

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM ON THE BRITISH FRONT

Haig Reports That Tremendous Infantry and Artillery Attacks Caused the Break. Positions in Northern Part Are Held With Fresh Reinforcements

ENEMY LOSSES ARE SAID TO BE APPALLING

Reports From Berlin Say This Is the Last German Exertion of Strength Before Peace--Germans Claim Large Captures of Men and Guns

By William Phillip Simms

ON THE BRITISH BATTLE FRONT, March 23. There is the most stubborn fighting throughout the whole new battle front. Throughout the big drive the British forces withdrew in perfect order to permanent positions and this was accomplished in spite of the fact that weather conditions were favorable to the enemy. The fighting is the hottest along the southern portion of the battle front where thirty divisions of the enemy are attacking. The British guns are mowing them down, point blank.

ON THE BRITISH BATTLE FRONT, March 23.—There are between sixty and ninety German divisions opposite the British battle front. The British withdrawal need cause no panic. The retreat was from the outer lines to better protected positions. The commanders are to a man confident. All is smooth and the new positions are strong.

Retire to Prepared Positions

LONDON, March 23.—Field Marshal Haig has reported that the Germans broke through the British defensive system west of St. Quentin. The British are retreating to previously prepared positions.

"Powerful attacks with tremendous infantry and artillery forces caused the break," Haig reports. There was heavy fighting over the whole front last night.

The British are retaining their positions along the northern part of the battle front where there is heavy fighting. The defense is being made with vigorous energy and reserve forces are aiding in holding the positions.

There is hot fighting at Bullecourt, Leuse, Valenciennes, and Lagnicourt.

Enemy Coup Looked For

The British are extremely cautious, owing to the fact that the Germans have not shown anything new in the way of weapons in the big drive. It is believed that the Germans may be trying for a surprise attack. Perhaps there will be a change in the points of attack when the British reserves have been diverted.

Germans Say This Is Final

AMSTERDAM, March 23.—German newspapers declare that the present battle is to be decisive and final. They call it the "Last exertion of strength before peace." They say that Germany only needs to hold out a short time to achieve victory.

Members of the Reichstag by a rising vote thanked the army. German correspondents emphasize the vastness of German supplies, saying that the airmen have increased ten fold.

German Claims of Captures

BERLIN, March 23.—It is announced that Crown Prince Ruprecht has captured 25,000 prisoners, 400 cannon and 300 machine guns.

French Inflict Frightful Slaughter

LONDON, March 23.—French forces to the right of the British are now engaged. The slaughter at Roiselcourt is most appalling. Every available gun has been concentrated against the enemy, which is held in mass formation.

Combined Losses Exceed 200,000

WASHINGTON, March 23.—According to official estimates, over two hundred thousand is the loss in killed, wounded or missing in the two days' fighting on the vast front. The British estimate the German losses at 150,000 and it is believed that the British losses are half that number.

Public Warned Against Hoaxes

WASHINGTON, March 23.—General March, chief of the army staff, and British military men, laughed at the report that the Germans are shelling Paris from a distance of sixty-two miles. The officials have given warn-

APPARENTLY the great German drive has begun on the western front; apparently the long talked of death grapple has started. Telegraphic reports today indicate our allied forces have met what could only have been expected in the first encounter, namely a BENDING of the allied line. But there is no cause as yet for great fear. The test of strength is in its infancy. They may bend the line, but it is not believed possible to break it. Every military authority of the allied cause assures us that the line will hold.

To the loyal, patriotic readers of The Observer we say, now is the time—if this proves to be the gigantic German offensive—to exercise calmness and fortitude. Our boys are in the conflict; they are fighting for us as only heroic American blood can fight. It is therefore our plain duty to keep a clear brain and a steady nerve for all home work that backs up the warriors we have sent. Let our prayers to a just God be with the allied arms, and let our hands do quickly what we find to do in the great work of war preparation.

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ing to the public to beware of hoaxes. Confidence everywhere prevalent. The war department is especially confident as to the outcome of the drive. The German advance is causing a speeding up in congressional action on pending war legislation.

Airmen Raid Paris

PARIS, March 23.—It is officially announced that airmen raided Paris today. There were several victims.

MUST NOT DESERATE FLAG

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Six months' imprisonment and a fine of \$500 is provided in a bill which passed the senate today prohibiting the desertion of the flag for purposes of advertising.

SECRETARY ON BELGIAN FRONT

LONDON, March 23.—Secretary Baker visited the Belgian front today and had a meeting with King Albert.

RUMANIAN ARMISTICE ON

BERLIN, March 23.—The Rumanian armistice has been prolonged three days.

WEATHER FORECAST

PORTLAND, March 23.—Rain.

Now That the Kaiser Is Here---How Do You Like Him?

(From April American Magazine.)



Yes, sir, the Emperor is with us every waking moment. It took quite a long time for him to get over here, but he has arrived, bag and baggage. And he has established personal relations with each one of us. We are having extensive dealings with him, and we are not finding the relationship very satisfactory. He's a domineering, dictatorial nuisance. He's also extravagant. His present schemes have cost about seventy-five billion dollars and four or five million lives. He is the bull-headed promoter type that gets in wrong—and bang the expense! There's nothing to be done but to get rid of him. If we let him have his way now, he will go right on rocking the boat. He loves authority, likes to boss. Give him rope and there will be more wars—and plenty of them.

Uncle Sam has set out to fire this man. And we agree that the thing must be done. So when they come around to you this spring for contributions to the Liberty Loan or the War Savings fund or the Red Cross or the Y. C. M. A., rake and scrape every penny you can find and put it in toward finishing up the job.

All join in the chorus—W-E D-O-N'T W-A-N-T T-H-I-S G-U-Y! We have had a taste of him—and we don't like his work. We may have been monkeys once. The scientists tell us we were. But let's not allow this kind of a specimen to make monkeys of us again.

IN CHARGE OF DISLOYALTY INST. I. W. W. ORGANIZATION

23.—The government charges of disloyalty and revolutionary activities against the I. W. W. in a petition filed in federal court to retain the wholesale raid last September. District Attorney exhibits now fill the federal building. It was announced that the principal object of the elaborate scheme to disorganize and overthrow the government was to disloyally oppose the United States in the present war. Ever since the indictments the organization has published and circulated pamphlets threatening to continue the same activities.

Prosecutor Cline says: "The I. W. W. is not a labor organization but a revolutionary body. The purpose of the leaders is always to foment industrial strife, regardless of the justice of the cause. They have encouraged the belief that the government departments are capitalistic and should be destroyed."

CONSTABULARY UNIT WANTED FOR LA GRANDE

old in the city hall and business men. Withcombe, the defense and Mayor, asking that the unit of the state which apparently is to be placed in La Grande, be stationed two companies of soldiers to protect the Eastern Oregon country. It is admitted that without the troops here there would have been serious trouble probably, and therefore the impression prevails that La Grande is an I. W. W. stopping place.

With saw mills here and in the surrounding counties and the wheat fields of the Grande Ronde and Umatilla county close by it is argued that this is the logical point to place a company of mounted police, such as the state constabulary will naturally provide.

A committee of La Grande people will visit Portland tonight in the interest of the movement.

JAP. INTERVENTION RESENTED

PETROGRAD, March 23.—The Soviet Commissaries have directed the Foreign Minister to inquire of America, England and Japan regarding Japanese plans to occupy Siberia. The military commission, under Trotsky, is considering plans for defense.

LONDON, March 23.—Premier Viscount Trenchard told the Japanese house of peers that the government was not considering Siberian intervention where the enemy war prisoners are not a real menace.

MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN FOR RED CROSS

Red Cross funds are growing low, so reported Mrs. Jessie Goodhue, secretary of the central organization at a meeting held yesterday afternoon in the United States National bank.

And when Red Cross funds get low there is a nervousness in Union county for everyone realizes and appreciates the great work being done by the different chapters, hence everyone is anxious for the exchequer to be replenished at once.

"Bill," the celebrated Bend sheep which brought \$5,000 at auction, was ordered sent to La Grande, but the plans of the local organization are such that his entrance into the same would at this time "muss things up." Bill will be ordered on to Union county, and the La Grande chapter of the Red Cross will be replenished by another process.

The finance committee has under way a scheme for monthly payments to the Red Cross. In other words, when a person pays his water rent he also pays his dollar to the Red Cross for that month, and it is thought this will answer all purposes and relieve the community from any campaign and excitement. All realize that the Red Cross must be supported during the entire war period and everyone who has been interviewed agrees that the dollar a month plan is far the best.

GERMAN CLAIMS

NOT ACCEPTED

LONDON, March 23.—The news coming from correspondents at the front Friday that forty German divisions were engaged in the fighting on the front of attack, and that the greatest concentration of artillery in the world's history was operating gave the British public an idea of the tremendous struggle on the west front. But nothing in the dispatches, either from Field Marshal Haig or from the newspaper correspondents, had prepared them for the German claim which reached London late Friday night of the capture of 16,000 prisoners and 200 guns as the result of the first day's fighting in the new German offensive, and the disposition at the moment is to regard the claim as an exaggeration.

According to the correspondents, the British withdrawals, where they are necessary, were carried out in good order from advanced positions, which in the nature of the fighting of these days it had been expected would be given up. These positions were generally believed to have been lightly held.

It has been intimated that the Germans would claim the capture of several villages, but the dispatches gave no hint of their names, saying only that it was inadvisable to indicate the present British line, because this would be giving information to the enemy.

All the dispatches emphasize the heavy cost to the Germans of the first day's struggle, and depict the ground from which the British have withdrawn as being littered with German dead.

HARRY LAVEY ENLISTS

Harry Lavey, a trainman of La Grande, is among the railroad employees who have enlisted for service with the railroad regiment in France. Mr. Lavey expects to leave La Grande to enter the service tomorrow.

MORE GLASSES SUPPLIED.

Two more field glasses for the use of the government have been received by Mr. W. R. Parker. One is from Mrs. Geo. O. Ames, of Elgin and the other is from one whose name is withheld by request.

MRS. SCHILKE HOME FROM WASHINGTON

WAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCE

OREGON LEADS MANY OTHER STATES

La Grande Woman on Committee to Draft Resolutions for Executive Proclamation

Arriving home from Washington, D.C., today, where she had been attending the national meeting of state representatives which convened as a National Conference on Child Welfare, Mrs. Fred Schilke spoke in the highest terms of Oregon's position in the entire national program, which covers all war activities.

"The conference was well attended," said Mrs. Schilke, "and the strongest characters of the nation were there to start the work of conserving the dearest and best portion of the nation—the children. Heretofore there has been a vastly mistaken idea prevailing in the minds of some to the effect that Child Welfare had no place in the present war scheme. One had but to listen to the different speakers to be wholly convinced that it is a vital part of it. One main object of the work will be to keep children in school while the world is in this turmoil in order that the reconstruction period will have young men and young women properly educated and ready to take hold, instead of having grown-ups who have been neglected and are not equipped to take part in the great civilization which is bound to follow this conflict. Another strong feature is the baby raising. This nation loses one hundred thousand babies under one year old each year and it will be our work to endeavor to lessen this horrible death rate among the very young."

"Children's year begins April 1st and lasts until April 1st, 1919, giving a whole year to work out many of these needed reforms."

Capital A Place Of Interest.

Mrs. Schilke visited Washington at the request of the State Council of Defense to represent Oregon at this meeting. She found the capital a very interesting place and visited the house and senate, also the supreme court and many other departments and tribunals besides viewing all the old-time places of interest in and around Washington. She was placed on the most important committee named by the gathering, which was a committee to draft resolutions urging President Wilson to issue a proclamation on the child welfare work. This committee is composed of a woman from St. Louis, one from New York City, Chicago, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and Mrs. Schilke, of La Grande, Oregon.

Oregon Women Advanced.

"I might mention that Oregon women have no cause to feel the least bit discouraged," said the La Grande woman in closing her interview today "for we are in the lead in club work of many of the eastern states. I was really surprised when I computed the reports of other states with what I know Oregon women have been doing. Many of the things recently undertaken in the east have been done by Oregon long ago."

East Feels War Strain.

That the east is feeling deeply the strain of war is the opinion of Mrs. Schilke. She claims we know little about conservation as yet when one compares this country with conditions in the east. Prices are extremely high and everything is placed strictly on a war basis.

LIST OF VOLUNTEERS

The complete list of those who have recently enlisted through the local army board includes: Richard T. Rettig, Arthur Ernest Miller, William Fowler, Presley Mauney, Lester Monroe Zimmermann, Lewis D. Harris, Leo James (Dick) Lindsey, Chas. Binger, Leo Miller, Ben Earl Carney, Henry M. J. Turner, Edgar L. Lovell and Raymond Anderson as cook.