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The Daily Mail

* The Weather. *
* Maritime: Northeast and north *
* winds, mostly cloudy and cool. *

VOL. XXIII., No. 86

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1917

TWO CENTS PER COPY

CANADIANS REPULSE COUNTER ATTACKS NEAR VIMY RIDGE

United States Will Combat The Submarine Blocade

**Will Engage in a Campaign of Colossal Proportions to
Supply Entente Allies With Food and Munitions---Big
Armada of Merchantmen to be Created.**

WASHINGTON, April 12.—A campaign of colossal proportions to break down the German submarine blockade and keep the Entente plentifully supplied with food, clothing and munitions has been determined on by President Wilson and his advisers as the United States' physical stroke against her enemy. Unable now to send an army into the trenches, the President believes the United States can do an even greater service in the common cause against Germany by providing a great armada of merchantmen to invalidate the undersea campaign about which have been rallied the fading hopes of Prussian conquest.

For weeks officials have been at work on such a plan. But not until today was it revealed on how great a scale the task had been projected, or how great importance was attached to it in the administration's general war programme. Virtually every detail has now been completed and by fall the campaign itself will be in full swing.

Quickly built, light wooden ships of 2,000 tons and upwards, are to make up the fleet of merchantmen, and to insure maximum construction the shipping board has enlisted the country's entire shipbuilding facilities.

Upwards of a hundred private plants on all the coasts will help, giving the board's orders precedence over other classes of work except the most urgent naval construction.

LONDON, April 12.—The British captured early this morning two important positions in the enemy's lines north of the Vimy Ridge, and are now astride of the river Souchez, according to an official statement issued by the War Office. A number of prisoners were taken. The statement says the weather continues wet and stormy on the western front.

German Military Writer Makes Caustic

Comment on Position of the United States

AMSTERDAM, via London, April 12.—The American army is held up to ridicule by Major Moraht, writing in the Deutsche Tages Zeitung, who jeers at the idea that the United States can give any effective military aid to the Allies.

Major Moraht says: "The American army is no danger to Germany. The civil war cost half a million lives because neither side had a trained army. Now Wilson, forgetful of history, is trying the same thing, but it will be shown once more that the braggadocio of his countrymen is in inverse ratio to their fighting value."

Major Moraht concludes with a sneer at "shoddy American war material," concerning which he says the Russians could tell a tale.

Invites the Rest of the World to Join in the League "Against Seventy Million Germans."

The Vorwaerts says ironically that it is now considered good form to join the anti-German world league. The Socialist organ declares that Brazil, Peru and Chile, professing to be preparing to fight for humanity and civilization, are really instigated by their material dependence on New York, London and Paris and the ease with which rich German trans-Atlantic communities can be attacked. It urges, however, that "as the fruits of many decades of pioneer work are at stake, the menace should not be minimized. The world league is becoming grotesque in size," it concludes, "Goliath versus David."

The Kreuz Zeitung says: "Thirteen hundred millions of the world's inhabitants are fighting seventy million Germans. Let the rest of the earth come as well; we will beat them all."

WILL GIVE THEIR MORAL SUPPORT.

WASHINGTON, April 11.—Without formally announcing abandonment of their neutrality, two more Latin American republics, Argentina and Costa Rica, have given assurances of their moral support for the United States in the war against Germany. Argentina, choosing a middle course between those of Brazil and Chile, her sister nations in the influential A. B. C. trio, has notified the State Department that she "recognizes the justice" of this country's stand against German aggression.

WILL WAR END BEFORE LAST OF YEAR?

London, April 12.—A feeling in some quarters that the war may end before the last of the year is indicated by the fact that in underwriting circles business was done yesterday "to pay total loss if peace is not declared before December 31" at 45 guineas per cent.

Some time ago business was done at the rate of 15 per cent. against the declaration of peace within eighteen months.

A report in Wall Street that 10 to 1 was being offered at Lloyds that peace would be concluded within ninety days was described as more in the nature of a jocular bet than any attempt to trade.

The wide betting odds frequently mentioned are not seriously considered an indicative of market opinion.

Argentina Will Support the U. S.

Buenos Aires, April 12.—The government will make no official pronouncement of Argentina's neutrality in the war between the United States and Germany, as it considers its note of yesterday sufficient. This note embodies a declaration that Argentina supported the position of the United States with reference to Germany.

President Irigoyen had a two hour conference with the minister of war today. It is reported that the class of 1895 is to be called.

German Consuls Leave Shanghai

CONSULS
Peking, April 12.—Twenty German consuls and their families left Shanghai today on a Dutch steamer. They will proceed by way of San Francisco to Germany.

CELEBRATED ENTRANCE OF U. S. INTO THE WAR

**Lloyd George the Principal Speaker at a Luncheon
In London--Final Seal Given to the Character of
the Conflict.**

LONDON, April 12.—Addressing the American Luncheon Club today, Premier Lloyd George said the advent of the United States into the war had given the final stamp and seal to the character of the conflict, which was a struggle against military autocracy. The Premier said he was not surprised that the United States had taken time to make up her mind as to the character of the struggle having regard to the fact that most of the great wars in Europe in the past had been waged for dynasty, aggrandizement and conquest.

Early in the war, Mr. Lloyd George continued, the United States did not comprehend what had been endured in Europe for years from the military caste in Prussia. Saying that Prussia was not a democracy, but that Emperor William had promised it would be after the war, he added: "I think the Kaiser is right."

Lloyd George the Guest of Honor.

The luncheon, held to celebrate the entrance of the United States into the war, brought together the most distinguished gathering in the history of the club. The guests included Chancellor Bonar Law, Col. Winston Spencer Churchill, Lord Reading, General Smuts, Lord Derby, Lord Bryce, Walter Hume Long, the Italian ambassador, Marquis Imperiali di Francavilla and the Cuban minister, Garvia Y. Velez.

Premier Lloyd George, the guest of honor, delivered the principal speech after a brief introduction by Ambassador Page. The Premier received a tremendous ovation when he entered the room. Toasts were drunk to President Wilson and King George.

COUNTER ATTACKS ON VIMY RIDGE WERE REPULSED BY BRITISH

**Huns Driven off With Heavy Losses by
Machine Gun Fire---Important Po-
sitions Taken From the Enemy---
British Cavalry Takes a Hand.**

LONDON, April 12.—Two German counter-attacks on Vimy Ridge were broken up last night with heavy losses to the attackers. The statement follows:

"The weather continues wet and stormy. Early this morning we attacked and captured two important positions in the enemy's lines north of Vimy ridge, astride the river Souchez. A number of prisoners were taken by us.

"During the night two hostile attacks upon our new positions on the northern end of Vimy Ridge were driven off by our machine gun fire with heavy German losses. Some progress has been made south of the river Scarpe."

The Great British Offensive Above Arras

Is Being Continued With Great Success

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, April 11 (via London).—Under the most extraordinary weather conditions recorded in France in a score of years, the British offensive about Arras continues successfully. This morning the cavalry went into action and contributed to the taking of Monchy le Preux and other important positions.

The taking of Monchy le Preux was aided by a "tank." The British infantry reached the village late Tuesday, but the German machine guns posted there needed special attention before an attack. So, digging themselves in, the Tommies watched by their arms throughout the night.

Early today the British turned their artillery against suspected machine gun emplacements while the "tank" circled the town, scattering terror and death as it went.

All Efforts of Huns to Dislodge Canadians

From Vimy Ridge Have Resulted in Failure

When I had completed its circuit the infantry sprang forward from their shallow trenches and charged in a sort of encircling movement, meeting with little opposition, so well had the artillery and "tank" done their work. A number of prisoners were taken as well as machine guns. The remainder of the garrison fled in the direction of a wood, whence later in the day, reinforced, they attempted to counter-attack.

The British have taken a copse three-quarters of a mile northeast of Monchy, and also Pelves, on the bank of the river Scarpe. Roeux, on the north bank of this vagabond stream, misnamed river, is now in British hands.

Canadians Surely Pressing Forward.

Some of the hottest fighting along the entire battle front is taking place at Vimy, where the Canadians are slowly but surely pressing forward down the eastern slopes, their patrols scouring the forests, which screen that side of the ridge. All efforts on the part of the Germans to shell them off the crest or out of the woods have failed.

FRENCH OFFICIAL REPORT.

PARIS, April 12.—In an attack last night on the new front below St. Quentin, between Coucy and Quincy Basse, the French drove back the Germans to the southeastern edge of the upper Coucy forest, capturing several important positions, the War Office announces. In the Champagne the Germans were ejected from trenches east of Sapigneul.

CANADIANS IN CASUALTY LIST.

Ottawa, April 11.—Casualties among Maritime men at the front are reported as follows:

Infantry—Wounded: Major Oliver G. Heard, Truro, N. S.
Artillery—Died of wounds: Driver G. M. Sutherland, Earlton, N. S.

Mounted Rifles—Died of wounds: B. H. Nickerson, West Baccaro, N. S.