners and one hu-

drod gun, a clear proof that the defence is holding steady. To-day's news of British success in many counter-attacks is still more encouraging, and must go a long way in establishing in all Entente countries the confidence reflected in official communications. Germany's purpose plainly is to drive a wedge between the British and French armies at their point of contact, and at the time to drive a second wedge nearer the coast and roll the British back on the coast, force a separate peace with France and Italy and then deal with Great Britain and America. How nearly they succeeded in the first rush, Sir Douglas Haig's admission of a break in the line indicates.

The fight continues, but the line is re-established, and the Germans are finding the British and French forces determined to dispute every inch of the way. Undoubtedly there will be fresh assaults and fresh retreats, but if the defence lines are as well prepared as has been stated and the reserves as large as believed, the Germans must eventually break under the strain. They are risking all on the present campaign, and if they fail now they must seek peace. Possibly they are risking all now because the time has come when peace is imperative.

While the German drive has produced greater results in a short time than any previous war effort, there is no reason to assume that this initial success signifies victory. Far from it. The history of every Western front drive has been initial successes; but not one, whether made by the Germans, the French or the British, ever won more than initial success. The present drive, made with large forces and with greater concentrations of artillery than any previous effort either of the Germans or of the Allies, naturally won more territory in the first rush, for it has always been recognized that any system of defence could be taken if the price was paid. The Germans paid the price of heavier losses than in any previous three days' assault, and they won more as a consequence. They are still paying the price and winning something as a consequence, but the rapid progress of the initial drive has been checked, and in Entente circles confidence is felt that the history of this greatest of all war assaults will not differ from that of the other Western front drives. Their story should prove inspiring:

February, 1915—British at Neuve Chapelle; advanced one mile on a two mile front, then were stopped.

April, 1915—Germans at Ypres; first gas attack; net result, advance of three miles at certain points of the line. Advance then stopped.

May and June, 1915—French in Artois; they took villages, thousands of prisoners, captured Lorette Heights and almost cleared Vimy Ridge. Then their advance was stopped.

September, 1915—British and French in Artois and Champagne; French advanced over eighteen-mile front, took 25,000 prisoners, 100 guns; were checked at third line. British at Loos lost 50,000 men, gained a few square miles of devastated territory, then were stopped.

February, 1916—Germans at Verdun gained nearly five miles in six days; advanced little over one mile in succeeding six months; then were swept back; lost 500,000 men. Front of attack less than six miles.

July, 1916—British and French on the Somme; advanced six miles in six months; British lost 50,000 killed on first day; net result, release of 1,000 square miles of French soil; Germans forced to retreat from Arras and Noyon.

April, 1917—French and British above Aisne and at Arras, respectively. French made local gains, British were stopped five miles from starting point.

Summer, 1917—British at Ypres; gained six miles in four months; wiped out Ypres salient, won most of Passchendaele Ridge, then were stopped.

British aircraft during the fighting along the front in France, Thursday, aided materially the infantry forces by low, killing or wounding many Germans with their machine guns while flying at low altitudes. In addition, British aircraft bombed important military positions behind the line, and aviators accounted for numerous German airmen in battles in the air.

WAR NEWS

London, March 22.—The great battle on the western front continued until late last night, the War Office reports. The British are holding the enemy. The statement follows:

"Fighting continued until a late hour last night on the whole front between the River Oise and the River Senese. Our troops continue to hold the enemy in their battle positions.

"During the enemy's attacks yesterday his massed infantry offered remarkable targets to our rifles, machine guns and artillery, of which full advantage was taken by our troops. All the reports testify to the especially heavy losses suffered by the enemy.

"No serious attack has yet developed this morning, but heavy fighting is still to be expected.

London, Mar. 22.—The eagerly awaited British official statement of to-day, which was expected to give further details of the tremendous fighting indicated in last night's reports was read with great satisfaction, insofar as it revealed that the enemy had been held and had suffered great losses.

If this turns out to be the great German offensive that has been predicted the preliminary round appears to have gone in favor of the Entente, although as the official report points out, further heavy fighting is still to be expected.

The tremendous artillery duel was heard more distinctly than ever in Kent last night. Houses were continually shaken as the result of the violent concussion.

BRITISH ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, March 22. (By the Associated Press)—The fighting is still continuing, but the first stage of the offensive has passed. The enemy has failed badly in the execution of his program, as is attested by captured documents showing what he planned to do in the early hours of his offensive. Vigorous counter attacks late yesterday restored some of the positions which the British had abandoned temporarily.

The exact British line cannot be made public at present. The only reason is that it might furnish the enemy with valuable information.

Last night was fairly quiet along the front. This morning the Germans were bombing in the region of Croisilles. There were indications that they intended to continue their attacks to-day.

The weather is cold and bleak. A heavy mist makes a reconnaissance impossible. This is of advantage to the British, as the enemy is deprived of greatly needed aerial observation.

The Germans in many sections yesterday attacked in three waves of infantry, followed up by snook troops. As a result they have suffered very heavy casualties. The heavily massed German artillery has been badly hammered by the British guns.

London, Mar. 22.—Emperor William Field Marshal von Hindenburg and General von Ludendorff have gone to the western front to witness the German attack, says an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Copenhagen. Bulgarian and Austrian troops are now on the western front, the despatch reports.

London, March 20.—There has been great activity by the aerial forces operating on the Macedonian front, according to an official report from Saloniki. The report says:

"Our airplanes dropped bombs on the stations of Angista and Poma. Near the latter place a train was attacked by machine gun fire from a low altitude. The engine driver was seen to jump off and the train was derailed. Subsequently it was bombed.

"Another airplane directed machine gun fire from an altitude of three hundred feet against a Bulgarian company billeted in Seres. A hostile machine which was shot down fell into Lake Loiran.

The White-marked Tussock Moth

A severe outbreak of this insect next summer is indicated by the large numbers of the white egg-masses spotted over the trunks and branches of shade trees in many of our eastern towns and cities. The habits of this injurious insect and the most effective methods for its control are discussed in Circular No. 11, recently issued by the Entomological Branch of the Department of Agriculture, written by Messrs. J. M. Swaine and E. E. Sanders.

ated by the Entomological Branch of the Department of Agriculture, written by Messrs. J. M. Swaine and E. E. Sanders.

The species is native to this country and occurs periodically in extensive outbreaks, particularly in the regions bordering the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River and near the Atlantic Coast. It is notably a pest of cities and towns, but is injurious everywhere to shade trees in times of abundance; and it is also an important enemy of apple trees, since, in addition to defoliating the trees, the caterpillars feed upon and destroy the young fruit.

The details of the control methods as applied to both shade trees and apple trees are discussed in detail in the circular. Copies of this circular may be had free on application to the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, and request for the circular may be mailed free. All inquiries regarding insect pests should be addressed to the Dominion Entomologist, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, and no postage is required on such letters.

A New Hard Wheat

A further accession has been made to the bread basket of Canada in a new wheat that has been bred at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. The new variety which has been called Ruby resembles Marquis, the wheat that now stands at the head of all Canadian wheats. The new sort is earlier and, therefore, by its introduction the wheat growing area of Canada will be extended considerably northward. The new variety is announced by the Dominion Cerealists, Dr. Chas. E. Saunders, in the March number of The Agricultural Gazette, the official organ of the Department as follows:

"The new wheat, which has been named Ruby, Ottawa 623, possesses characteristics in ripening and other qualities midway between Marquis and Prelude. It is beardless, possesses hard, red kernels, gives a fair yield, and makes flour of the highest quality in regard to colour and strength. Bread made from it ranks in the first class. This wheat is the result of a cross between Downy Riga and Red Fife. Downy Riga was produced from two early sorts, Gehun, an Indian variety, and Oaega from Northern Russia. Ruby is recommended for trial where Marquis does not ripen satisfactorily. A very limited distribution of five-pound samples is being made to farmers requiring an early sort. A sufficient crop will be grown this year on the Experimental Farms to provide for a generous distribution next Spring."

Both Austria and Hungary again are experiencing a recurrence of labor troubles. Large strikes are in progress in Budapest and Vienna and threats of military intervention against the dissatisfied workmen have been made.

The order in council bringing prohibition into effect on April 1 has been amended in respect to its provisions governing the shipment of liquor from one province to another. The amendment provides that intoxicating liquor actually shipped before April 1 may be delivered in prohibited areas by common carriers in such periods of time as are required by such common carriers under ordinary business conditions, but not to extend beyond May 1.