

Sir Douglas Haig Reviews Operations in France

Complete Statement of British Movements on Western Front From December 18th Last Until Present Time---Our Troops Advanced in Face of Tremendous Obstacles.

London, June 20, via Reuter's Ottawa Agency — Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, British Commander in Chief, has forwarded to the War Office a respatch covering the British operations from the 18th December to the present offensive. It reveals the strategic plans behind the apparently isolated attacks and raids which continued throughout the winter, and shows all as fitting into a comprehensive and systematic scheme in order to prepare a favorable situation for the spring advance. The Commander in Chief explains that owing to the Somme battle the enemy in the region of the Ancre valley had been forced into a pronounced salient between the Ancre and Scarpe valleys. A further short advance would give the British command of the Beaumont-Hamel spur. Accordingly an attack was delivered against the defenses overlooking the villages of Pys and Grandcourt on November 18. The object was to advance within assaulting distance of Le Transloy-Loup part line. Five thousand yards of valuable positions were acquired. The weather then held up operations until January when the whole spur was captured and the British advanced a thousand yards up the Beaucourt valley with exceedingly light casualties, owing to skilful co-operation between the infantry and artillery and fine aircraft work.

Possession of the high ground opened up an extensive artillery field and further successes on the 3rd and 4th of February gave the attacking armies an important sector of the German line north of the Ancre, making the evacuation of Grandcourt inevitable.

The next task was to drive the enemy from Beaucourt valley, which was begun on February 10. The capture of fifteen hundred yards of trenches lying at the southern foot of Serre hill made the village of Serre a pronounced enemy salient and further progress in the Ancre valley would make it untenable. Therefore a larger operation was begun with the view of acquiring the northern extremity of the Moval-Thiepval Ridge which commanded the southern approaches to Pys and Miraumont and the observation of the upper Ancre valley. Simultaneously a smaller attack was designed to capture Miraumont.

The Next Task.

During the night of February 17th assaults were delivered. Despite the heavy ground, a thick mist and an active enemy who barraged the troops attacked with great gallantry. "We succeeded completely," the report says "and gained the desired observations also command of the enemy artillery position in the upper Ancre valley and defenses of Pys and Miraumont. Our subsequent bombardment, as anticipated, forced the evacuation of Pys on February 24. On the following day positions from the north of Gueudecourt to the west of Serre were captured. The weather favored the enemy retirement. The thaw broke up the roads, the sides of trenches collapsed the enemy out from successive

lapsed and the acquired ground became the worst quagmire. Contrarywise, the roads behind the enemy improved as he withdrew and a succession of misty days prevented rapid pursuit. Consequently it is greatly to the credit of all ranks that constant touch with the enemy was maintained, continuous and systematic advances positions until March 2nd, when the British reached LeTransloy-Loup part line, except at Irles, which formed a salient.

Enemy Again Retires.

"Seven days were then devoted to improving communications and bringing up guns and on March 10 Irles was captured. The casualties incurred were less than the number of prisoners taken who numbered 289. The way was thus opened for attacking the LeTransloy-Loup part line which was shelled so effectively on March 11th and 12th that the enemy went back to parallel lines, whereupon Grevoillers and Loupart Wood were occupied and methodical operations begun for attacking the next line. Prior to this there were indications that the German withdrawal would be further extended. It had been ascertained that he had been preparing a new defensive system known as the Hindenburg lines running from Arras, southeastward to Queant, then west of Cambrai towards St. Quentin. Various switches, branching off from this line, were also being concentrated. The enemy's immediate concern appeared to be to escape from the salient between Arras and LeTransloy, which became increasingly difficult to hold. It was also evident, however, that the enemy contemplated eventually the evacuation of the greater salient between Arras and the Aisne valley."

Pursuit Slackening.

On the nineteenth of April the advance reached the stage at which the increasing difficulty of making communications compelled slackening the pace of pursuit. South of Peronne the lack of British roads which the enemy had destroyed, presented a formidable obstacle, while north of Peronne the wide belt of devastated ground over which the Somme battle had been fought, offered even greater difficulty to the passage of guns and transport.

"We were advancing, therefore," continues the report, "over a country in which all means of communication had been destroyed and against an enemy whose army was still intact and capable of launching a vigorous offensive, should a favorable opportunity offer. Strong detachments of his infantry and cavalry occupied points of vantage along the line of our advance, keeping the enemy informed of our progress and screening his own movements."

"His guns had already been withdrawn to previously prepared positions available at any moment to cover and

support counter strokes, while the conditions of the country across which we were moving made the progress of our artillery slow.

"But the enemy forces were known to be holding a formidable defensive system upon which he could fall back should his counter stroke miss its aim. On the other hand as other troops moved forward, they left all prepared defenses farther behind. In such circumstances the necessity for caution was obvious.

"Meanwhile, despite the enormous difficulty which the condition of the ground and the ingenuity of the enemy placed in our way, the work of repairing and constructing bridges, roads and railways was carried on with the most commendable rapidity.

"The enemy's resistance increased as we neared the Hindenburg line emphasizing the great costliness of his many counter attacks, particularly in attempts to recover Beaumetz-Les-Cambrin."

Outstanding Features.

Speaking of the outstanding features of the five months' fighting from November 18, Field Marshal Haig says:

"Despite the unusual severity of the weather, the winter campaign was conducted to a successful issue under the most trying and arduous conditions. The activity of our battle front was maintained without a break from the conclusion of last year's offensive to the commencement of the present operations. The successful accomplishment of this part of our general plan had already enabled us to realize an immediate instalment of the fruits of the Somme battle, and has gone far to open the road to their full achievement. The courage and endurance of our troops have carried them triumphantly through periods of particularly trying fighting, in which they were subjected to the maximum of personal hardships and physical strain. I cannot speak too highly of the qualities of all ranks.

Words of Appreciation.

"The ability with which the troops on the Ancre were handled by General Gough and farther south by General Rawlinson, was in all respects admirable. The retreat to which the enemy was driven by our continued success re-introduced conditions approximating open fighting, in which cavalry was given an opportunity to perform its special duties. Although deliberate the enemy's withdrawal enabled him to choose new ground for resistance and to employ every device to inflict losses or casualties which were exceedingly moderated throughout the operations on the Ancre became exceptionally light during the period of retreat.

Open Fighting Probable.

"The prospect of a more general resumption of open fighting can be regarded with great confidence. The systematic destruction of roads, bridges and railways made unprecedented demands on the Royal Engineers who were already heavily burdened by the work entailed in the preparations for the spring defense. Our steady progress in the face of great difficulties is the best testimony to the energy and thoroughness with which these demands were met.

"The bridging of the Somme at Brie is an example of the nature of the obstacles which we encountered and the rapidity of the renewal. In this instance six gaps had to be bridged across the river where it is of considerable width and where the current flows swiftly. The work was commenced on the morning of the 18th of March. By ten o'clock the same night the infantry bridges were complete. By five o'clock on the morning of the 20th a medium type bridge for horse transport and cavalry was completed and by two in the afternoon of the 28th heavy bridges capable of taking of all forms of traffic had replaced the lighter type.

POLICE CLASHED WITH AN AUTO

Montreal, June 20—Armand Hebert, 22 Nicolet Street, is believed to be dying at Notre Dame Hospital as a result of an encounter with the police last night. Hebert made himself a source of annoyance to his neighbors by his anti-Conscription attitude. Complaints were made to the police and last night two plain clothes men met him in the street and warned him. A tussle ensued and Hebert received a fractured skull.



THE ROAD TO THE RIGHT.

YOU'VE met at least one of those few good old souls, who are constantly getting the worst of it when shopping, who don't believe in advertising. A hundred disappointing and instructive experiences have failed to teach him their plain lesson.

When he bought his first watch he was beguiled into buying one without a known name or a trustworthy guarantee. That watch—a poor timekeeper—cost him dearly by reason of missed appointments and missed trains, and for frequent repairs. Yet he paid the price of a good watch.

It is the same story with regard to his underwear, his shoes, and his fountain pen.

This good old soul's case is not unique. Many of us, if the truth be confessed, resemble him; we allow ourselves to be sold merchandise with an unknown brand or trade mark instead of buying merchandise which is well known to us through the medium of advertising. In plain language, we get "stung" pretty often.

In most of these cases we have ourselves to blame, for "the road to the right" thing to buy has been made plain by advertising.

There is no good reason for passing by the known thing, soundly guaranteed, to buy a dubious article, which, quality for quality, cannot be cheaper than the known, branded article.

"It is better to be sure than sorry."

If you are doing a local business talk over your advertising problems with the Advertising Department of this newspaper.

If you are doing a provincial or national business it would be well for you to have the counsel and assistance of a good advertising agency. A list of these will be furnished, without cost or obligation, by the Secretary of Canadian Press Association, Room 503, Lumsden Building, Toronto.

RESIDENT GAME LICENSE RESTORED TO TWO DOLLARS

A bill making some important changes in the Game Act was passed in the House yesterday. The most important change provides for a reduction in the resident game license from three dollars to two dollars. Hon. Mr. Smith explained that he made the change at the request of people in all sections of the province.

The first section of the bill proposed to prohibit the shooting of moose under 3 years old and having less than five points. Another section fixed the open season for ducks from September 1st to December 1st, excepting in the County of Westmorland, where September 15th was fixed for the opening date.

Hon. Mr. Smith explained that Westmorland was made an exception in order that the act would conform with the Nova Scotia law.

Sections of the bill extending the close season for beaver and sable and further prohibiting the sale of partridge until July 1st, 1919, were adopted.

Hon. Mr. Smith explained that the present law only allowed game for private use to be kept in cold storage for ten days after the season closed. An amendment to the bill would permit storage for a longer period. He added that the shooting of wood duck had been prohibited at the request of the International Commission.

Another section of the bill prohibiting the shooting of brant, geese and ducks in the spring was adopted. Another amendment prohibited the gathering of gulls' eggs. Section 12 of the amended act fixes the non-resident license fee at \$50 and a resident license fee at \$2.

Hon. Mr. Smith explained that he had made a reduction of \$1.00 in the local license at the request of a large number of people. He added that permission was not given to dealers to place game in cold storage.

Another section of the bill prohibited the issuing of a hunting license to boys under 18 years of age.

Mr. Tilley thought the age limit should remain at 16 years.

Hon. Mr. Veniot thought that youths of 16 should not be permitted to take out licenses or allowed to carry high-powered rifles into the woods.

Mr. Potts said he strongly favored making the age limit 18 years.

Mr. Campbell said he considered this a wise provision of the act. He regretted, however, that the license fee for residents had been reduced to \$2. If he had his way non-resident sportsmen would pay \$50 for a moose license, \$50 for a caribou license and \$50 for a deer license.

Mr. McGrath thought that two dollars was sufficient for a farmer to pay

for the privilege of shooting a moose which he had fed for several years in his carrot and turnip fields.

Mr. Dickson thought that Sept. 1st was too early a date for the opening of the shooting season for ducks, and he suggested that it be made Sept. 15th.

Hon. Mr. Smith said he would accept the suggestion and have the bill so amended.

Mr. Mersereau said he was not in the House when the section prohibiting the shooting of moose having less than five points was adopted. He pointed out that a moose with five points on each antler was a pretty good sized animal and should not be placed under the ban. Guides in his section strongly opposed the change, and he thought the section should be reconsidered. To his mind, three points should be the limit.

Hon. Mr. Smith said that he had suggested the change from 3 to 5 points in the interests of conservation, but if there was any objection he would not adhere to it. It was not his wish to work any hardship on any class of people, therefore he would amend the law as requested by the hon. member for Sunbury.

Mr. Melanson said he was pleased to notice that the minister was prepared to retain the present law and would not insist upon the five points in the horns. He also expressed the opinion that 18 was quite young enough for any young fellow to be trusted with a license to shoot.

Mr. Robichaud protested against the section which prohibited shooting of black duck. He said these birds came to the coast in large numbers in the spring of the year. They were not natives, and he could not understand why people should be prevented shooting them.

Hon. Mr. Smith said that the birds referred to were not black ducks, but coot.

The bill was agreed to as amended.

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Tones and invigorates the whole nervous system, makes new Blood in old Veins, Cures Nervous Debility, Mental and Brain Worry, Despondency, Loss of Energy, Palpitation of the Heart, Failing Memory. Price \$1 per box, six for \$5. One will cure six will cure. Sold by all druggists or mailed in plain pkg. on receipt of price. New pamphlet mailed free. THE WOOD MEDICINE CO., TORONTO, ONT. (Formerly Macdonald).

FOREST CITY.

Forest City, June 18. — The death of Mr. Frank Lydic, a well known and respected citizen of this place, occurred on June 9th at his home. He was ill but a short time, with pneumonia. His only daughter Hazel, who is in training as a nurse at the Paine Hospital, Bangor, Me., was called home at the beginning of his illness. The deceased was about sixty-five years of age and leaves besides his widow and one daughter, six sons, George of Long Pond, Fred of Woodland, Charles of Madison, and Guy, Herbert and Lyman of this place. The funeral service, conducted by Rev. Mr. Smith of Vanceboro, was held in the M. E. church on June 11th, and was largely attended in spite of the downpour of rain.

Miss Tressa Lewis who has been attending the Gordon Bible school at Boston, Mass., is at home for the vacation.

Mrs. Harry Hall of Millinocket, Me., is spending a few days with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Vantassel.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Leeman and sons, Weldon, who have been at Masardis Lake, Me., for the past two months, have returned to their home here.

Mrs. William Witham of Skowhegan, Me., spent a few days of last week with friends in this place.

Miss Jennie Woods of Glace Bay, N. S., recently visited her cousins, the several families of Goulds, in this section.

Mrs. G. H. Clark spent the week-end with relatives at Eel River Lake.

Mrs. Lucy Dyer who has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. Richard Graham, returned to her home at Mattawamkeag on Saturday.

Miss Frances Killam of New Jersey, a sister of a former pastor of this place, but who has not been here for several years, spent a few days recently at the home of Mrs. G. H. Clark.

Mrs. Ralph Cosman and little daughter Mae, of North Lake, are spending a few days with Mrs. Loretta Veysey.

Preparations are being made for the Sunday school rally to be held here June 27th.

It helps one to keep in good condition to have a daily ration of

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FOOD

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