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# The Daily Mail

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**The Weather.**  
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Fresh south to west winds, a few local showers, but mostly fair today and on Friday.  
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VOL. XXIV, No. 221

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1918

TWO CENTS PER COPY

## The Allies Are Enveloping The Town of St. Quentin

**Famous Stronghold of the Huns Will Soon be Surrounded --- Australians Carry Hindenburg Outposts---Enemy Resistance is Stiffening**

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

London, Sept. 19.—The British last night made further progress in their drive into the Hindenburg line in the St. Quentin region, aimed at the encircling of that town. In a continued advance north of Pont Rust, they reached the outpost positions of the Hindenburg line. The Australians resumed their attacks and carried the Hindenburg outposts. Many prisoners and a number of machine guns were taken by them. The town of Lemoire was captured as was Geuche wood.

Correspondents at the front emphasize the stiffening of the enemy resistance, making yesterday's British advance all the more remarkable.

### GERMANS ARE MAKING USE OF LONG RANGE HIGH VELOCITY GUNS AGAINST THE BRITISH

German gun power is unusually strong, long range, high velocity guns being employed to draw the line of fire almost equal to a barrage, across a wide extent of country. Hence, for the first time for a long period more British casualties are due to shell splinters than to machine gun bullets. This intensified artillery fire gives an index of the strength of the British effort necessary to clear ridges with numerous fortified villages lying immediately in front of the main Hindenburg line, into which the Germans are being pushed by irresistible pressure.

An important feature of the advance is that the British have not merely passed their old line of March 21, but have attained their greatest success near Bullecourt, where the St. Quentin canal, which is practically an integral part of the Hindenburg line, runs three or four miles underground. This line starts with Bullecourt and ends near the village of Cattelet.

Deupire heights commanding the tunnel are now largely in British hands and the Germans at this point cannot hope to oppose the advance of tanks by flooding the country.

### THE HUNS IN FRONT OF THE HINDENBURG LINE ARE PUTTING UP A STUBBORN RESISTANCE

French Headquarters, Sept. 19.—General Debeney's army continues to advance in the direction of St. Quentin in conjunction with the British to the north. The most vigorous resistance is being met with a few hundred yards in front of the Hindenburg line, which runs west of the town, and whose suburbs form a part of the defensive system. Groups of infantry, lavishly supported with machine guns dotted everywhere, are endeavoring to hold up the advance, but vainly, for the French, alternating their rushes with infiltration tactics, are progressing, and are now only two miles from the suburbs of St. Quentin, and holding some of their old trenches on a wide front.

On the Italian Front.

London, Sept. 19.—Persistent thrusts by the Austrians in the Seren Valley, on the northern Italian front, were repulsed on Monday night by the Italians, according to official wireless messages. Italian reconnoitering patrols have captured an enemy post in the Gabana valley.

## GOOD WORK BY BRITISH AIR FIGHTERS

London, Sept. 18.—British Army and Navy aviators in the last 48 hours have dropped thirteen tons of bombs on the docks at Bruges and a German airbase in Belgium says an official statement from the admiralty. In air fighting eleven German airplanes were destroyed.

Five enemy seaplanes which approached the east coast of England were driven off by four British machines, one enemy machine being destroyed. Three hostile airplanes on a night bombing expedition were brought down inside the British lines last night, according to the official statement on aviation. Fourteen enemy machines were destroyed altogether, and five others driven down out of control.

## BOLSHEVIKI RETREATING

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

London, Sept. 19.—Bolshevik forces are retreating on both the northern and southern fronts, according to a Stockholm despatch to the Daily Mail. The despatch says that a telegram had been received in Stockholm from Moscow stating that the Czechoslovaks still hold the city of Samara, which the Bolsheviks recently claimed to have retaken.

## SOLDIERS GIVE THEIR TESTIMONY

St. Johns Que., Sept. 18.—Over a dozen soldiers of the Canadian Engineers Training depot here were examined this afternoon during the course of the election enquiry. Each of the soldiers declared he had voted in Chambly-Vercheres from a conviction that he had a right to do so. In every instance the soldiers denied that Lieut. Col. Melville or any other officer had influenced their votes and repeated cross examination by Mr. Aime Geffrien failed to shake their testimony. At the conclusion of the afternoon's hearing the sessions were adjourned with the understanding that they would be resumed some day next week in Montreal.

## COTTON MILL STRIKE ENDED

Manchester, Sept. 19.—The cotton mills strike is now regarded as ended. Executives of the spinners union recommend that work be resumed on the understanding that an investigation committee will be formally submitted to the districts affected, but it is believed the mills resume work on Monday.

Mr. F. G. Goodspeed of St. John is in the city.

## WILL PURCHASE ONTARIO LAMBS FOR BREEDING

**Supt. Thos. Hetherington will Leave for Upper Provinces on Monday Next—New Arrangement.**

Mr. Thomas Hetherington, Live Stock Superintendent of the New Brunswick Agricultural Department is at present in Prince Edward Island rounding up the ram lambs purchased by the Department for breeding purposes. On Monday September 23rd he will leave for Ontario to select breeding rams under the new arrangements with the Live Stock Branch at Ottawa. Mr. Hetherington also expects to bring down one hundred pure bred ewes. All ram lambs purchased under the agreement with the Federal authorities will be sold for twenty-five dollars and all shearlings for thirty dollars. The Dominion Department will pay the difference in the cost of all rams purchased in Upper Canada and will pay the freight in car lots to central points in this province. The agreement will not affect the purchases previously made by the Department of Agriculture of New Brunswick. This offer is considered the most advantageous ever made to New Brunswick farmers to secure pure bred rams at low prices. Each animal must be satisfactory to Mr. Hetherington before being shipped to this province.

## BIG PROGRAM MAPPED OUT

Washington, Sept. 19.—An army of 4,800,000 by next July after all reductions have been made for casualties and rejections in what the enlarged American military programme calls for. General March explained to the House appropriations committee in discussing the new seven billion dollar army estimates. There are now about 3,200,000 men under arms, General March said the plan is to call 2,700,000 of the new draft registrants to the colors between now and July.

Mr. Charles Morgan of Montreal was registered at the Barker House yesterday.

## A FEMALE ORDERLY CAUSED THE FATAL FIRE AT THE MONTREAL NUNNERY IN FEBRUARY LAST

**Woman Placed Under Arrest Today Makes Full Confession of the Fiendish Crime—Set fire to Newspapers in a Room Where Babies Were Sleeping—Culprit was Formerly a School Teacher.**

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

MONTREAL, Sept. 19.—The disastrous Grey Nunnery fire of February 14 last, in which sixty-five babies were burned to death, was purposely caused by a female orderly of the institution, Bertha Courtmanche, who is said to have made attempts before. The woman was still working at the institution at the time when she was arrested this afternoon.

After keeping Courtmanche under observation at the Grey Nunnery for a week past, Detective Proux, of the provincial police department, taxed the woman with the crime and extracted a full confession from her last night. Her arrest followed early this afternoon and she was arraigned at the court house on a charge of arson.

MAKES A CONFESSION.

The woman's confession reveals the mania which must have possessed her at the time of her diabolical act. "I crept out of bed on the night of the fire," she told the detective, "and set fire to a pile of newspapers which I had placed behind the radiator in the room where the babies were sleeping. The curtains caught fire and then I went back to bed. God knows why I did it. After I had been in bed some minutes, I heard cries of fire, and rushing back to the nursery in my night dress, carried two of the babies to safety. I was then taken to the Khaki Club for the night, and afterwards to Notre Dame Hospital, where I was sick for two days."

Bertha Courtmanche admits having made two other attempts to set fire to the Grey Nunnery, once before her all too successful attempt, and the other a few weeks later. She is a woman of 32 and is very well connected in the eastern townships, where she lived most of her life. She came to Montreal early in February last to enter the service of the Grey Nunnery as an orderly in the babies' orphanage. Previous to that she had been a school teacher in a town near Sherbrooke, the name of which is not given.

## CADET CORPS ORGANIZER IN CITY TODAY

**Capt. Robinson Black Thinks P. N. S. Corps can be Revived—Real Leader Last Year.**

Capt. R. Black organizer and inspector of the Cadets of the Maritime Provinces arrived in the city this morning from St. John where he has been reorganizing and inspecting the cadet corps. Capt. Black is in the city today to give the physical training classes of the Normal School supervision and to reorganize the High School and Normal School cadets. He expressed himself as greatly pleased with the showing that the High School and Normal School corps made at the last inspection and congratulated Mr. J. E. Page of the High School and Capt. A. S. McFarlane of the Normal School on their fine work.

Referring to the leaders of the last inspection Capt. Black said that the standing of the different corps had been published but the prize list had not been approved. He stated that the Normal School corps of last year was practically first in the prize list although Rothesay had come first in the inspection. Rothesay made 88 per cent and the Normal School made 85 per cent but Rothesay being a private school does not come in the provisions of the Strathcona Trust which applies only to public schools. The Fredericton High School corps came sixth in the list and the Moncton corps came third. Although the Normal School has a small number of male students this year Capt. Black said he did not see why a good corps could not be formed.

## HORRIBLE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

Geneva, Sept. 18.—Released from Military prison in Bulgaria sixty British soldiers, including seven officers, have arrived in a very weakened condition. It is apparent their sufferings had been more severe than those of allied prisoners in Germany and Austria. One of the officers, in speaking of the treatment he received declared the Bulgarians would remain civilized and would never become civilized and Europeanized. He said the country was beginning to starve owing to the exploitation of foodstuffs by Germany. Throughout Bulgaria he added, feeling against the domineering Germans was increasing.

## THE FRENCH CAPTURE IMPORTANT POSITION NORTHEAST OF SOISSONS

**Counter Attack by Prussian Guardsmen Was Repulsed---Hun Prisoners Complain of Treatment by Officers --- Buildings Sacked by German Looters**

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

With the French Army in France, Sept. 18.—General Mangin's army attacked along the front northeast of Soissons today and captured the Colombes farm, on the plateau just east of Sancy and just south of the point where the Chemin des Dames branches off from the road leading from Soissons to Laon. A strong counter attack led by grenadiers of the Prussian Guard was repulsed by the French, who drove the enemy back of the road leading from the plateau of Ange Gardiene to the Colombes farm. This road is less than half a mile from the Chemin des Dames. This success puts the French in possession of part of the important plateau of Ange Gardiene, which commands the ridge along which runs the famous "ladies' way" for a considerable distance.

It also drives deeper the wedge south of the Hindenburg positions in the St. Gobain region, and facilitates operations in the direction of Pinon, which was held by the French until the German offensive elate in May. The fighting in this region has been most severe during the last few days. Prisoners are now complaining that they are frequently left in the front line to shift for themselves. Rarely do their officers stand by them when they are attacked, they say.

### THE SACKING OF PRIVATE HOUSES AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS DONE WITH GERMAN THOROUGHNESS

With the French Army, Sept. 19.—Efforts to organize pillaging by the German army and the transportation of loot appear, from official documents and verified incidents, to have been much more effective than the work of carrying out the removal of legitimate war booty during this summer's operations. The sacking of private houses and public buildings in the regions from which the Germans have been driven has been done with characteristic German thoroughness by specifically detailed squads. Advancing French armies, however, have found intact on the plateaus in the region of Soissons and elsewhere, important dumps of munitions which the French had been obliged to abandon in their retreat last spring.

### ORDER FOUND ON GERMAN PRISONER THROWS SOME LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT OF PILLAGING

An order signed by General Von Marwitz and dated May 28, was found in the pocket of a prisoner. It throws particular light on the subject of pillaging. After condemning in severe terms disorganized looting operations by soldiers for their persona laccount, this document calls attention to the rules established for organized pillage and says that the men of the "loot detachment," bearing white arm badges and special identification cards, have the same powers as military police. It adds "The chief of these detachments will confiscate eatables and drinkable as well as objects of current use that are collected, and keep guard over them until the arrival of the exploitation group." Quartermasters are authorized by this document to apply to the use of their units a proportionate quantity of booty suitable for immediate consumption and to send the rest to the rear. Although supposedly under the protection of the Red Cross, the Vaulbin hospital near Soissons was robbed of everything it contained. All the finer objects were shipped to Germany, and ordinary hospital beds went to the dug-outs of German artillery officers around Soissons. Two hundred of these have been recovered since the region has been reoccupied.

## REPORT THAT TURKS HAVE TAKEN BAKU

Paris, Sept. 18.—Turkish troops have taken Baku, according to a Basel despatch quoting a telegram from Constantinople under date of September 17. It is pointed out by the treaty of Brest-Litovsk left Baku to the Russians, but that this does not prevent the Turks from continuing their advance.

This report from Constantinople would seem to indicate that the British have suffered a reverse in the Baku region. It was reported on August 16 that British forces had entered Baku, having reached that city from their base by the way of Persia. No fighting in the Baku region has been reported recently.

Brigadier General A. H. Macdonnell arrived from St. John last evening and registered at the Barker House. Lt. Col. C. H. Powell was registered at the Barker last night.

## MURDERED HIS FIVE YOUNG CHILDREN

Moosejaw, Sept. 18.—About half-past 12 o'clock this morning, William Bromley, a driver for the Dominion Express Co., walked into the central police station and horrified the sergeant on duty by calmly saying that he had murdered his five children by cutting their throats and that they had better look him up. Bromley was accompanied by his wife, who heard the terrible news for the first time when her husband, who had appeared perfectly sane to her, told the story to the police.

Bromley was left at home with the children while the wife went to a picture show. She returned about half-past eleven o'clock, but Bromley refused to allow her into the house. He finally asked her to go to the police station with him. The policeman who rushed to the house found the children on a bed, each with its throat cut so badly that the heads were practically severed from the bodies.