

## BRITISH LINES ON THE WESTERN FRONT BEING PUSHED FORWARD

### The Balkan Front Now the Scene of Heavy Fighting

**Strong Infantry Attacks Delivered by the Allied Forces---  
 Bulgarians Claim That They Were Repulsed---Heavy  
 Fighting in the Somme Region.**

LONDON, Aug. 17.—Heavy fighting on the Balkan front is reported in an official Bulgarian statement received here today from Sofia. The Allied forces delivered strong infantry attacks, which the statement says were repulsed. The fighting occurred in the region of Lake Doiran, and northwest of Saloniki, near the Greek border. Several encounters have taken place in this vicinity of late, but the official Bulgarian statement intimates that larger forces are now being used against the Bulgarians.

"On the evening of August 14," the statement says, "the enemy's artillery opened a violent bombardment of our advanced positions south and west of Lake Doiran. Under cover of this fire the enemy's infantry attacks were repulsed. The bombardment continued and on the morning of the 15th enemy infantry again attacked with considerable force, but were repulsed and compelled to fall back in considerable disorder."

The French War Office announced last night that engagements were occurring frequently along the whole front. The capture by the Allies of the railroad station at Doiran and of four villages at other points on the Balkan front, was reported.

#### Allies Remove Some of the Barriers of

#### Germany's Great Defensive System

PARIS, Aug. 17.—Operations on three different parts of the Somme front yesterday resulted in the removal of some of the barriers of the powerful German defensive system. A resumption of the methodical drive of the French troops, after disappearance of these obstacles, is expected to bring further gains in the region of Guillemont and Maurepas.

In the actions yesterday, the French attained an ascendancy over their adversaries during the fighting around the Guillemont-Maurepas road. The Germans still have a hold in the northwest part of Maurepas, but the French, by reason of their success in that vicinity, have a dominating position and besides are menacing the German communications.

South of the Somme, the German trench system around Belloy and Santerre was a real fortified work, which had resisted numerous previous bombardments. Its capture permits further advance in that section.

#### Allied Forces Storm and Capture Enemy

#### Trenches Along a Frontage of Two Miles

PARIS, Aug. 17.—A violent artillery duel is in progress north of Maurepas, in the Somme region, says the War Office statement today. There were no infantry attacks during the night.

NEW YORK, Aug. 17.—The London correspondent of the Tribune, cabling last night, says:

"As an answer to the German taunt that the Allied offensive in Picardy was spent, the French, aided by the British, resumed the attack today on both sides of the Somme. North of the river they took by storm trenches along a front of more than two miles and south of the river a line three quarters of a mile."

#### Italians, Roused to Enthusiasm by Recent

#### Victories, Driving Austrians Before Them

ROME, Aug. 16 (via Paris, Aug. 17).—The Italian army is being held back on the lower Isonzo until the line on the upper Isonzo can be straightened by the capture of the mountains of San Gabriele, San Mario and other positions lying between Tolmino and Gorizia. While the capture of these mountains is regarded as imminent, there probably will be no advance upon Trieste until they have been taken.

The Austrians are being forced off the Carso plateau before spirited attacks of the Italian troops, roused to enthusiasm by recent victories. Fierce fighting against heavy guns which have been barring the way to Trieste, is in progress.

#### BRITISH LINE ADVANCES.

LONDON, Aug. 17.—The British have made another advance on the Somme front. Official announcement was made today that the line had been pushed forward west and south-west of Guillemont.

#### OPPOSITION CONVENTION POSTPONED.

Many of the farmers who are desirous of attending the Opposition Convention in the County and thus take a part toward obtaining better government, have asked, in view of the unusual lateness of the haying season, to have the convention called for Saturday next postponed.

In view of the urgent request, the local committee has agreed to this. The Opposition convention will, therefore, be postponed, to meet at a date to be announced later.

GEORGE F. BURDEN,

County Convener.

Dated August 17, 1916.

#### For Red Cross Fund.

An efficient detachment of the local Women's Volunteer Reserve was in charge of the refreshment booth at the Trotting Park yesterday and is on duty again today. Receipts are to go to the Red Cross Fund.

#### Returned From Motor Trip.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Atkinson, of this city, and Mr. and Mrs. R. Sargent and family, of Plaster Rock, arrived here last night after a motor tour of the province which occupied upwards of a week.

#### Late Thomas P. Taylor.

The funeral of the late Thomas P. Taylor took place today at Sheffield and was largely attended. Rev. Mr. Peters conducted the service.

#### Fined Fifteen Dollars.

A young Fredericton man who drives a motor car was fined \$15 in Marysville yesterday for exceeding the speed limit. Marysville authorities are not as tolerant as those of this city.

## BRITISH CLOSING IN ON ENEMY IN GERMAN EAST AFRICA

LONDON, Aug. 17.—The ring around the forces defending German East Africa is being drawn closer. An official statement received today from General Smuts, commander of the British forces in German East Africa, reports that the British have cleared the difficult hilly country and captured several important positions, being separated from the Central railway by only 25 miles of open country. The statement follows:

"General Smuts reports that on Tuesday our forces advancing from the Nugurro Mountains, after overcoming slight opposition, reached the junction of the principal tracks leading to Mogoro and Kilossa. Our columns are now clear of the difficult hilly country and in this direction are separated from the central railway by only 25 miles of open land."

"On Tuesday the important town and military coastal station of Bagamojo, 36 miles north of Dar-es-Salaam, was occupied by naval forces. A naval gun was captured."

#### RUSSIAN ADVANCES DELAYED.

PETROGRAD, Aug. 17.—The Russian advance is still being held up in the face of counter attacks. These assaults, the War Office reported today, have been repulsed. Artillery and rifle duels are progressing all along the front.

The statement says: "The enemy at some places resumed his counter-attacks. These were frustrated by our fire. A Zeppelin dropped bombs on the region of Kemern, directly west of Riga."

"Supplementary reports show that General Brazoff, in the most recent operations captured 198 officers, 7,308 men, 29 light field pieces, 17 heavy guns, 70 machine guns, 29 bomb throwers and more than 14,000 shells. These are in addition to those reported yesterday."

### "Toby" Hamilton Has Passed Away

Baltimore, Md., Aug. 17.—Richard F. (Toby) Hamilton, one of the most famous of press agents, died here yesterday of heart disease, after an illness of two weeks.

He was born in June, 1847, the son of William Hamilton, founder of the San Francisco Herald, and was with Barnum & Bailey's circus from 1881 till March, 1907.

### Unknown Mail Drowned Himself

Buffalo, N. Y., Aug. 17.—An unidentified man either fell or jumped overboard from the Cleveland and Buffalo passenger steamer a mile outside the harbor early today.

He was about 50-years old and was seen pacing the deck for about an hour. The life-saving crew is grappling for the body.

Mr. Harry ("Dutch") Ervin, of the St. John Standard, is in the city today.

## HUNS THOUGHT THEY COULD CRUSH EUROPE WITHIN THREE MONTHS

**Official of the German Foreign Office  
 Admits That Germany Has Had Some  
 Disillusionments---An Enormous Ex-  
 penditure of Ammunition.**

London, Aug. 17.—The Berne correspondent of the London Daily Mail ascribes to an eminent neutral the narration of a conversation he had with a prominent official of the German foreign office. The neutral asked how the official class, those behind the scenes, regarded the situation. The official replied, carefully:

"The situation is not brilliant, but certainly not bad. We cannot be beaten, and the chances of winning are still favorable. We obviously had some disillusionments. We thought we could crush Europe in three months, and we came near doing it."

"There have been miscalculations—diplomatic miscalculations. There have been military errors also, but the situation today is not unsatisfactory."

#### Unpopularity of the Crown Prince Has

#### Lately Reached Remarkable Proportions

"It is a sheer physical impossibility to beat us. Mind you, I do not say we are going to dictate peace in Paris, or even going to dictate peace at all, but I do say no one shall dictate peace to us."

The "neutral," who was in Berlin in July, said that while confidence in the Kaiser remains absolutely unabated, and amounts almost to a cult, on the other hand the unpopularity of the Crown Prince has lately reached remarkable proportions. The working classes particularly are bitter against him, and firmly blame his egotism for the unavailing sacrifice of more than 200,000 German soldiers at Verdun.

Among these same working classes the desire for peace is widespread, but there is no talk of any revolutionary tendency which might compel the governing classes to make peace.

The commercial and professional classes share these peace sentiments. All threats of an economic war are described as bluff, and little thought is given to them.

#### Report From German Sources Says

#### Expenditure of Ammunition is Prodigious

Headquarters of German Army on the Somme front, Saturday, Aug. 12 (via Berlin to London, Aug. 17).—The expenditure of artillery ammunition by the Entente Allies on this front has reached a prodigious volume, often striking the rate of 32 shells a second during drum fire. Not infrequently along the entire Somme front nearly 90,000 shells have been dropped in an hour, while a conservative estimate puts the average for the 24-hour period at more than 100,000 shells.

#### Germans Frankly Admit That Their Losses

#### On Western Front Have Been Far From Light

With this rate of fire the financial cost of the offensive is naturally high. What the approximate loss in human material amounts to is difficult to estimate. That the losses of the British in certain actions have been frightful is affirmed by German officers, who on the other hand frankly admit that their own losses have been far from light, though all insist that they were not nearly so heavy as the British.

German expenditure in ammunition has been much lighter than that of the British for the reason that the German artillery concentrates its efforts on special objects such as trenches, transports and reserve base, while the British often screen off whole sectors, taking nightly under their fire all the villages and roads behind the German lines within range of their guns.

#### GERMAN STEAMER SUNK.

LONDON, Aug. 17.—The sinking of the German steamship Weser, of Hamburg, 1028 tons gross, by a submarine a fortnight ago, is reported in an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Copenhagen. The crew was saved.