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FIERCEST BATTLE OF WAR RAGING ALONG THIRTY MILE FRONT

British Have Retired Along Thirty Mile Front at Some Points to Depth of Six Miles. They Still Hold all the Heights and the Most Important Points. The Drive is Now Being Held Up by Allied Forces.

(Special to the Guardian)
LONDON, April 12.—Field Marshal Von Hindenburg is now making attack after attack against the British line between Arras and Ypres. On a front of nearly thirty miles the Germans have succeeded in advancing at some points, the deepest penetration being to a depth of six miles westerly from Armentieres, the evacuation of which is admitted by the British.

HAIG HOLDS ALL IMPORTANT POSITIONS.

Wytschaete is still held by Field Marshal Haig's men, who also maintain their grip on the entire crest of Messines Ridge, Lestrem, Ploegstreet and Ploegstreet wood, and Hollebek against which furious assaults have been launched, only to break down or be nullified by British counter-attacks. A terrific attack made against Hollebek and Wytschaete, on Messines Ridge, was completely repulsed with great loss to the Germans.

On the extreme south of the battlefield where the enemy was seeking to force the evacuation of the important town of Bethune by an enveloping movement, the British troops stand fast, and have taken heavy toll of the enemy. Sir Douglas Haig says that from Lestrem to Loise, which is a little village about three miles north of Bethune, heavy and continuous assaults have been delivered by three German divisions of fresh troops.

BRITISH RECAPTURE POSITIONS.

In the fighting the 51st British division has not only beaten off incessant attacks with great loss to the enemy, but has recaptured positions into which the enemy had forced his way. The battle of the Lys has been far less favorable to the enemy than was the battle of the Somme during the first three days.

The prisoners claimed by the Germans number 10,000 together with a hundred guns and a Portuguese General.

ARMENTIERES WAS HOPELESS RUIN OF NO MILITARY VALUE.

The greatest depth of penetrated is about six miles near Steenwerck. The only town of any size taken is Armentieres and it has long been a hopeless ruin of little military value, since even its cellars were continually subjected to poison gas attacks that made them most unsafe shelters for troops.

ENEMY'S LOSSES HEAVY.

The Germans are attacking in masses, and must now be losing men much more rapidly than the British defensive forces. It will take the enemy a long time to reach Calais at the present rate of progress. A French bulletin tells of the dispersal of a German detachment at Orvillers, south of Montdidier, by French artillery before it was able to approach the French lines and of the repulse of German attacks near Noyon.

There is a good deal of activity of a spasmodic sort in the Champagne and eastward toward Verdun but nothing as yet indicating an intention on the part of the enemy to attack in force. His surplus man power is being used up too rapidly on the Somme and Lys battle fields to permit of a third great drain upon it.

BRITISH, UNITED STATES AND JAPANESE TROOPS IN VLADIVOSTOK.

The solidarity of the Allies is shown by the landing of United States marines at Vladivostok, where in co-operation with the troops landed by Japan and Great Britain, they are guarding the harbor and railways and are watching over the enormous quantities of stores shipped from this continent for the use of Russian armies and left at Vladivostok because of the scarcity of rolling stock on the Siberian railway. As the Russian government has repudiated the debt contracted for the payment of the makers of these materials they may eventually become the property of the bondholders whose money was used by Russian agents in America to pay for them.

RUSSIAN FLEET EVADES CAPTURE BY GERMANS.

(Special to the Guardian)
PETROGRAD, April 12.—The Russian fleet at Helsingford, aggregating two hundred vessels, apparently has escaped from the menace of capture by the Germans. The first squadron, composed of battle ships and cruisers, has arrived safely at Kronstadt the naval base of Petrograd.

The second squadron composed of torpedo boats and submarines, is reported off Kronstadt, and the third, made up of transports and vessels of older types is expected to reach Kronstadt tonight.

THE GERMANS CAPTURE A CONSIDERABLE PART OF PLOEGSTREET WOOD IS REPORT OF GEN. MAURICE.

"On the Messines front the enemy's attack was repulsed," Major-General F. B. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the war office, announced.

"The enemy has obtained no footing on the high ground anywhere." The Germans captured a considerable part of Ploegstreet wood, General Maurice said. "In the fighting yesterday the enemy advanced in the center to a depth of 5,500 yards," said General Maurice. It is quite certain we lost some guns. In an advance to such a depth considerable Portuguese artillery must have been lost and probably a number of prisoners."

In the retirement of the French to the line of the Ailette river, two French battalions were cut off, and the Germans took about 2,000 prisoners, said General Maurice.

The withdrawal of the French was made on account of an awkward corner in the line.

"The latest fighting," the general went on, "shows that the enemy is merely carrying out another chapter in his effort to exhaust the British army. His first scheme was to cut off the British from the French. That failed. Now he is attacking wherever he sees a favorable chance, with the idea of 'bleeding us white' if he can."

"In yesterday's fighting," General Maurice said, "the enemy transferred the scene of his operations to the front between Armentieres and Bethune. The ground of the main attack was held in the center by a Portuguese division, with a British division on each flank. The main blow fell on the Portuguese.

THERE MUST BE NO FURTHER RETIREMENT

Is General Haig's Orders to His Troops in Present Crisis. Each Man Must Fight on to the End.

(Special to the Guardian)
LONDON, April 12.—Field Marshal Haig, commander of the British forces in France in a statement issued today to his troops, said, "Every position must be held to the last man. There must be no retirement. With our backs to the wall and believing in the justice of our cause each one of us must fight on to the end. The safety of our homes and the freedom of mankind depend upon the conduct of each one of us at this critical moment."

PARIS AGAIN BOMBARDED \$500,000 FIRE IN VERMILLION, ALTA.

(Special to the Guardian)
PARIS, April 12.—The bombardment of Paris by a long range gun was resumed this afternoon. One shell struck a foundling asylum. The total victims of the bombardment were four killed and twenty-one wounded.

SPLENDID CONCERT LAST NIGHT

Many good words have been heard as to the excellence of St. Dunstan's Dramatic Society's comedy drama, which played to crowded houses in Summerside and Kensington on Easter Monday and Tuesday evenings. St. Dunstan's have many past successes to their credit before the footlights, but now more than that they have achieved last evening, when they presented to a large audience in the People's Theatre, the patriotic play "Under the Flag."

The play is a strong and gripping one, being a succession of climaxes, leading up to other climaxes. There were no dull moments, no hitches; tragedy and comedy were delightfully interwoven, and the musical productions were in a class by themselves. The bill of the play is well in keeping with our time, being the British acting edition of the American play of the same title, and is suggestive of the beauty and nobility of the sacrifices which men and women are making every day.

Much strong character work was required in the leading roles, and each player well deserved the round of applause he received.

Few professional productions have been staged more successfully than "Under the Flag" last night and the dramatic personae and in fact all the members of St. Dunstan's University may well feel proud of last night's performance.

The orchestra was well balanced and its merits could not be too highly praised.

Pleasing specialties were given between the acts, giving a continuous and most complete evening's enjoyment. A vocal duet by Messrs. J. Howard O'Neill and A. Caron was indeed excellent.

This duo have delighted Charlottetown audiences on many previous occasions but last night's rendition was certainly their crowning achievement. Miss Amy Byrne sang "Who Knows" beautifully and received loud and prolonged applause.

A sale of candy was held between the acts for the St. Vincent's Orphanage.

The costumes were picturesque and admirably worked out in keeping with time and customs. In all it was a delightful rendition of a non-too-easy piece and well deserved the generous support of all lovers of high grade dramatic art. As a resume of the play has already appeared it is unnecessary to particularize the cast of characters, which was as follows:

Willard Blake, (Diamond Broker.)
Stephen McQuaid.
Jerry Dunne—(Blake's pal) Patrick McQuaid.
George Morris—(Blake's chief clerk), Henry L. MacMillan.
Larry O'Toole—(Second clerk) Leo Casey.
Rastus Hemingway—(Janitor) J. Howard O'Neill.
Gerald Firman—(Friend of George Morris) Gerald Dalton.
John Firman (Gerald's father) Ptk. Walsh.
C. P. R. Messenger—Frank Beaton.
Police Officer—F. Beaton, C. Trainer, H. Duffy, J. McEachern.
Spanish officers and soldiers.—M. B. Harrington, T. Beagan, N. Hughes, A. Sinnott, R. McDonald, W. Fisher.
A. Sinnott, N. Hughes (body guard to Governor.)
Orchestra—J. B. Ward, A. Caron, W. McQuaid, A. Le Feuvre, J. Le Feuvre, S. Poirier, Ralph Noonan.

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NATION ANXIOUSLY WATCHING BATTLE

(Special to the Guardian)
LONDON, April 12.—The nation is watching with anxiety unprecedented since the beginning of the war, the progress of the critical battle in Northern France. The anxiety is mingled with admiration for the tenacity of the British troops, who are contesting every foot of ground with the utmost stubbornness that makes the enemy pay dearly for his slow advance as the struggle continues over the thirty-mile front.

GERMANS FAIL TO CAPTURE THE WYTSCHAETE HEIGHTS

(Special to the Guardian)
LONDON, April 12.—In the Wytschaete region the Germans failed to get the main crest of the ridge, but they have taken the village of Messines while the British are holding the outskirts. Attacks on Wytschaete and the Messines Ridge failed, the Germans losing very severely in their attacks. At least seventeen divisions are engaged on the German side on the front from Hollebek to Givency. London reviewers declare that being the number estimated to have been thrown into the fighting up to the present.

BRITISH PUSHED BACK AT NEUVE EGLISE

(Special to the Guardian)
LONDON, April 12.—Attacking yesterday in the neighborhood of Ploegstreet the Germans pushed back the British to the vicinity of Neuve Eglise. It is reported that the British night the Germans captured Merville. Heavy fighting is continuing in the neighborhood of Merville and Neufberguin.

On the remainder of the northern battlefield there is little change. North of Festubert the British regained ground by counter attacks. On the front between Loise and the Lower river German attacks were repulsed.

WHAT IS ENEMY'S OBJECTIVE?

Observers here and in Paris are divided in opinion as to the enemy's intentions, one section regarding the new offensive as a diversion intended to draw out the British reserves while preparing a fresh attack on Amiens. The other believes it is a definite, systematic attempt to destroy the British army and break through to Calais while holding the French in the south. The consensus now favors the latter theory.

BRITISH STEAMER SUNK BY SUBS

(Special to the Guardian)
NEW YORK, April 12.—The big Irish steamship Minnetonka, 13,528 tons gross register, and formerly the New York-Halifax London passenger trade for the Atlantic Transport Line, was sunk by a German submarine in the Mediterranean during February, the Maritime Register reports today.

ULSTER DELEGATES SUBMIT TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

(Special to the Guardian)
LONDON, April 12.—A report of the Irish convention, submitted by the Ulster delegates says that in regard to the fundamental issues no agreement was visible at any time.

Most everyone of the speeches made by the Nationalists outlined a form of Home Rule far in advance of any previous claim. Finally a plan was brought forward on behalf of the Nationalists which included the following demand.

A sovereign independent, a parliament for Ireland, co-equal in power and authority with the Imperial Parliament. Complete fiscal autonomy for Ireland including the power of imposing tariffs and the control of excise.

The right of making commercial treaties with foreign countries, the right to raise and maintain a military territorial force, repudiation of liability for national debt on the plea of overtaxation of Ireland in the past, although the principle of a small annual contribution to the Imperial expenditures was admitted.

Denial of the right of the Imperial Parliament to impose Military Service on Ireland, except with the consent of the Irish parliament.

The Ulster delegates maintained the fiscal unity of the United Kingdom must be preserved.

(Special to the Guardian)
LONDON, April 12.—Absolute calm seems to prevail among the Sinn Fein party, says a Central News despatch from Dublin, but it is understood orders have been given to all sections of the Irish volunteers regarding action to be taken in the event that Irish conscription is agreed upon.

A meetings of many public bodies, the despatch adds, fiery speeches have been made, and strong resolutions passed against the application of the man power bill to Ireland.

CAPTAIN REDMOND WARNS THE GOVERNMENT

LONDON, April 12.—Irishmen maintain the right to say whether they shall be conscription or not. Captain William A. Redmond, son of the late John E. Redmond, declared yesterday in his first speech in the House of Commons. In 1914, he said,

PROCEEDINGS IN THE PROV'L LEGISLATURE

Number of Bills Advanced, Prohibition Bill Discussed and Good Progress Made.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1918.

The House met at 12.30 p. m., the members having spent the morning on a visit to Falconwood.

After the reading of a petition for the incorporation of the Hughes Drug Co., Ltd., the House adjourned 3 p. m. On resumption a number of bills were given a second reading and passed through committee. They were bills to incorporate J. D. Jenkins Co., East River Rural Telephone Co., Newport Launching Telephone Co., and the trustees of the Stoney Bridge Presbyterian Church (in which progress was reported).

The House then went into committee of the whole to resume consideration of the Prohibition Bill. House adjourned at six o'clock.

FRIDAY EVENING.

The House resumed at 9 o'clock, and immediately went into Committee on the Prohibition Consolidation Bill, Mr. McNevin in the chair.

EVANGELISTIC MEETING

Under the inspiring leadership of Mr. J. Ritchie Bell, the united Evangelistic campaign in this city is making gratifying progress.

At last night's meeting in the First Methodist Church the attendance was hearty and the congregation entered heartily into the spirit of the service.

Mr. Bell took as his theme, "The Gospel according to St. Paul" from the text 1st Cor. 15:1-4, which begins as follows: "Moreover Brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preach unto you, which also ye have received and wherein ye stand."

The evangelistic spoke of this as the A. B. C. of the gospel. Have we realized its simplicity? The charge often brought against preachers is that they are not simple enough. He wished to make the plan of salvation so clear and plain that the youngest child might understand.

The text of the Gospel is as follows:—"All have sinned. Christ died for our sins. It was our sins that brought him from Heaven and made him come to Calvary and there die for us. Sin is universal. 'All we like sheep have gone astray.' We have simply wandered away without premeditation or forethought. John in his first epistle says: 'The only one we can do anything in this matter is ourselves.' There is no difference in sinners. All are alike in God's sight. The man who steals five dollars and the man who steals twenty-five thousand dollars are in the same class both take all they can lay their hands on. They are both thieves.

Man divides horizontally and vertically. God's division is the cross of Christ. 'On which side are you?' asked the evangelist.

Mr. Bell proceeded to show that man has never found a cure for sin. He could only regulate and what a mess he makes of that. "I told you last night," he said "that the greatest power in the world was love and the greatest of human loves is the mother's love. All that a mother's love can do is to restrain, but it cannot take out of our hearts the love of sin.

In treating the second division of the subject which he termed the "B" of the gospel, Mr. Bell quoted from John 1:29 "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." The writer had in his mind the Old Testament picture of the scapegoat. Christ has propitiated the wrath of God against sin by the sacrifice and he has borne away our sin into the wilderness of God's forgetfulness.

With deep fervor, the speaker then asked his hearers the question "Did you ever see the picture of Christ?" "Let us close our eyes," he said, "and wander back in memory over the two thousand years that intervene and see the court yard, the crosses, the Christ, the malfactors, the procession, the Crucifixion and lifted up between the heavens and the earth bearing your sin, behold the Lamb of God."

In the closing part of his address which he termed the "C" of the gospel he dwelt with that beautiful and comforting passage "Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." This rest is three fold. Rest from conscience, because the past is pardoned; rest with God because peace has been made through and shedding of blood; rest from sin because power has been conferred by the incoming Christ.

There was a triumphant ring to the evangelist's voice when he declared "We have not a dead Saviour but a Christ who has risen and can say 'All power is given unto me both in Heaven and in Earth.'"

This address which contained many appropriate illustrations made a deep impression upon the congregation.

The service of song was as usual bright, attractive and soul stimulating.

Rev. Mr. Freeman and Rev. Mr. Fulton assisted in the devotional exercises.

The praise service included selections by the choir and congregation; also a duet, "Coming Home" by Mr. Bell and Prof. Hinton.

There will be no service tonight. The Sunday evening evangelistic service will begin at 8.15.

Mr. J. Ritchie Bell will preach and sing in the Baptist Church tomorrow morning and will sing at the evening service in Zion Church.

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