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FREDERICTON, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 1916

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## French Confident of Outcome of Today's Struggle

### German Masses Expected to Hurl Themselves on the Heights Extending From Bethincourt to Cumieres---Latest German Success of Little Strategic Importance.

PARIS, March 8.—France awaits anxiously but confidently the issue of today's battle. The Germans thus far, at the cost of large losses, have obtained command of the approaches to the main French positions beyond the west bank of the Meuse. The real struggle will begin when German masses hurl themselves again on the four mile line of heights extending from Bethincourt to Cumieres.

Yesterday's attacks left the battle undecided. Corbeaux wood, in which the Germans succeeded in establishing themselves, is within a hollow between Dead Man and Goose Hills, and as neither position is endangered, the German success is of little strategic importance.

It is known here that the Germans set aside 300,000 men to capture Verdun. Only 200,000 having been employed up to yesterday, it was a question whether the remaining 100,000 would be used to make a sudden descent on some other part of the French line in developing the offensive against the fortress. The heavy attack west of the river, however, leaves that question no longer to be settled.

The impression of members of parliament, who are kept regularly informed as to the progress of the battle, is that the defence would be able to resist all onslaughts the Germans are able to make, and that Goose Hill, on the left bank, will play a role similar to Douaumont on the right. It is expected the battle will reach its climax tomorrow or Friday. Not until then will it be possible to judge which way the battle will go.

### Germans, by Employing Masses of Men, Secured Slight Gains West of the Meuse

PARIS, March 8.—The battle of Verdun developed both in intensity and extent all day yesterday, and is now raging along the line of Cheppy, in the Argonne, to Fresnes, in the Woivre, showing that the second attack for the stronghold is to be made on a larger scale than the first. So far, according to the reports received here, the Germans, by employing masses of men, without counting cost, obtained some slight gains both to the west of the Meuse and in the Woivre, where they carried Fresnes after a fierce struggle.

Desperate fighting is again going on on the left bank of the river. Following up the advantage of yesterday, the Germans, going around the foot of a slope which served them as a mask, followed the railroad and entered Regneville. From there they launched 15,000 men against Hill 265, to the east of Cote de L'Oie, and carried it, thus they control the loop of the Meuse within which Regneville is located.

The French withdrew their right from within the loop, and it now rests on the Meuse above Cumieres. This withdrawal from an advanced position on the left bank became necessary, according to the military experts, in order to maintain alignment with the positions on the right bank, and it would have been difficult to hold the advanced point which the Germans could attack in front and on the flank at the same time.

### Supreme Efforts of German Troops are Awaited by the French With Confidence

Having thus obtained command of the slopes leading to the principal French position, which run from Bethincourt to Cote de L'Oie by the northeastern spur of Le Morhamme, and the woods of Corbeaux and Cumieres, the Germans, without losing a moment's time, hurled masses of infantry against these positions. They gained a footing in the Corbeaux wood, but elsewhere their attacks were repulsed with heavy losses. In this district, centres at present the chief interest of the supreme effort of the German troops is awaited by the French with confidence, as they rely on the strength of their defensive positions. The occupation of Fresnes is considered as of only secondary importance, since the position was an advanced one, and not worth incurring heavy sacrifices to defend.

### The Moewe a Fast Boat

COPENHAGEN, via London, March 8.—The Swedish captain of a merchant vessel, writing to the Helsingborg Dagblad, describes the German cruiser Moewe, which he saw in the South Baltic sea a year ago when it was on its speed trials. The writer declares that the Moewe is a vessel of novel type, lighter in build than ordinary warships, but capable of tremendous speed, concerning which he wrote: "During one of the speed trials, the Moewe passed my boat like a shadow."

### French Retake Lost Trenches

PARIS, March 8 (via London).—In the Champagne the French have captured portions of the trenches lost on March 6, according to semi-official announcement made here today.

## CANADIANS ON FIRING LINE

OTTAWA, March 8.—The third Canadian Division, most of which crossed to France two months ago, is now right up in the firing line. It consists of three infantry brigades, the 7th, 8th and 9th, and usual subsidiary units.

The 7th Brigade is made up of the Royal Canadian Regiment, the Princess Pats, the 42nd Battalion of Montreal and the 49th, of Edmonton. It is commanded by General Tuxford during the illness of General Macdonnell.

The 8th Brigade is made up of the Canadian Mounted Rifles from different parts of the country, a mounted organization now in service as infantry. The commandant is General Victor Williams.

The 9th Brigade comprises the 25th Battalion of Halifax, the 26th of St. John, 52nd, of Port Arthur, and 58th, from the west.

## Serious Fire Caused By Bombs

Niagara Falls, N. Y., March 8.—Fire followed an explosion in the chlorate department of the Niagara Electro-Chemical Co. shortly before 9 o'clock today, threatened to complete the destruction of the plant, begun last night, when several explosions and the resultant fires inflicted damage estimated at \$150,000.

The explosion was heard for several miles around and across the Niagara cataract in Canada, where it caused a hasty mobilization of the militia guarding the frontier.

The police roped off the streets in the vicinity of the chemical plant, as the fire was driven toward chemicals of a high explosive nature.

## TODAY'S OFFICIAL REPORT OF FRENCH WAR OFFICE

Paris, March 8.—The text of the communication issued by the French War Office this afternoon is as follows:

"In the Champagne district, in the region to the east of Maisons de Champagne, we launched an attack which placed us again in possession of the sections of trenches occupied by the enemy on March 6th. In the course of this fighting we took 85 prisoners, including three officers, and captured a machine gun. A counter attack on the part of the enemy delivered a little later against the positions we held, was successfully repulsed. In the Argonne our artillery has shelled the highways in the vicinity of Mount Faucon, over which it was reported that automobile transports were making their way.

"In the region to the north of Ver-

dun no change has been reported.

"During the course of the night the Germans continued their bombardment of our front to the west of the river Meuse.

"Our batteries responded with energy to the fire of our adversaries in this sector, as well as to the east of the Meuse, where the artillery bombardment has been intermittent.

### Artillery Fighting.

"There has been very spirited artillery fighting in the Woivre. We have bombarded Blauzes, Grimaucourt and the environs of Fresnes.

"An attack by the enemy against the railroad and the highway to Manheulles was checked by our curtain of fire and the activity of the French infantry."

## Nine Brothers Are In Khaki

Brockville, Ont., March 8.—Though nine of his brothers are fighting with the British army, Robert Hibbert, a former Dominion policeman is not satisfied. By enlisting with the Leeds and Granville battalion, he has set what is probably a record in the British service.

Starting at Mons, seven of the brothers have fought their way through all the bloody battles of the war, and are now somewhere in the vicinity of Ypres.

Robert Hibbert, a young married man of 25, could not see them have all the fun, so he enlisted himself to put the record beyond the danger of eclipse.

His action was hastened when he heard that his youngest brother, aged 23, had also cast his lot in with the colors. The Hibbert family resided in the town of Guilford, Surrey, England, the father being a British army veteran.

### REDISTRIBUTION BILL IN SASKATCHEWAN

Regina, Sask., March 8.—The government redistribution bill increases the Legislature from 54 to 55 members.

## Monster Parade Of Temperance Forces

Toronto, March 8.—One week ago today 18,000 khaki clad soldiers marched through the streets of Toronto, the biggest parade ever seen in this city of great demonstrations.

Today the militant procession of a week ago was discounted by the triumphal march to the parliament buildings to lay before the government the petitions for a dry Ontario.

At noon it was estimated that at least 30,000 people, men, women and children, took part in the big parade.

The temperance campaign of which today's feature was the climax, was inaugurated last fall, when a conference was held, at which nearly all the Protestant churches, the Catholic church and all the temperance organizations of Ontario took part. It was then decided to launch a campaign to secure prohibition in Ontario by July, 1916. The whole province was mapped out into districts and petitions circulated which were signed by over 825,000, some 348,166 being soldiers.

New York, March 8.—Harry Wills, of New Orleans, outfought Sam Langford of Boston in a fast ten round bout here last night. Wills weighed 204 pounds, Langford 195.

## LONDON PRESS EXPRESSES DIVERGENT VIEWS ON COL. CHURCHILL'S SPEECH

### The Attitude of Most Editors is One of Outspoken Disapproval---Believed To Have Been Actuated by a Desire To Pay Off an Old Score.

LONDON, March 8.—Winston Churchill's speech in the House of Commons yesterday is the subject of many columns of comment in the London morning papers. His speech has aroused divergent views, and opened up old wounds. The attitude of most editors is that of outspoken disapproval. The Times says:

"The episode will be remembered more for Col. Churchill's warning on the score of naval material than for his recommendation for the return of Lord Fisher. We regret that Lord Fisher's name should have been raised in a manner which is bound to provoke personal controversy. This is no time for allowing personal likes and dislikes to sway the choice of men."

### SAVE FISHER FROM FRIENDS.

The Daily News says: "We are not sure that Lord Fisher has not reason to ask to be saved from his friends. We do not like to see his claims associated with a shadowy criticism of the Admiralty and an attack on the Government."

The Standard says: "It is doubtful whether the interests of the navy are best served by advocacy of an appointment in so public and dramatic a fashion."

The Morning Post adds: "It will need more than the vindictive insinuation of Churchill to disturb the nation's faith in the navy. Col. Churchill, who is mainly responsible for the disastrous Dardanelles expedition, has amazing effrontery to return to the House and offer gratuitous advice to the Admiralty."

"We should be sorry to see the Fisher matter become one of acrimonious controversy," says the Daily Chronicle, "although we hope that the services of this greatest originating sailor of modern times will once more be adequately utilized."

### PROMOTED ON HIS MERITS.

Commenting on Col. Winston Churchill's brief reappearance in Parliament (he returns to the front today) the Standard announces that Churchill's recent promotion to a colonel was in no way due to influence, but was solely the result of "his distinctive performance in the field." "A man with Churchill's genius for administration," the Standard adds, "can manage a military unit as easily as a government department. Col. Churchill has no intention of interrupting his military career, and military men expect that he will reach the rank of Brigadier General before long."

### CRITICISM WAS TOO RASPING.

The Daily Sketch says: "Admiral Lord Fisher sat in a most prominent position in the House of Commons gallery, over the clock, and smiled while Col. Churchill was speaking. It was only four months since he sat in the same place and listened to Churchill make a stinging attack on him. In our opinion Col. Churchill seems a bit too rasping in his criticism of the Admiralty. He has only been four months out of the cabinet, and really the bottom does not fall out of the world in so short a time. Old politicians detected a desire to pay off old political scores against Mr. Balfour in his speech."

### PROTEST PROVED EFFECTIVE.

PARIS, March 8.—A Havas despatch from Athens says the Bulgarians have ceased work they had begun on entrenchments in the neutral zone along the Greco-Bulgarian frontier, as a result of a protest from the Greek government. Advice received in Athens from Salonika state that a German aeroplane flew over the Franco-British camp and dropped a bomb, which failed to explode.

### TURKISH OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 8 (via London).—The following official statement has been issued by the Turkish War Office: "Demonstrations of the enemy warships against the coasts and straits of the Dardanelles, assisted by aeroplanes, were rendered ineffective by our artillery. Two enemy cruisers were hit. The activity of our air men prevented an enemy reconnaissance at the Dardanelles.

"On the Irak front all efforts of the enemy to approach our positions in the sector of Felabie failed. Near Kut-el-Amara no change has occurred. On the Caucasian front the fighting of the last few days has decreased in violence. There is calm on both sides.

LONDON, March 8.—An Athens despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company reports rumors of the death of Enver Pasha, Turkish Minister of War, but all efforts to confirm or refute them have proved unavailing.