

British Troops Advance Their Lines on Two Fronts

Encouraging Report From Field Marshal Haig--- Village of Maissemy North-east of St. Quentin is Taken--- French Repulse Counter Attacks

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

LONDON, Sept. 16.—British troops last night advanced their line north of the Arras-Cambrai road, according to today's report from Field Marshal Haig. The statement says:

"During the night we carried out a successful minor operation astride the Ypres-Comines Canal, advancing our lines on a front of over two miles and capturing a number of prisoners and machine guns. On the battle front encounters with hostile raiding parties and patrols have taken place in the neighborhood of Moeuvres and near Gavrelle. We have established new posts in the vicinity of Cauchy and Oppy."

**ANOTHER ADDED TO THE IMPORTANT POSITIONS
TAKEN BY THE BRITISH WEST OF ST. QUENTIN**

With the British Army in France, Sept. 16.—Maissemy, a village five miles northwest of St. Quentin, has been captured by the British. The place was taken during a local attack directed against the high ground upon which this hamlet is situated. This adds another important position to those recently taken along the ridges west of St. Quentin.

A little below this place and to the southwest of Holnon wood, the British have improved their lines slightly. Fighting of a local nature continues on the northern battle front near Labassee, where the enemy has been forced to give ground steadily. Beyond this no infantry action of importance has been reported, but heavy artillery duels have been fought at numerous points.

British gunners bombarded the Hindenburg line fiercely for hours Sunday and heavy losses were inflicted. The German gunners have been maintaining an intense fire in the Gouzeaucourt sector and deluged Havrincourt with explosives.

French Repulse Counter Attacks.

Paris, Sept. 15.—Three enemy counter attacks in the region of Vauxaillon, northeast of Soissons, were repulsed last night by the French troops, says the War Office statement today. These assaults were taken against the new positions held by the French. Both in Champagne and in Lorraine the French repulsed several attacks.

HUN TOWNS BOMBARDED BY BRITISH

London, Sept. 15.—Twenty-one important German towns have been bombed by the British independent air force during the month of August, according to information from an authoritative source. The objectives were railway stations, chemical and other factories and blast furnaces. The total weight of bombs dropped in these raids was more than one hundred tons. During the past three months the independent air force has made 249 aerial raids over German territory. The extensive damage done has been confirmed by photographs in many cases. The German territory brought definitely into the war zone represents a belt in the Rhine Valley approximately 250 miles in length.

LLOYD GEORGE SERIOUSLY ILL

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
London, Sept. 16.—According to a medical bulletin issued early last evening, Premier Lloyd George's fever had slightly increased and was accompanied by a feeling of exhaustion. It was simultaneously announced that traffic had been diverted from the neighborhood of the hotel where the patient is staying.

CONDITION IS CRITICAL

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
New York, Sept. 16.—Cardinal Farley, in a very critical condition tonight according to physicians who have been attending him at Orienta Point, his summer home, where he was stricken with pneumonia a month ago. Heart weakness has developed within the past 24 hours. Near midnight, however, it was announced that he had enjoyed a refreshing sleep, that his temperature had fallen and there was a great improvement in his condition.

BIG POTATO CROP SAVED GREAT BRITAIN

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
London, Sept. 16.—The huge additional potato crop grown in England in 1917 enabled that country to maintain its position as a belligerent, visiting American editors were told at a dinner on Saturday. Rowland E. Prothero, president of the Board of Agriculture, the speaker, said that but for this potato crop, Great Britain might have been starved into submission. Continuing, Mr. Prothero told what the agriculturists had done to help win the war. Nothing, he said, so stimulated the farmers to do their best as the argument that every ton of food they raised helped to bring over the American army to shorten the road to victory.

Concerning the aid which the government has supplied and is supplying, to increase production, he said: "We are finding men to replace the labor the farmers have lost—something like 60,000 returned soldiers. Thanks to the energy of our army, we have something like 20,000 German prisoners at work on land, and we have increased the number of women land workers by upwards of 200,000. For the harvest we provided an additional ten thousand soldiers."

PERTINENT QUESTIONS

Manchester England, Sept. 16.—The Guardian, discussing the Austrian peace note, asks if the Central Powers would be willing to restore the countries they have overrun, reverse the Brest-Litovsk treaty, set Russia free and leave Poland, Lithuania, Finland and the Ukraine to determine their own destinies. "These are among the questions which the allied government are entitled to ask, before commencing to enter upon confidential negotiations," the Guardian declares.

Mr. A. T. Murchie of St. Stephen is at the Queen.
Mr. John B. Cudlip of St. John is at the Queen today.

K. OF C. DRIVE BEGINS HERE TOMORROW

City Divided Into Six Districts for Collection Purposes—Ladies will Assist in the Drive.

The Knights of Columbus drive starts in full swing tomorrow in this city. Six gentlemen collectors will make a canvass of the business section of the city, while a competent body of ladies will make a house to house canvass. The city has been divided into six sections for collecting and the chief collectors of the various wards are: Dr. Phillip Cox, King's Ward; M. E. Doohan, Queen's Ward; Ald. D. J. Shea, Lower Section of Carleton Ward; J. P. Farrell, Upper Section of Carleton Ward; Joseph Cain, St. Anne's Ward; and Allen J. Wheeler, Wellington Ward.

The drive will take place tomorrow but persons who do not contribute then can hand their contributions to the Secretary Gregory T. Feeney.

In connection with the drive a concert will be held at St. Dunstan's Hall on Friday night, some of the best local talent taking part.

W. H. BARNABY PASSES AWAY

St. John, Sept. 16.—W. H. Barnaby, for many years a member of the large dry goods firm of Manchester, Robertson & Allison, Ltd., until his retirement two years ago, died suddenly at his country home near here during last night. He unsuccessfully contested one of the St. John seats in the last general provincial election.

COAL MINERS ON STRIKE

New Glasgow, Sept. 16.—The Pictou county collieries are all idle today as the result of a strike by employees for increased wages. About 2,000 men and boys are affected, and a daily output of some 2,000 tons of coal is for the present cut off. The Acadia, Intercolonial, Greenwood and Milford mines are all standing still, the tie-up being complete.

GALWAY CASTLE WAS TORPEDOED WITHOUT A MOMENT'S WARNING

Heartrending Scenes at Plymouth When Hundreds of Survivors of the Steamship were Landed—Had Many Women and Children Among the Passengers—Heroism of Officers and Crew—Whole Families Have Been Lost.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

PLYMOUTH, Sept. 16.—Heartrending scenes were witnessed here when hundreds of survivors of the torpedoed steamer Galway Castle were landed at seven o'clock Sunday morning. The passengers were mostly women and children, and it is believed that whole families have been lost.

Among the survivors were little tots scarcely able to walk, crying in vain for their parents. Parents were searching in all directions for news of their children, and women were seeking vainly for lost husbands.

It mattered nothing that warm, dry clothing was distributed to take the place of the scanty attire the survivors wore as they left the ship. Their one thought was to get news of their relatives and friends.

GIVEN NO WARNING.

There seems no reason to doubt the statement that the vessel was torpedoed without the slightest warning. The explosion occurred between the engine room and stokehold, a fact which is taken to rule any possibility that the ship struck a mine. The explosion caused comparatively little noise, but caused the ship to buckle in a most extraordinary manner. She was hit at the extreme bottom and was bent and torn clear to the upper deck, and seemed likely to break in two at any moment. In spite of the extent of the damage done to the Galway Castle, some of the crew declared that the impact was hardly greater than that of the vessel bumping heavily against the side of a wharf. The inrush of water was tremendous. One engineer was swept into the tunnel from the engine room and drowned.

Fearing the liner would founder at any moment, Capt. Dyer ordered the boats lowered and issued life belts to all passengers. One boat was swamped, another was damaged because the falls became fouled, and another was swept back against the vessel by a wave and smashed by the propeller. Another narrowly escaped a similar fate.

Henry Burton, minister of railways for South Africa, who was among the survivors, joined with others in praising the devotion to duty and the self-sacrifice of the officers of the ship and the men on the naval vessels which rushed to the rescue.

R. H. SIMONDS FUEL CONTROLLER FOR THIS CITY

To be Appointed Tonight—Not More Than 70 per cent. of Anthracite Supply is Available.

It is practically certain that Mr. R. H. Simonds secretary of the Fredericton Board of Health, will be selected by the City Council at its special meeting tonight as Fuel Controller for Fredericton in accordance with instructions from the Federal authorities that such an official be appointed. The office will be honorary no salary being attached to it.

Information to hand is to the effect that the supply of anthracite coal available for Fredericton is about seventy per cent of the quantity usually required. The controller is to have charge of the distribution of this coal. Wood and other fuels are outside his jurisdiction.

AIR ATTACKS AROUND METZ

London, Sept. 15.—Powerful air attacks are being continued around Metz, according to a statement issued by the air ministry tonight. The stations and tracks at Metz-Bablon and Courcelles have been attacked, as well as various enemy concentration points. Six British machines are missing.

ANOTHER AIR RAID ON PARIS

Paris, Sept. 16.—Several enemy aerial squadrons flew over the region of Paris this morning. They were subjected to a heavy anti-aircraft fire, but succeeded in dropping some bombs. There was a few casualties and some material damage, according to an official report. The alarm was sounded at 1.25 and the "all clear" signal was given at three o'clock.

HUN PAPER ON PEACE

Amsterdam, Sept. 16.—The peace move should have been left to the Entente allies, according to the Tages Zeitung, of Berlin, which comments on the Austrian peace note. "The fate of all previous announcements as to readiness for peace and a conciliatory spirit on the part of the Central powers does not encourage great hopes that this offer will meet with greater success," the newspaper says. "It must naturally encounter greater skepticism on our part."

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY IS AGAIN PLAYING ROLE OF A CATSPAW FOR GERMANY

London Newspapers Score Teutonic Peace Offer---No Hint That the Oft-Stated Allied Peace Terms Will Be Agreed to---Offer Creates no Surprise

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

LONDON, Sept. 16.—"Austria again is Germany's cat's paw," was the comment generally heard in London today when the news of Austria's invitation to the belligerents "to confidential, non-binding discussions at a neutral centre," became public. It was not considered surprising that Austria should make a move to secure peace, for Vienna since the early days of September has been the scene of many conferences of the statesmen of the Central Powers and of Teutonic allied monarchs. With the exception of the pacifist Daily News, which advocates acceptance of Austria's invitation, the London morning newspapers scornfully reject the note as a trick instigated by Germany to gain time to reorganize her shaken armies, while the offer to Belgium is denounced as a cynical insult.

The German press comment thus far received in London indicates surprise at the action of Austria in sending the note.

**CENTRAL POWERS NOW SCHEMING TO SAVE
THEMSELVES FROM PERISHING BY THE SWORD**

"The Austrian note does not bring real peace any nearer," says the Daily Express. "Preliminary conditions to peace have been stated over and over again by the Allies, and there is not the faintest suggestion that the Central Powers will agree to any one of these conditions. They who first drew the sword are scheming to save themselves from perishing by that sword. The disingenuousness of the note bears the suspicion that it was written in Wilhelmstrasse, in Berlin."

Relative to the offer of peace to Belgium, the Express says: "This is another Brest-Litovsk scheme and part of the same plan for preserving the power of the Hohenzollerns." After referring to the sinking of the liner Galway Castle as a coincidence to the offer of peace, the newspaper says: "The Allied peoples will not shake hands; they will not be friends, nor will they agree to any hole-in-the-corner negotiations. Democracy is now at the helm of the world's affairs. Militarism is tottering, and if the German people desire to save themselves from falling with it they must insist on the preliminary conditions which alone make useful peace talk possible."

**UNTIL THE HUNS ARE BEATEN, THEIR PEACE
PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY**

"Our peace terms have been made abundantly clear," says the Post. "When Germany and her dependents are ready to accept them, they can let us know. There will be no abatement to them. Germany must be beaten, and must recognize she is beaten. Until then her messages for conferences are no more to be regarded than the creaking of thorns under a pot."

The Daily News says: "There is no solid ground upon which statesmen sincerely zealous for peace can justify the rejection of the Austrian proposals. Discussion would not involve an armistice. There would be no question of the Allies compromising their fundamental principles. Against the more than remote prospect that discussion might leave Germany obdurate, they might have a very different result in the case of Turkey, Bulgaria and even Austria. The Allies, with an unwavering moral cause, have everything to gain and nothing to lose by discussion."

No Surprise in Paris.

Paris, Sept. 16.—The Austrian proposal for a conference of the belligerents was not much of a surprise in Parisian political circles, where it is considered to be a consequence of the recent military successes of the Allies. The general impression is that the new peace offensive cannot be fruitful.

WANT MINERS RELEASED

London, Sept. 14.—A shortage of labor by the withdrawal of large numbers of skilled miners for the army is given as a cause for the decline in the output of coal says the correspondent of the Press Association who has been touring the coal areas investigating the coal shortage.

Reuters Limited learns that in order to meet the growing demands for coal for the army, navy and munition factories and for the allies arrangements have been completed for the return to the mines of all coal miners except those of the highest physical category. A scheme is under concern for the release of as many miners as can be spared from the navy.

HUNS SHORT OF MAN POWER

British Headquarters in France, Sept. 15.—Striking evidence of the shortage of enemy man power is given by prisoners. They assert that men, women and boys, who had been graded for national service at home, are being brought to the back areas to replace troops along the line of communication.

They assert that there already are some 15,000 women in the Fourth German Army zone alone. It is reported that of boys seventeen years are being assembled in the region of Sedan for auxiliary service.

Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Wilson of this city arrived home last evening from St. Stephen where they have been spending some time.