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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1916

ONE CENT PER COPY

GERMAN AND RUSSIAN FLEETS REPORTED TO HAVE CLASHED

FRENCH CLEAR THE WAY FOR IMPORTANT WORK ON THE SOMME FRONT

**The Strongly Fortified Towns of Combles
And Rancourt Are Now Threatened---
Capture of Prieze Farm a Notable
Achievement**

(By Fred Pitney.)

PARIS, Sept. 15.—The French have reached positions in the Somme battle which encourage the hope that the tactical struggles of two years can develop in the strategic work in the near future. The battering that has crumbled the German trench lines may give way to operations on a wider scale.

Still pressing forward north of the Somme, the French threaten the towns of Combles and Rancourt. Already they have cut their way through the outer defences of these strongholds. By capturing Prieze farm yesterday they encircled Combles completely except for two roads leading to the north-east. The British advance today won control of these.

Foch's troops pushed forward today to the outskirts at Rancourt on the Bapaume-Peronne road. The Germans, in an effort to save the rest of the highway, delivered a heavy counter-attack from Clery, but this was hurled back with heavy loss to the Teutons.

Captured Position was Honeycombed with Underground Passages and Redoubts

The capture of Prieze Farm was a notable work. This position was honeycombed with underground passages and redoubts and fortified with six separate lines of trenches. These were cleaned up completely by the French troops, to whom detailed information had been furnished through patrol enterprises and photographs taken by aviators.

German counter attacks against the tow hills which had been the immediate objectives of this offensive, failed utterly, showing that the French are masters of these high positions. This lends strength to the belief that the way had been cleared for more important work on the front north of the Somme.

Germans Have Big Army Massed and Will Put Up Stubborn Defence at Peronne

These two hills, 130 and 76, face Mont St. Quentin, with only the Torilla river and a canal blocking the way. It is Mont St. Quentin that Fayolle must assault before Peronne can be taken, for on that height the greater part of the German artillery is massed. Opposing Fayolle's troops are the forces commanded by Prince Rupprecht, of Bavaria, who now has 400,000 troops, including the last division brought hurriedly from Verdun. The fierceness of the German counter-attacks indicates the determination with which the Germans intend to defend the remaining defences of Peronne.

But despite this determination and despite the five divisions massed in this sector, Prince Rupprecht's tactics are failing before Fayolle's repeated blows, and it is to be imagined they will prove more insufficient for the task set them if the offensive opens up into the strategic phase when the French descend the slopes of the hills they now occupy.

Germans Employ Barbarian Methods in An Effort to Extort Money From Belgians

HAVRE, Sept. 16.—The Belgian Minister of Finance, Alois Von de Vyvere, has issued the following note:

"According to news from authorized sources, the German authorities of occupation are pursuing again with the Belgian population a policy of spoliation even graver than that already denounced by the Belgian Minister of Finance after the first reports in the Dutch press. The Belgian National Bank is not the only national bank which they desire to reach.

"The German commissary at Brussels demands that a loan be made to him not of 750,000,000 francs, as first announced, but of 1,000,000,000 francs, of which three-fifths is to be furnished by the Belgian national bank, and two-fifths by the other banks. All the directors of the Belgian national Bank are threatened with arrest.

TORY ROUT IN B. C. WAS COMPLETE

Vancouver, Sept. 16.—The Bowser government was snowed under in yesterday's contest more completely than the early returns indicated.

At a late hour tonight there was every reason to believe that not more than six Conservatives were elected. All the cabinet ministers have been defeated, with the possible exception of Hon. W. R. Ross, who is leading by 60 votes, with several in the Peace River district yet to hear from.

Hon. Mr. Bowser, the Conservative leader, himself went down to defeat, although some of his followers are hopeful that the soldiers' vote may save his seat. On the other hand, it is pointed out by Mr. Bowser's opponents that the soldiers' vote may increase the majorities of the Liberal candidates.

British Columbia has delivered a stunning blow to a government which permitted graft to flourish, and sacrificed the interests of the province. It is further striking proof that the people of Canada are at last awake and determined to insist on honesty in public life.

Successful Supper.

The farmers' supper held at Penniac on Wednesday was a pronounced success. A bountiful repast was served by the ladies to upwards of two hundred people, including a number from Marysville and the city. The sum of \$70 was realized and will be turned over to the fund to be raised by school children for the relief of the children of Belgium.

NEW ARMORED CAR USED BY BRITISH IS A WONDER

LONDON, Sept. 16.—The reference in the official communication issued by the War Office yesterday evening to a new type of armored car is the first official mention of a development which has been much whispered about recently in army circles. Those who have seen the new vehicles refer to them as "tanks," while the soldiers who have been handling them have given them the name of "Willies."

The object which the designers sought to obtain was to render a heavily armored motor car capable of being operated in the shell-torn and roadless wilderness of trenches, where it is evident a vehicle mounted on ordinary wheels could not be used. Although no details of the car's construction have been published, the Times says:

A Death Dealing Monster.

"Our inventors have not hesitated boldly to tread unbeaten paths. We may imagine the feelings of German infantry, in their shell battered trenches, when, in the uncertain light of dawn they see advancing upon them an array of unearthly monsters cased in steel, spitting fire and crawling laboriously but ceaselessly over trenches, barbed wire and shell craters."

PREPARING FOR BIG SYMPATHETIC STRIKE.

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.—Several trade unions voted today for the purpose of determining their response to the call for a sympathetic strike to back up the striking street car employees. Labor Leaders expect to learn the sentiment of the Longshoremen, teamsters, tidewater boatmen, coal bargemen and stationary engineers and firemen, to whom the carmen have particularly addressed their appeal. By Monday, they assert, 70,000 men will be called out "to protect the very life of union labor in New York."

One man was killed and 34 persons were injured in accidents in elevated and surface car lines in the past 24 hours.

After Big Game.

Messrs. Joseph S. Seabury, of Boston, C. W. Daniels and F. W. Daniels, of Worcester, Mass., and W. Lloyd Allen of Newton, Mass., are at the Barker House. They are going to Cain's River after big game with Mr. W. H. Allen of Penniac as guide.

To Join Imperial Army.

Lieut. G. A. Hubbard, of Fredericton, and Lieut. Louis Ritchie, of St. John, who enlisted in the ranks of the 236th Highlanders, have been given opportunities to join the Imperial army as subalterns. They will report at Halifax.

German Counter Attacks Repulsed by the French

**Assaults Were Delivered East of Clery---400 Prisoners Were
Captured by the French---British Hold Three German
Villages as a Result of Big Offensive.**

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.—A special cable despatch to the New York World from London this morning says:

A Morning Post despatch from Stockholm says a fight has taken place between the Russian and German forces in the Gulf of Bothnia, near the Aland Islands. On account of the darkness and fog it was impossible from the Swedish coast to see the fighting clearly, but salvos of heavy guns were heard and detailed reports are expected.

PARIS, Sept. 16.—German counter attacks were made on the French lines both north and south of the Somme last night. They were unsuccessful, the War Office announced. The assaults were delivered to the east of Clery on the north Bank of the river and east of Berny on the south of the stream, below Peronne. During yesterday's fighting the French took 400 prisoners. In a single trench 86 dead Germans were picked up.

LONDON, Sept. 16.—As a result of the offensive north of the Somme, begun yesterday morning along the six mile front north of Combles to beyond the Pozieres-Bapaume road, the British hold in their entirety the villages of Courcellette, Martinpuich and Fleer, the War Office announces.

ATHENS, Sept. 15, via London, Sept. 16.—King Constantine this afternoon called Nicholas Callagvyropoulos, a lawyer, to discuss the possibility of forming a cabinet. M. Callagvyropoulos is a supporter of the Entente.

*Bulgarians Falling Back on Monastir With Serbian Troops in Hot Pursuit

SALONIKI, via London, Sept. 16.—The Bulgarians are falling back in disorder toward Monastir, pursued by the victorious Serbians, according to an official statement issued at Serbian headquarters. The text of the statement follows:

"After two days artillery preparation and the occupation of the enemy's advanced posts, our troops carried out a decisive attack on the principal Bulgarian positions in the direction of Florina, which was crowned with complete success. The Bulgarian situation at Malkanidze and Malareka are now in our hands, and General Boriadjeff's army is retiring in disorder toward Monastir, pursued by our victorious troops.

Guns Captured From the Bulgarians Now Being Used Against Them With Good Effect

"We made a large number of prisoners and captured 29 guns, including several of the heavy calibre, a great quantity of munitions, 50 limbers and a quantity of rifles. Several of the captured guns are now turned against the Bulgarians, whose losses are enormous.

"The field of battle is strewn with enemy corpses, and prisoners state that one Bulgarian regiment lost 1,500 men as a result of our bombardment. Our troops have already descended into the plain of Florina."

Boy Who Stood at His Post in Jutland Battle is Awarded the Victoria Cross

LONDON, Sept. 16.—Honors awarded as a result of the Jutland battle are enumerated by the official gazette yesterday as follows:

Admiral Sir John Jellicoe, Order of Merit.
Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty, Knight of the Grand Cross of the Bath.
Rear-Admiral Sir F. C. Sturdee, Companion of St. Michael and St. George.

The boy John Travers Cornwall, who remained at his post during the action, although mortally wounded, was awarded the Victoria Cross. Sub-Lieut. Prince Albert, R. N., has been recommended for commendation for service.

TEUTONS CLAIM A VICTORY.

BERLIN, Sept. 16 (via London).—The Teutonic allies in Dobrudja have gained a decisive victory over the Russian and Roumanian forces, says a telegram from Emperor William to the Empress. The telegram was forwarded and as officially given out, reads: "Field Marshall Von Mackensen just informs me that the Bulgarian-Turkish-German troops in Dobrudja have gained a decisive victory over the Russo-Roumanian forces."