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ITALIAN WAR FRONT NOW AN INFERNO

Terrific Offensive Launched by Austrians but They are Held Back by Italians who have Dislodged Them from Positions.

(Special to the Guardian.)

ROME, May 22.—Austrian artillery of all sizes and ranges with monster 300 millimetre guns predominating has transferred the battle front between Adige and Brenta rivers into an inferno. Notwithstanding snow capped mountain barriers Austrian infantry is being launched in waves which military observers say will break against the formidable front of the Italians. Italian troops have now formed their lines of defence and are holding firm-

ly all the passes and peaks from which the Italian officers say the forward movement of Austrians has not only been arrested but that the Austrians have been dislodged from several strategic positions taken in the first rush of the offensive. The Austrians for their offensive according to Rome advices, have been heavily reinforced in men and guns. Since the beginning of the offensive, Vienna asserts, over 24,000 men have been made prisoners, and 172 cannon have been captured by the Austrians.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S ACTION STRONGLY CONDEMNED BY LONDON DAILY TIMES

LONDON, May 22.—The action of Great Britain in consenting to relax her blockade order and permit the safe passage of fifteen thousand tons of dyestuffs from Germany to the United States, is strongly condemned in a lengthy editorial in the Morning Post today, because such action "gives an advantage to manufacturers of central powers over our own manufacturers." "Thanks to our laissez-faire policy," the Morning Post continues, "our in-

dustries are without dyes with which competing industries of another nation are about to be supplied. British textiles must go without, but American textiles are to be supplied by the courtesy of the British navy. Germany thus accomplishes two ends:—She prevents the American dye industry from establishing itself and she strikes a heavy blow at the English textile trade."

Pope's Appeal May Succeed

ROME, May 22.—From a diplomatic source it is learned that the Pope's appeal to the Kaiser to discontinue submarine attacks on unarmed ships is likely to be successful if the Allies agree to use submarines exclusively in regular naval warfare. Vatican circles are optimistic as the Austrian Empire is said to be seconding the Pope's efforts to overcome the Kaiser's opposition. The latter insisted that the Allies lift blockade but now it is reported they are less exacting.

LONDON, May 22.—The Daily Mail's Athens correspondent computes the total Turkish forces at 860,000.

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FOR SALE—CARRIAGES I OFFER for sale a number of high grade carriages purchased direct from the factory all 1916 models no "hold over stock," road wagons, buggies, and classy bike runabouts, box at right and will be sold right. Examine them and get prices before placing your order. Walter M. Lea, Victoria. 9802-5-23M1f.

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ANOTHER FURIOUS ATTACK ON DEAD MAN'S HILL

60,000 Germans Hurlled Against Verdun Fortresses Along a Seven Mile Front. The German Losses are Terrible and Verdun Still Remains in Hands of the French.

PARIS, May 22.—The battle of Verdun, the longest and most bitterly contested individual struggle of the war, enters on its fourth month today. The Germans, with characteristic stubbornness and patience, are hammering at Dead Man's Hill where the most furious and bloody fighting of three months conflict has taken place. Clinging desperately to the trenches that they have wrested from the French on the lower slopes of the hill, the Teutons have hurled 60,000 men, backed by sixty batteries of guns of all calibres, forward along a seven mile front from Avocourt Wood to the Meuse, in a desperate effort to seize the coveted summit.

As has been usual in this war, when either side launches a well prepared and strongly delivered offensive, the attacking forces have won initial advantages. The Germans have succeeded in gaining a footing in the French first line at a cost of severe losses. However, judging from the experience of the past, it will not be a difficult task for the French to dislodge them before they are able to follow up their advantage. Both sides will then return to their former positions to await another offensive.

That the Germans must continue their tremendous onslaught on Dead Man's Hill, or abandon the idea of taking Verdun, seems obvious. This blood-soaked summit and its sister eminence, Hill 304, from the key of the whole system of Verdun's defences. The fire from their batteries flanks the Douaumont plateau, across the river. Without the undisputed possession of this plateau, military critics agree that no attack on Verdun has any chance of success. In the region of Verdun both French and Germans claim successes for their arms at various points. An interesting point in the latest French official statement is the statement that the positions they stormed and captured on Feb. 25, four days after the commencement of the assault of Verdun they still hold and from which all attempts made to drive them out, proved fruitless.

(Special to the Guardian.)

Hard fighting is still in progress between the French and Germans in the region of Verdun, and Germans and British around Labassee. The great offensive of the Austrians against the Italians in the southern Tyrol continues unabated and at several points the Austrians seem to be gradually throwing back the Italians toward their own territory. To south-east of Trent on the Lavarone Pla-

BRITISH ARE NOW AT KUT-EL-AMARA

Turks have been Driven Off from Environs but are Still in Possession of Sunnay Yat. Mesopotamia Almost Clear of Turks.

LONDON, May 22.—A despatch from Lt. General Sir Percy Lake, commander of the British forces in Mesopotamia shows that the forces of Lt. Gen Sir George Corringe operating on the south bank of the Tigris have now virtually reached Kut-el-Amara, this region being now virtually clear of Turks up to the junction of Shattal Hai river with the Tigris at Kut on the north bank of the Tigris east of Kut-el-Amara, however, the Turks still occupy Sunnay Yat.

The British now operating against the Turks in Mesopotamia are gradually drawing nearer Kut-el-Amara, where a large number of their officers and men who have been reinforced by the Russian cavalry have now reached the region immediately south of Kut-el-Amara with the intervening territory. Their objective is the clearing of Kut-el-Amara and their objective clear of Turks except for small rear guards near Sunnayyat.

To Take Lincoln Back to England

NEW YORK, N. Y., May 22.—Chief Inspector Alfred Ward, and an assistant from Scotland Yard, arrived from England today, on board the Anchor Line steamer Cameronia, Liverpool to take back to England, the self-confessed German spy and former member of the British parliament, Ignatius T. T. Lincoln. Lincoln is wanted in England to answer to a charge of forgery. His extradition was ordered by the Supreme Court of the United States after Lincoln, appealed to that court on a writ of habeas corpus alleging that the real purpose of his extradition was to try him as spy in England.

Premier Briand Expresses Confidence

PARIS, May 22.—In address of welcome to-day to visiting Russian official Premier Briand said the Franco-Russian alliance never had had any purpose other than the maintenance of peace and the stability of the European equilibrium. The Premier asserted that France and Russia had made a supreme effort to avert the European war and said the future could be regarded with confidence. The peace which the allies would demand, Mr. Briand continued, would be without intrigue and it would come only after a decisive victory which would ensure the world against a similar catastrophe in the future. He referred to the manner in which the defence of Verdun, has been conducted and expressed renewed faith in a final victory for France and her Allies.

STEEL SHIP BUILDING IN CANADA DISCUSSED

(From our own Correspondent.)
OTTAWA, May 17. The third reading was given by the Commons yesterday to the bill providing for the acquisition by the Government of what is generally known as the Quebec and Saguenay Railway System. There was no vote on the bill itself but an amendment moved by Sir Wilfred Laurier to have the letting of contracts under the legislation made subject to the authority of Parliament was declared lost on a division. Although not very much real opposition to the bill developed there was discussion of a somewhat spirited character in which the assertion was made that French stockholders in the road had been frozen out by a group of Montreal and Quebec financiers who had induced them to sell their bonds at a low figure and would now reap a harvest therefrom, as a consequence of the Government's acquisition of the road.

Sir Wilfred Laurier, however, favored the principle of the bill. It was pointed out, by Government speakers, including Sir Robert Borden, that to adopt Mr. Lemieux's suggestion would involve paying much more than the road was worth since the money given for the road would have to go first to the present holders of the bonds. Sir Rodolphe Forget made a statement in the course of which he asserted that the French bondholders had received their money back with interest, that they had not been induced to sell out by the company and that it would be impossible now that they had disposed of their bonds to recoup them. Motion to go into supply last night Mr. E. M. MacDonald of Pictou brought up the question of ship building in Canada. He referred to the statement of Sir Robert Borden at the launching on Monday of the new giant jobbreaker at the Vickers Maxim Yards in Montreal, that the Canadian Government favored subsidizing the ship building industry. The Pictou member did not favor assisting the construction of wooden vessels. In conclusion he pointed to the present scarcity of tonnage as reason for the immediate encouragement of ship building and said he had no doubt the scarcity would still exist after the war was over. Sir Robert Borden replied that a country with Canada's resources must ultimately engage in the construction of steel ships. Mr. MacDonald had appeared to confuse the development of a Canadian shipbuilding industry with the present scarcity of tonnage due to the war. Sir Robert said that he had found no one in Canada prepared to construct steel ships within a period which would render them useful in the present condition of vessel scarcity. He doubted whether it would be advantageous to begin the construction of steel vessels now when the cost was at its peak, in view of the fact that they would not be available when tonnage was most needed. After the war was over the Prime Minister thought there would be less cargo for vessels to carry and owing to the release of vessels now interned there would be many more ships to carry it. Sir Robert said he had been informed that the cost of building steel ships in England and Canada would in twenty years be approximately the same.

LETTER FROM TRENCHES

The following letter was received by Mrs. E. M. Wiggmore Grahams Road and L. E. McKay. The writer was formerly of Found's Mills, P. E. I. and enlisted at the early outbreak of the war (from Calgary, Alta.).
France, April 22nd 1916

Dear Friend:—I have today received a parcel from you mailed to me through the Grahams Road Woman's Institute, and it affords me much pleasure to keep you a few lines in answer to same, and also to thank you and the Institute for your kind gifts at this glad Easter tide. I assure you that I am very grateful for those gifts and only do not know how to thank you enough for same as the articles were very useful and well selected. The boys out here are all very grateful for the gifts sent to us by the ladies of Canada, and I assure you we are doing our best for our country. Your kind gifts and messages received from time to time are always welcome to us all and they tend to keep up our spirits for a few times there are much to try our patience. We have many hardships to contend with, but we seem to live through them all, and all seem to be happy most of the time. We have lots of hard work to do and have to do it in wet weather, for I do not think there has been a whole month's fine weather since I came out here, with the exception of the month of March it has rained about five days out of every seven. Some claim it is due to so much firing causing lots of smoke. The first few days in April were fair but it has rained every day for the last two weeks and its raining heavy this evening but the fighting goes on just the same. The fighting has been fierce at times and has been rather severe since the middle of February, and as time goes on it becomes more and more severe. The greatest battle in history was fought just recently and such gallantry was never before shown as was shown at that battle. The enemy came on and on only to be mown down but as soon as one batt' fell another stepped into their places and hurried themselves against the Allied lines only to be torn to shreds by the most terrible machine gun and artillery fire ever known. For instance in eight hours there were one hundred thousand shells fired, but the enemy still struggled forward. The terrible artillery fire was kept up day after day, and tore the enemy to shreds, but still they struggled on. This battle will go down in history as the most bloody battle ever fought up to the present time. I took part in a couple of heavy bombardments. In one they were hundreds of guns going, but I have no idea how many bat. were in action. In another occasion I was told there were sixty batteries in our little district alone in a very small area all in action at once. The noise was something terrible. Just imagine 240 guns being fired at the one time with many more or both sides of us. We sure handed a few pills out to Fritz that day. For a time we had five second fire, and our guns got red hot. It was a day I shall long remember.

Well I think I have told you about all I dare tell you, will have to come to a close for this time, thanking you again and wishing you all good wishes. I beg to remain your friend, L. E. McKay, No. 6134 P. O. B. Battery, R. C. H. A. Field P. G. via G. P. R. London England.

Successful Students ASKED FOR TROOPS BUT WAS REFUSED

Word is received from the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music, London, England, that in the Theoretical Examinations which took place on April 29th, the following Island students have passed successfully, retaining even more than their usual reputation in this line. In the Local Centre "Advanced Theory" Miss Belle McKenzie heads the list with a competent paper on "Rudiments of Music" in the "Divisional Exams." The following candidates made over 90 per cent.—Mary Adams, (Port Hill); Lena Barrett, Ruth Dickleson, Annie McDonald, Marie McDonald, Fannie McLeod, Florence Martin, Margaret Robertson, Elaine Woodman. The names are published alphabetically but speak merit. Miss Elaine Woodman who made the maximum marks in third and first "Divisions" (99). The above are pupils of Miss Ella Palmer.

CITY WIPE OUT, NINE KILLED IN TEXAS TORNADO.

DENNISON, Texas, May 22.—Nine persons were killed and 38 injured and Kempt City, Oklahoma, eight miles east of Denison, was wiped off the map by a tornado which Saturday night swept a patch three-quarters of a mile wide and five miles long in the Kempt City section. Only three small dwellings remain standing at Kempt City.

NEW YORK, May 22.—A London cable says that the British casualties last week on all fronts were 79 officers killed, 227 wounded and 1547 men killed, 7244 wounded.

STRATEGIC POINT WRESTED FROM HUNS BY LANCASHIRES.

British headquarters in France May 18, via London, May 19.—It develops that the action of the battalion of the loyal North Lancashires and the Lancashires Fusiliers on the 15th was a singularly brilliant attack, and gained a strategic point, the crest of the redoubt about Vimy ridge, the possession of which means the command of the plan of operations. Since the British took over this section of the battle of Verdun, the Germans had been holding stubbornly the vantage of the higher ground, and inflicting heavy casualties on the British. After a successful explosion of mines, just after dark, the Lancashires, who are made up largely of cotton operatives from Manchester rushed from their trenches to the lips of the craters.

Every detail in the programme of the operation, from the putting of machine guns out of action, bringing up sandbags with which to build new breastworks, and defending the position by means of bombs, was carried out successfully. Morning found the Lancashires thoroughly entrenched against a retaliatory German bombardment and had connected their old line by communications six feet deep. Slight casualties were the cost of the night's success. The value of the ground gained is not to be judged by the 360 yards of front taken, but by the fact that the Lancashires are no longer on the downside of the slope, with the Germans above them.

Holland Not Satisfied

LONDON, May 22.—Dutch Government is to send a strong note to Berlin stating that the German version of the torpedoing of the steamer T. danda cannot be accepted and holding Germans responsible.

PRICES WENT UP 3 POINTS LAST MONTH.

OTTAWA, May 19.—The index number of the Labor Department showing the average price level for the Dominion is up nearly three points more for the past month and now stands at 179.1 as against 135 for April 1914, before the outbreak of the war. The cost of living, however, has not increased to that extent. The average increase of 29 articles of food for the same period has been only eleven per cent. The increases have been more those on chemicals, mentals, textiles, etc.

The report for the last month shows dairy products lower but iron and steel and certain other metals are still advancing. Grain and fodder a slightly higher, also animals and meats, while hogs are considerably higher. There was a steep rise in sugar, 'm' flour is lower. There were slight advances also in beef, milk, bread, flour and rolled oats are the only articles that do not show some advance since 22 months ago.

UNIVERSAL PEACE PLAN

WASHINGTON, May 22.—The House Committee on Naval Affairs voted unanimously today to include in the annual naval appropriation bill an unusual rider in the interest of universal peace and disarmament following the end of the European war. The resolution was offered by Representative Walter Hensley, a Missouri Democrat, one of the pacifist members of the committee. In some quarters the adoption of the resolution was regarded as a concession to the "Small Navy" Democrats of the committee who had voted for a building programme costing \$160,000,000. Representative Hensley's resolution reads: "Upon conclusion of the war in Europe, or as soon thereafter as it may be done, the President of the United States is authorized to invite all great governments of the world to send representatives to a conference, which shall be charged with the duty of suggesting an organization, court of arbitration or other body, to which disputes between nations shall be referred for adjudication and peace settlement and to consider the question of disarmament and submit their recommendation to their respective governments for approval; that the President is hereby authorized to appoint nine citizens of the United States, who shall be qualified for the mission by eminence in the law and by devotion to the cause of peace, to be representatives of the United States in such conference; that the President shall fix the compensation of the said representatives and such other employees as may be needed are hereby authorized; and \$200,000,000 much thereof as may be needed, is hereby appropriated for that purpose and placed at his disposal."

Naval Battle Reported in Baltic

LONDON, May 22.—Reports from Kalmars, in Sweden, on the Baltic, as forwarded from Copenhagen to the Exchange Telegraph Company, state that a violent cannonading was heard last night, and that it was said a battle is in progress between German and Russian warships.

Minard's Liniment cures Distemper.

THE WEATHER TEMPERATURE, TIDE MOON ETC.

(Special to the Guardian.)
TORONTO, May 23.—Maritime moderate to fresh southerly winds partly fair with local showers more especially at night.

The tide will be high this afternoon at 2:38 and tomorrow at 3:50; it will be high tomorrow morning at 4:27 and Thursday at 5:21.

The sun sets this evening at 7:35 and tomorrow at 7:35; it rises tomorrow at 4:17 and Thursday at 4:17.

The moon sets this morning at 10:43.

There was a full moon on Wednesday, May 17th at 10.11 a. m.

The last quarter of the moon will be on Wednesday, May 24th at 1.16 a. m.

The length of today will be fifteen hours and seventeen minutes.

COMING EVENTS ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS ETC.

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