

BRITISH TROOPS ARE NOW FIGHTING THE BULGARIANS NEAR THE FRONTIER; THE SERBIANS ARE MAKING GALLANT STAND

HEAVY FIGHTING IN CHAMPAGNE DISTRICT

Germans Attack Along a Front of Five Miles and are Repulsed With Heavy Losses---French Official Account of the Engagement---Not Much Change in the Situation in the Near East---Bulgarian Forces Bombarded.

Paris, Oct. 31.—German troops in important masses made a thoroughly organized attack last night along a front of nearly five miles in the Champagne district and were subjected to a serious check, with heavy losses, the French war office announced today.

It is asserted that the assaulting forces were hurled back along the entire front on the attack, the front extending from the vicinity of No. 195 to the position of "La Courtine, except that they succeeded in reaching the summit of Butte De Taaure.

Large numbers of dead bodies were left by the Germans upon the battlefield. The infantry engaged in the assault were chiefly troops recently transferred from the Russian front, according to the French official statement this afternoon, which reads as follows:

"The enemy bombardment reported last night in the Champagne developed with great violence on a front of about eight kilometres (about five miles) bounded by the woods on the side of Hill 195, Butte De Taaure, the Village of Taaure and the trenches to the south, as far as including the works of La Courtine. This preparation was followed along the entire front by a thoroughly organized attack by important masses of infantry, formed in the major part from troops recently brought up from the Russian front.

"In spite of the vigor of the attack and the extreme ferocity of the assailants, the enemy was again subjected to a serious check. The assaulting waves, decimated by our fire on the entire front, succeeded only in attaining the summit of the Butte De Taaure. Everywhere else and notably before the village, where the fighting was particularly stubborn, the Germans were compelled to fall back into their trenches. They left upon the scene of the struggle a very large number of dead bodies.

"There has been no very important action on the rest of the front."

London, Oct. 31.—The Serbian fortress of Pirot, described as the key to Nish, is in the hands of the Bulgarians, while the Austro-Germans, advancing from the north, are endeavoring to form a ring around Kragujevatz, where the Serbian arsenal is situated. Thus, besides endangering both the Serbian war capital and the town where the Serbian munitions are manufactured, the Central Powers, with Bulgaria, are narrowing the gap through which the Serbian army in the northeast must escape.

Simultaneously, the Austrians are attacking Montenegro to remove, if possible, the danger of having an enemy army on their flank. Little has been said about the fighting between the Austrians and Montenegrins along the Drina River, but apparently it is of a most sanguinary character, as it took the Austrians with far superior equipment more than a week to force a crossing of the river at one point alone, that south of Visegrad.

The Anglo-French troops are firmly established along the southern end of the Nish railway and crossing into Bulgaria, have occupied the hills surrounding Strumitsa, although the capture of that town, which has been reported, is not officially confirmed.

The allied fleets, too, have again bombarded the Bulgarian towns on the Aegean Sea. While these efforts take some of the strain off heavily tried Serbia, there is no reliable information as to the movement of the greater forces, which, it is hoped, will

save her. Reports continue to circulate, chiefly from German sources, of a Russian army which is to march across Rumania to the rescue. But of the British and French reinforcements no news has been received. It is possible that, in addition to direct assistance, the Allies will try indirect means, whereby the Austro-Germans may be prevented from sending reinforcements to Serbia.

ROBERT GREER JR. SHOT ACCIDENTALLY ON TOBIQUE

Rifle Was Discharged in Lumber Camp -- Bullet Lodged in Head.

Word was received here by telephone last night that Mr. Robert Greer of Tobique, a former resident of New Maryland, son of Mr. Robert Greer Sr., and a brother of Mr. Archie Greer of that place was accidentally shot in the head at his lumber camp near Piaster Rock. The shooting occurred yesterday morning but the details are not known. The bullet was from a rifle and entered the skull behind the ear and as far as is known is lodged in the head. The injured man is being brought to this city and will be placed in the Victoria Public Hospital for treatment. He is expected to arrive here by Gibson Branch tonight, accompanied by relatives.

Mr. Greer had been a resident of the Tobique for some time and was one of the operators for Fraser Limited, in that section of the province. He went into the woods about a fortnight ago. He is well known in this part of the country.

NAILING A LIE ABOUT RED CROSS

A rumor has been persistent circulated in many cities in Canada to the effect that the Canadian Red Cross society was guilty of a breach of faith with its contributors, by selling, instead of giving supplies to soldiers. This motion is of course on the face of it awkward and can give little credence with intelligence people. It has been officially and emphatically denied by Col. Hogetts, the Canadian Red Cross Commissioner in England, and publicly contradicted by prominent Red Cross officials in Canada, but the rumor has a curious vitality and persists in cropping up in unexpected places.

The Canadian Red Cross needs no defence from such petty misrepresentations, but it is unfortunate that a suspicion that supplies are not given away freely might dampen the ardour of many enthusiastic workers who are inspired to generosity, by its thought of the soldiers' pleasure when he received their gifts. There is not much incentive to knitting socks if the soldier who ultimately wears them, does so with a reverence.

The Red Cross author is however

\$25,000 FOR THE LOCAL PATRIOTIC FUND

According to a resolution passed unanimously Saturday afternoon at the meeting held to consider means for raising \$25,000 for the Patriotic Fund that sum should be raised by assessment according to property valuation in the City of Fredericton, County of York and County of Sunbury. The percentage and portion of that sum to be raised by the three municipalities is estimated as follows:—City of Fredericton, 41.23 per cent., \$10,325; County of York, 51.57 per cent., \$12,875; County of Sunbury, \$1,800. Sunbury's share is based on the valuation of 1914 and may be increased as the valuation has increased about \$100,000.

The resolution which was passed on the motion of Coun. Hanford Sloat of Bright, will be placed before the City Council of Fredericton and the Municipal Councils of York and Sunbury by a special committee appointed on the motion of Dr. T. C. Allen. The committee is as follows:—Warden Harry A. Smith and Coun. W. P. Lawson of York, Ald. J. A. Reid and Ald. Robert Baxter of Fredericton, Coun. John F. Harding and Coun. W. K. Fletcher of Sunbury. This matter will be placed before the municipal councils at the session in January.

OPINIONS EXPRESSED

The meeting was largely attended, members of the three councils and members of the Patriotic Committee being present. There was considerable discussion on matters connected with the distribution of the Patriotic Fund and there was strong criticism made by some from outside Fredericton. The opinion was expressed generally that assessment on the basis of valuation was the proper one.

Coun. Sewell of Sunbury urged that a number of men in the ordinary walks of life be appointed members of the committee. Such men could give valuable information with regard to distribution of the money. He had noticed that the Central committee at Ottawa was largely composed of millionaires.

Mayor Mitchell who was in the chair expressed the wish that a few millionaires could be placed on the local committee.

Morden Smith of York said that in some sections there was a strong feeling against assessment for the Patriotic Fund and the councillors wanted all information available to counteract that feeling.

Coun.-elect James G. Douglass of Stanley stated that there were men in all communities who could be reached only through assessment.

On the motion of Coun. Brewer a vote of thanks was tendered the Patriotic Committee for its services in connection with the fund.

C.P.R. SOARING.

C.P.R. stock had another ten-point rise today, selling this afternoon up to 194. This is a thirty-point rise in a few days. U.S. Steel sold at 87½, Crucible at 83, Bethlehem at 500, Iron at 49½, N.S. Steel at 190½, Bridge at 233 and Cement at 45.

EVANGELISTIC SERVICES.

Most of the churches of the city have arranged to hold a series of evangelistic services during the month of November which are likely to result in a great spiritual awakening. Each church is arranging its own program of spiritual services for the month.

Dr. A. W. G. Wilson of Ottawa, is at the Queen.

have never been able to produce any proof. The reasonable inference is that no such proof exists.

Any one making Red Cross supplies can do so with the full assurance that the bounty of the Canadian public goes as a free gift to the sick and wounded soldiers. All reports to the contrary are either misunderstandings or falsehoods.

London, Nov. 1.—The British troops in the Balkans whose movements have been kept secret since they poured into Saloniki, prepared to rush through Greece to assistance of Serbian, are now in trenches with their Balkan allies at grips with Bulgaria just across frontier near Strumitsa. Though all reports that allies have taken this town apparently are untounded, it is along this lower line that the Bulgarians are likely to receive the first hard blows from their opponents.

From Uskup north to Danube Bulgarian offensive has made such progress that it seems out of question for Serbians to do much more than fight rear guard actions for the present.

FIGHTING IN THE WEST

London, Nov. 1.—The recapture of Taaure Hall by the Germans sums up for the present the known result of a sudden spurt of heavy fighting in the Champagne districts. While contestants of the Western front have not renewed a general offensive it is likely that there will be frequent clashes over considerable stretches of front, while the Balkan situation is so acute that each side desires to prevent the other from transferring troops to near east.

RENEWED ACTIVITY

London, Nov. 1.—At the Dardanelles the British are showing renewed activity. They are hammering the Turks with artillery supported by such ships of the Allied fleet as are not engaged against Bulgaria.

ANGLO-FRENCH FLEET ACTIVE

Sofia, via London, Nov. 1.—The Anglo-French fleet is again bombarding the Bulgarian Aegean Sea coast, according to the official statement of the Bulgarian war office today. The statement of the Bulgarian advance into Serbia, is as follows:

"After the occupation of Zajecar, Kniajevatz, and Inovo our troops, on Oct. 28, continued the pursuit of the enemy in a westerly direction. On the morning of Oct. 28, a detachment which has passed the proximity of Pirot, entered the town and further pursued the defeated enemy. The Anglo-French fleets have resumed the bombardment of the Aegean coast."

SUBMARINES SAVED RIGA

London, Nov. 1.—The slackening of the German thrust at Riga is attributed by the Retch to an insufficiency of shells, on account of the activities of Allied submarines in the Baltic," a Reuter's despatch from Petrograd states.

According to an official statement Russian cruisers have captured in the Gulf of Bosnia a German steamer. Another steamer was captured by a submarine.