

FRONT STATIONED FROM SEEN THROUGH TIDE TURNED BY VIOLATION OF ACCEPTED STRATEGY IN EARLY ENGAGEMENT.

OCTOBER 31 CRUCIAL DAY Will Irwin Describes How Disaster Followed Disaster Just Before British General Brought Enemy to Standstill.

threw it at the flank of a German attack which was proceeding on the reconnaissance that the English were totally beaten. The Germans broke; the British retook Gheluvelt, on the original line. On this start, and partly by some advance of the front line, the British most daring strategy, but partly by the spirit of an army which begins to see victory, French snatched back the position. The Second Guard went into retirement and rested by midnight on the original line.

The English had merely held, technically. Really, they had won the climactic action in that long battle which must determine the future course of this war. The cost of it was no less than the cost of other famous victories. The Second Guard went into that can-burn 1100 strong. They came out but 72. And most of their lost thousands went down the river before the battle of Ypres was won. Most of them, too, fell in this action of October 31.

Victory Not Realized Then. In old wars a battle lasted a day or two; victory came in an hour, and it was all over but the pursuit; the courier went forward to the enemy's lines, the British and the German and the French in this new war, no one, not even the commander, may know the decisive moment; the day of real victory before the front line, and the English goes on to none of these modern battles is there as yet an end. October 31 was the decisive point of this action before Ypres; no one knew it then. The attacks and counter-attacks, the digging in, went on. French troops began arriving in force to strengthen and make sure the line.

Nevertheless, the Germans had one more great assault on their programme. Ypres is the old historic capital of French Flanders, and it is an observant, not a curious fact about the operations against Ypres. However heavy the German bombardment, the famous old Cloth Hall, the most beautiful building of its kind in Flanders, was unscathed by shells. It was saved, we know now, for a special purpose. Kaiser Wilhelm himself was moving forward with a special force to a special assault which should finally and definitely break the allied line at Ypres. To do this was to clear Flanders of the British, and the very officers might be intended to annex Belgium in the Cloth Hall of Ypres. He came with his own Prussian Guard; it was that guard which was so thoroughly as the British massed attack. It was no less vigorous than the attack of the 31st, but the English, reinforced now by the French, met it better. Again the dense masses poured in; again the very officers died until their rifles grew too hot to hold.

One Battle Like Whole Civil War. When, that night, the strength of the German attack was spent the better part of the Prussian guard lay dead in a wood—its own place of concealment of eight deep. The second and lesser climax was past. A fortnight more and the line from La Bassée to the sea had been locked as thoroughly as the line from Switzerland to La Bassée. It had cost England 50,000 men out of 120,000 engaged—a proportion of loss greater than any previous war ever knew. It had cost the French and Belgians 75,000. It probably cost the Germans 375,000. That is a half million in all. The American Civil War has been called the most terrible in modern history. In that one long battle Europe lost as many men as the North lost in the whole Civil War.

It happened so close to the capital of Great Britain that officers in a hurry are now making the trip from London to headquarters in four hours, happened in an age when intelligence travels by lightning. It happened in a day of that age when every mind in the Western world was waiting hungrily for news. Yet the real struggle was not in the field of battle, but in the very officers' staffs at Ypres was decisive, on the western front that it may rank with Waterloo and Blenheim for glory and for effect. It happened in a day when the world after the event, in such strange times do we live!

Crucial Day Arrives. Ten days followed in which nothing decisive happened and everything happened. The Germans rocked their attack from side to side, searching for the weak spot by lightning. At least there; but the line remained virtually as it had been when Halg moved up his first corps. The British held on, and continued to dig in. Through the days of incessant battering and continual losses; the hospital trains running back to the base carried as many as 4000 wounded in one day.

Disaster Followed Disaster. Hard on this came hurried news to headquarters from the front. The German artillery, and a massed attack of German infantry, and the first Division of the First Corps, near Ypres; the division was going back; the French support was going back; the British reinforcements, said the message. "I can send you my two sentries," replied Flanders. Disaster after disaster followed. The Royal Scots Fusiliers, remaining in a hot place, were for their very valor cut off. The Germans had found new artillery, had found new artillery positions, had shelled General Douglas Haig's headquarters. A shell had burst in the house. Haig was outside at the time, but nearly every staff officer of the First Corps was killed or wounded. The army up there was almost headless—was fighting as individuals on primitive fighting instinct.

General French Impotent. French, assisted by Haig, became a headquarters staff himself. They say that he risked his life 50 times that afternoon, as his focus of more trouble. He gave an order here; he encouraged an officer there. He rallied a part of the broken First Division and

SHIPS ARE NEEDED Lack of Tonnage Checks Trade in Wheat Market.

PRICES SAG AS RESULT Continued Demand From Europe, but No Way of Getting Cereal There—Latest Cargo Sales at Full Prices.

The lack of tonnage is still the cause of inactivity in the wheat market, and there are no indications that conditions in this respect will be bettered soon. Shipping men believe that the British government's need of steamers will be greater than ever in the Spring months and therefore they see no reason for expecting cheaper freight. At the same time the foreign demand for wheat is good and full prices are prevailing on the other side, as shown by the sales yesterday of the cargoes of the Morna at 62 and the Alice A. Leigh at 61 1/2, both ships having a third each of bluestem, club and red wheat. But while Europe wants wheat there is no way of getting it there, and with no prospect of a better situation, prices have sagged in spite of advances abroad.

The only sale on the Merchants Exchange yesterday was a 5000-bushel lot of April forty-four at 113, which is 1 1/2 cents less than was bid for it on Thursday. Other wheat bids ranged from 1 to 4 cents under Thursday's prices. Sellers' prices were not lowered in the same proportion. The oats and barley market were also dull and bids were reduced all around. Local receipts in cars were reported by the Merchants Exchange as follows:

Table with columns: Wheat, Barley, Flour, Oats, etc. and prices.

Great Uncertainty About Getting Stocks Through From London. The fear that large imports of wool will bring prices down in this country is unfounded, according to Boston Fiber and Paper. Reviewing the situation, that paper says: "There is little or no speculation between dealers and there remains evidence that some of the smaller dealers who bought heavily at the height of the speculative period are now getting uneasy over their purchases and are beginning to hold their feet. These small dealers' shifting prices a little bit within a few weeks in order to lighten the load they are carrying.

There is not enough wool now to supply the demand, and there is great uncertainty about the shipments through from London, Australia and the Cape. In fact, the uncertainty of getting foreign wools here, even under the plan of the Textile Alliance, is considered so pronounced that a quantity is concerned, that a number of dealers predict that it will be at least six months before the amount of wool as received will begin to affect the market.

DEMAND FOR HOPS AT STANDSTILL Shipping Difficulties Stop All Trade with England. It has been a long time since the hop market was as quiet as at present. About the only demand since the first of the year was from England, and the shipping difficulties have been such that very few hops remain unsold in this state. There are no indications that the demand will revive soon.

WILD NEAME & CO.—There has been a fair inquiry during the week and prices are firm without alteration. Thornton & Manger.—There is no change in the market for small amounts of wild neame and full prices are made. Stocks are very limited and growers firm holders.

CHOICE OREGON POTATOES WANTED Good Shipping Demand for Best Stock, Which is Scarce. There is a fair demand for choice potatoes to ship to California, and there are also inquiries from the market for Texas and Arizona. Dealers report great difficulty in getting stock of this character. Buyers are offering 80 and 90 cents in the country for good potatoes and will pay up to \$1 for extra fancy stock and will accept 75 cents for good stock.

Chicago Dairy Produce. CHICAGO, March 19.—Butter—Unchanged. Higher. Receipts, 922 cases; at market, cases included, 17 1/2¢; ordinary firms, 18 1/2¢; first, 17 1/2¢, 18 1/2¢.

NEW YORK, March 19.—Spot cotton quiet. Middling upland, 8.50c. No sales. PUYALLUP RHUBAR RIFE Shipments Earlier Than Usual and Larger Crop Expected. PUYALLUP Wash., March 18.—(Special.)—The first rhubarb of the season, 115 tons, was received by the Puyallup & Sumner Fruit Growers' Association today. The rhubarb was grown by Thomas Dewell, of South Hill. This is the second year that the Puyallup delivery of the rhubarb crop in the valley, said officials of the canneries. It indicates that other crops will be earlier also, it is said.

Bank Clearings. Bank clearing of the Northwestern cities yesterday were as follows: Clearings, Balance, Portland, \$1,334,243; Astoria, \$121,487; Seattle, \$2,190,923.

STOCKS ARE STRONG Good Gains Are Scored by Wall Street List.

IMPROVEMENT IN COPPERS Bethlehem Steel Advances Almost Five Points—Additional Gold Imports Arrive From Canada. Banks' Cash Holdings Gain.

NEW YORK, March 18.—Stocks today recovered more of the ground lost in the week, but with the underlying a sharp setback just before the close. The decision of the London Stock Exchange to bring the American shares on its list down to the minimum established by the local exchange was without the unfavorable effect anticipated in some quarters. In fact, the result was quite the reverse, a moderate demand for our stocks being reported from London.

Exchange markets as a whole were steadier, but under drafts on London standing over yesterday's low quotations. German remittance and the firm, but France showed no appreciable change. Local banks are expected to show a large gain in the amount of deposits, much of which is traceable to the gold inflow. Bank clearings at the center have advanced again over last week, but are still behind the corresponding period of last year.

Table with columns: Closing, High, Low, and various stock prices.

Local jobbing quotations: TROPICAL FRUITS—Oranges, navel, \$2.25; Valencia, \$2.25; grapefruit, \$2.25; pineapples, 5c per pound; tangerines, \$2.25. VEGETABLES—Cucumbers, 10c; tomatoes, 15c; peppers, 10c; cauliflower, 15c; lettuce, 10c; spinach, 10c; eggplant, 10c; green beans, 10c; peas, 10c; corn, 10c.

Local jobbing quotations: SALMON—Columbia River one-pound tins, \$2.50 per dozen; half-pound tins, \$2.50 per dozen. HAMS—All sizes, 17 1/2¢ to 18 1/2¢; broiled, 19¢ to 20¢.

Money, Exchange, Etc. NEW YORK, March 19.—Mercantile paper, 3% sterling exchange easy, 60-day bill, \$47; 90-day, \$47 1/2; 120-day, \$48 1/2.

NEW YORK, March 19.—Sterling, 60 days, \$47 1/2; demand, \$47 1/2; 90 days, \$48 1/2; 120 days, \$49 1/2.

NEW YORK, March 19.—Butter—Fresh extra, 22 1/2¢; prime first, 21 1/2¢; fresh first, 21 1/2¢. Cheese—Fresh extra, 14 1/2¢; Young American, 12 1/2¢; Swiss, 12 1/2¢.

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ADD & TILTON BANK THE Oldest Bank in the Pacific

Northwest cordially invites you account Subject to Check or in its Savings Department with the assurance of courteous treatment. Corner Washington and Third

Table with columns: Omaha Livestock Market, SOUTH OMAHA, Receipts, 8000, etc.

WHEAT HAS SETBACK MARKET BREAKS SHARPLY AFTER DECIDED STRENGTH.

CHICAGO, March 19.—After showing decided strength the greater part of the time since the market opened, a sharp setback just before the close. The sudden break was accompanied by disturbing bearish rumors about the wheat trade. It had been reached in the relations of Austria with Italy. Prices closed unsettled, 1/2 to 3/4 cent under last week's close. Corn finished 1/4 to 1/2 cent down, oats 1/2 cent off to a shade advance and provisions at a loss of 1/2 cent.

Table with columns: WHEAT, CORN, OATS, MERCH PORK, and various prices.

TRAVELERS GUIDE FRENCH LINE

Compagnie Generale Transatlantique. SAILINGS FOR BORDEAUX LA TOURNAIE... Mar. 27, 3 P.M. NIAGARA... Apr. 10, 3 P.M.

AUSTRALIA Honolulul and South Seas

"VENTURA"—"SONOMA"—"SIERRA". \$110 Honolulu—Sydney, \$337.50. For Honolulu—March 30, April 15, April 27, May 11, June 23, July 6, Aug 13, Sept 27, Oct 14, Nov 27, Dec 11.

SAN FRANCISCO AND SAN DIEGO S. S. ROANOKE

LOS ANGELES AND SAN DIEGO S. S. ROANOKE. Sails Wednesday, Mar. 24, at 6 P. M. NORTH PACIFIC STEAMSHIP CO.

COOS BAY AND EUREKA S. S. ELDER

SAILS SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 9 A. M. AND EVERY SUNDAY THEREAFTER. NORTH PACIFIC STEAMSHIP CO.

SOUTH PACIFIC LAMPOR & HOLT LINE

BARRABOS, RAHIA, RIO DE JANEIRO, BANTON, MONTEVIDEO & BUENOS AYRES. ALL LIVESTOCK PRICES ARE HOLDING STEADY.