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HUNS, HARD HIT, STAGGER BACK

Smashing Blows Delivered By French and British.

ALLIES GAIN MUCH GROUND

Moreuil Changes Hands Four Times Before Being Finally Lost to Germans.

ENEMY CASUALTIES HEAVY

Belief Grows That Gigantic Battle Will Be Prolonged for Months.

PARIS, March 31.—The battle is slackening, according to news reaching Paris late tonight.

The attacks of the Germans have been less violent, and less numerous today, and it has been observed that the enemy is feverishly digging himself in, particularly in the neighborhood of Lassigny.

The general impression is that the situation is most satisfactory.

(By the Associated Press.)
WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, March 31.—Sunday morning the British were holding the whole of their long line with strength. They had smashed numerous heavy German attacks at various points and successfully taken the initiative on several sectors.

(By the Associated Press.)
From the region of the Somme southward to where the battle line turns eastward furious fighting has continued on various sectors, but in every other sector the enemy has been held, and even pushed back at some points.

Nowhere has been able with his great masses of men to gain ground except an infinitesimal tract from the French north of Moreuil. British and French machine guns and riflemen again tore great holes in the ranks of the field gray as they endeavored to press on.

Enemy Avoids Battle.
So great have been the losses of the Germans in front of the British north of the Somme that Sunday saw them unwilling again to take up the game of battle.

Along the Scarpe the British themselves went on the offensive, and to the east of Arras captured the village of Feuchy.

On the southern end of the line the British and French troops, fighting together, have met the enemy in furious combats, but everywhere defeated him with sanguinary losses.

French Recapture Villages.

In the bend of the line between Moreuil and Lassigny the Germans made frantic efforts to break through, but the French held them in their tracks, and in addition recaptured several villages.

Not alone has Von Hindenburg had numbers of men killed and wounded, but both French and British armies have taken a considerable number of new prisoners and have also captured machine guns.

At last accounts the Germans had launched a fresh attack in the region between the rivers Luce and Avre and fierce fighting was in progress. Hindenburg's Paris Date Canceled.
The reports from both the British and French war offices seemingly indicate that the allied troops have reached the limits of their retrograde movement.

In any event they have canceled the engagement Field Marshal von Hindenburg made with himself to take tinner in Paris on All-Fools' day.

PARIS, March 31.—On the southern battle front the French have recaptured Ayencourt and Monchel and gained considerable ground in the region of Orvillers, according to the official communication from the War Office tonight.

The battle continued last night with undiminished violence. German battalions, renewing the attack without cessation, were mowed down by the French fire.

Moreuil Storm Center.

Moreuil changed hands four times in a furious struggle, finally being held by French and British troops.

HUN DIVERS SUNK IN RUNNING FIGHT

DEPTH CHARGES FROM YANKEE DESTROYERS HIT MARK.

German U-Boat, Lying in Wait for Convoy, Is Sent to Bottom, After Long and Thrilling Chase.

LONDON, March 31.—Encounters in which American destroyers sank German submarines are thus described in accounts of successful submarine battles published today:

"The first American destroyer sighted the enemy submarine on the port bow and proceeded at full speed in the direction of the enemy, who submerged. The American forces could see the enemy's wake, which showed he was running underneath the surface from starboard to port. As the German passed under the stern of the American boat the latter dropped a depth charge. The wake, which had been plainly visible on the port side of the destroyer. Instead, large quantities of oil came to the surface.

"The second American destroyer, engaged in night convoy duty, sighted an object a mile away by the light of the moon. Full speed was ordered, but the submarine dived while the American was still a few hundred yards distant. Two depth charges were dropped and oil came to the surface.

"The third submarine was apparently lying in wait for another convoy which was approaching from an opposite direction."

HAYS TO BE HERE APRIL 11

G. O. P. Chairman Will Tour West in Interests of Liberty Loan.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 31.—WILL H. Hays, chairman of the Republican National Committee, will leave here Tuesday night on a Western tour in the interests of the third liberty loan.

Besides addressing liberty loan gatherings, Chairman Hays announced tonight that he would meet members of the Republican National Committee and state leaders, on whom he will also urge the necessity of getting behind the liberty loan campaign.

His itinerary follows:
Denver, Colo., April 4; Cheyenne, Wyo., April 5; Salt Lake City, April 6; Helena, April 8; Spokane, April 9; Seattle, April 10; Portland, April 11; San Francisco, April 12; Los Angeles, April 13; Phoenix, Ariz., April 14; El Paso, Tex., April 15, and Albuquerque, April 22.

EX-PREMIER REAPPOINTED

China Ministry Reorganized When Troops Win in North.

(By the Associated Press.)
PEKING, March 31.—Tsun Chi Ju, the ex-premier, has again been appointed Premier in place of Chin Nun-Hsun, the acting Premier. The ministers have tendered their resignations, but it is believed that with the exception of the Ministry of Justice and Finance, they will be asked to remain in office.

The reorganization of the ministry, which has been long contemplated, is believed to have been brought about by the recent successes of the northern troops.

COLONEL WILSON IS DEAD

Member of Consular Service for 26 Years Succumbs in London.

LONDON, March 31.—Colonel Thomas P. Wilson, 52 years old, member of the United States Consular Service for 26 years, and one of the men who helped capture the famous Confederate cruiser Florida, died here yesterday at the home of his son.

Colonel Wilson was born in Meadville, Pa. He entered the consular service in 1864, becoming Consul-General to Brazil. He was made Consul-General of the Hawaiian Islands in 1866 and in 1870 acted in the same capacity to the five northern states of Mexico.

HOSPITAL TRAINS MOVING

Hundreds of Wounded Germans Are Hurried From Battlefront.

AMSTERDAM, March 31.—Trains carrying wounded Germans from the battle front in France are proceeding continually along the frontier between Germany and Holland, according to a dispatch to the Telegraf from Kerkrade. It has been necessary to replace hospital cars by freight cars in which the wounded lie on straw and shavings.

DISLOYAL LEADER RESIGNS

Dr. Karl Muck No Longer Conductor of Symphony Orchestra.

BOSTON, March 31.—The management of the Boston Symphony Orchestra announced last night that the resignation of Dr. Karl Muck as conductor has been accepted.

Dr. Muck was arrested by Federal officers last Monday night under the enemy alien act as is confirmed in the jail at East Cambridge.

WAR SITUATION IMPROVES

General Pershing Describes Battle Lines on 55-Mile Front.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—In a cablegram dated Friday night and received at the War Department last night General Pershing described the situation on the Picardy front as "improved." His dispatch described the position of the battle lines over the 55-mile front, the locations being similar to those outlined in the French and British war office statements Saturday.

U. S. BOYS START FOR BATTLE FRONT

Americans Advance in Long Columns.

DAYS OF HARD FIGHTING NEAR

Quick Movement of Troops Follows Pershing's Offer.

NEWS THRILLS NATION

Easter Crowds at Nation's Capital Greet Enthusiastically Tidings Americans Will Soon Be in Big Struggle.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Saturday, March 30.—(By the Associated Press.)—All the American troops have been turned over to the allies for such use as they are fit to make of them. American troops may soon be fighting side by side with their British and French allies in the battle which is raging in Northern France.

The acceptance by France of General Pershing's offer of all American men and material for the present emergency has in effect virtually resulted in a unified army command, so far as the French army and American forces are concerned.

Order of French Origin.
This is shown by the fact that the orders issued to the American troops are of French origin.

Great activity of many sorts is in progress in the entire American zone. Miles of motor trucks loaded with Americans have passed through the towns, some going in one direction, some in another. Through a driving rain the motor trucks ploughed their way along muddy roads, the Americans shivering. Many of the trucks bore American flags.

Columns Stretch for Miles.
On other roads mile after mile of marching Americans rumbled through mud and which came over their ankles. The horses were steaming from the work they had to do.

Out on the open roads the men in the famous sang everything from "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" to "Tipperary." They exhibited the greatest enthusiasm for the work they have in hand and seemed to be anxious to get it started.

Frequently during the day heavy motor trucks skidded from the muddy roads into ditches, but they were quickly and literally picked up by as many Americans as could get a hand on them, set back on the road and started again.

Skidding Truck Mere Trifle.
A little thing like lifting the end of a five-ton motor truck from a ditch means nothing to Americans who are in a hurry to get into the fight.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—Washington was thrilled today by the news that American soldiers actually are on their way to the fighting lines to take places beside their hard-pressed British and French allies.

Major-General March, acting chief of

ALLIES OPTIMISTIC AS BATTLE RAGES

FEELING THAT HUNS ARE AT LAST HELD INCREASES.

British Front Solidifying Rapidly With Arrival of Fresh Men to Replace Worn Troops.

LONDON, March 31.—The week begins with a feeling of optimism, which has been progressively growing during the last three days, over the prospects of the battle in France. While the first great crisis is past and the enemy is held for the time being, there is no belief that he is beaten unless some factor like the weather should bar his further attacks.

The country is prepared for another, and perhaps more than one, desperate assault upon the allied lines before Amiens and Paris. Since the German higher command has announced to the people that this was the decisive battle, other than a decisive conclusion will be an admission of defeat.

The Press Association tonight says: "In London the view is held that north of the Somme the British position is solidifying very rapidly. We now are replacing our troops by fresh divisions in that sector and there is no anxiety on account of that part of the front. The German plan of dividing the French and British armies has failed absolutely."

"Roughly speaking, the enemy up to now has brought up 50 divisions, nearly half of his army, on the western front—and the blow has mainly fallen on the British."

News that heavy rain is falling gives hope that the German advance will suffer from the same cause that brought the British to a standstill on their last extensive advance in the same region. The Germans are compelled to bring up artillery and supplies for the troops through a country which is ploughed up by the most intense shell fire, while the allies have firm ground behind them. An announcement that the King visited the troops in the field was a pleasant surprise to the people.

3 WOUNDED IN QUEBEC RIOT

Anti-Conscription Mob Clashes With Force of Soldiers.

QUEBEC, March 31.—Three persons were wounded tonight in a battle between troops and a mob of anti-conscriptors.

The clash occurred while soldiers were removing firearms from hardware stores to the citadel to keep them from falling into the hands of the rioters. The precaution was decided upon after the pillaging early this morning of a store handling firearms and ammunition.

The action of the troops was resented by the anti-conscriptors, who began pelting the soldiers with missiles. The persons wounded, two of whom were young women, were some distance from the scene. None of them was seriously hurt.

One hardware store was fired by the rioters, but the building was saved.

FIRE LAID TO PRO-GERMAN

Foundry in South Baltimore Suffers Loss of More Than \$200,000.

BALTIMORE, March 31.—The Kennedy Foundry Co., in South Baltimore, was badly damaged by fire last night, which is believed to have been started by a German sympathizer. The loss is estimated at more than \$200,000. The foundry is almost surrounded by machine shops and iron works engaged on government contracts.

T. B. WILCOX DEAD AT PORTLAND HOME

Career of Distinguished Citizen Is Closed.

END FOLLOWS BRIEF ILLNESS

Death Hastened by Unyielding Devotion to Duty.

RARE ABILITY RECOGNIZED

Head of Great Business Built Up Mainly by Himself Made Federal Milling Commissioner and Serving When Stricken.

Theodore B. Wilcox, milling commissioner for the eighth federal grain district and president of the Portland Flouring Mills Company, died at his home, 215 King street, at 2:30 yesterday afternoon after an illness of two weeks.

Death was due to acute intestinal trouble, which manifested itself during his recent visit to New York, where he was summoned on Federal business. Upon his return home he was immediately placed under medical care, but sank rapidly.

With the exception of his youngest son, Theodore B. Wilcox, Jr., who is now hastening home from Yale University, all members of his immediate family were present when he passed away.

It was his devotion to his duties as milling commissioner that contributed to his final illness, it is believed, for Mr. Wilcox insisted upon making the trip to New York to meet with the milling division of the Grain Corporation, although he was ill at the time and should have remained under constant medical care. He became seriously ill while in New York and returned to his home in a critical condition.

Rare Ability Is Recognized.
For many years the outstanding figure of the milling business of the Pacific Northwest, Mr. Wilcox was chosen as milling commissioner immediately after the passage of the food bill by Congress last Fall and the organization of the Federal Grain Corporation. The appointment was in direct recognition of his unquestioned ability and sound knowledge of grain and milling conditions throughout the Northwest.

Theodore Burney Wilcox, who was destined to develop the milling industry of the Pacific Northwest to a point beyond the farthest hopes of the pioneers, was born on the other side of the continent, in the little New England village of Agawam, Mass., not far from Springfield, on July 8, 1856. He was the old New England stock, directly descended from David Wilcox, who came from Wales in 1835 to practice medicine at Hebron, Conn., and whose brother was one of the original settlers of Hartford.

Bank Office Boy at 16.
But a few brief years of his boyhood were passed in the schoolroom, for at the age of 16 years he entered the

U. S. MAY OPERATE MEAT INDUSTRY

WILSON TAKES STEPS TO DE-VICE NATIONAL POLICY.

Special Commission Is Appointed. Hoover Admits, Situation Has Got Out of His Control.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—Determination of a National policy governing meat production, sale and distribution during the war, which may include control price fixing and definite control or actual Federal operation of the big packing houses, has been entrusted by President Wilson to a special commission of five prominent Government officials.

This step, announced tonight, was taken at the recommendation of Food Administrator Hoover, who advised the President that he found himself powerless to protect properly all branches of the cattle industry and that the Government's present course is "almost intolerable in criticism from both producer and consumer."

Mr. Hoover asked that the President extend to meet the policy initiated in steel, copper and other commodities which are sold at prices fixed on the basis of conferences between producers and the Government.

The Food Administrator suggested, and President Wilson now has approved the plan, that a National policy be determined by the following officers, acting personally or through authorized delegates: The Secretary of Agriculture, representing the viewpoint of the producer; the chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, representing the viewpoint of trade conditions; the chairman of the United States Tariff Board, representing economic thought; the Secretary of Labor, representing the viewpoint of the civilian consumer, and the Food Administrator, who has to carry out any policy adopted.

SWISS CANNOT GET GRAIN

Germany Refuses Safe Conduct to Ships Carrying Supplies.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—Germany's refusal to grant safe conduct to ships carrying American grain to Switzerland has virtually stopped its movement. Although a large amount of cereals and many vessels for transporting it have been placed at the disposal of the Swiss government, the ships are held in port through fear of submarine attacks.

Switzerland does not produce enough food to supply her population and is largely dependent on overseas shipments.

GREAT BRITAIN CONFIDENT

Optimism Increases as People Watch Steady March of Armies.

LONDON, March 31.—Premier Lloyd George has sent a message to Premier Clemenceau, of France, declaring that Great Britain, calm and resolute, is relying on the justice of their common cause and upon the valor of the men who defend it.

Confidence increases, the British Premier added, as the English people watch the steady march of the gallant army of France to repel the invader.

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MIGHTY STRUGGLE AT CRUCIAL POINT

Battle Fury Mounts as Allies Stem Attacks.

GERMANS MENACE AMIENS

Allies Expected to Use All Resources to Prevent Vital City's Capture.

ALLIES SEEM CONFIDENT

German Attempts on Arras Foiled and Huns Die by Thousands in Attacks.

BY ARTHUR S. DRAPER.
LONDON, March 31.—(Special.)—The Germans are nearing Amiens. Less than 10 miles separate them from this railway center on the Paris-Boulogne line.

North of the Somme the fighting has deteriorated into local engagements, but south of the river, especially toward the confluence of the Somme and the Avre, it has grown in intensity. Along the practically straight road from St. Quentin to Amiens and northwest from Roye, the German forces are coming up in great masses with their slowly-moving guns in the hope of battering their way into Amiens.

From the Somme as far as Montdidier, just short of 30 miles, one of the greatest struggles of the whole battle is being waged by the reinforced enemy and the Anglo-French army, strengthened by large reserves. The fate of Amiens is being decided in this gigantic conflict. The allies still fall back, but the advance of the enemy grows slower with every hour.

Allies Must Make Stand.
But the defenders can no longer fall back without imperiling Amiens, which represents infinitely more than a town like Peronne, Noyon or even Arras. It is doubtful whether the enemy has yet brought his full pressure to bear on this front. Certainly the allies have not employed their full reserves.

The battle is sure to increase in intensity over the week-end. The most encouraging news comes from the Arras sector, where the Germans paid their greatest price of the whole titanic struggle for the smallest tactical return. Not only do the British hold this key city, but they still dominate the whole ridge from Vimy right down to Albert.

There is no weakening of the confidence in high quarters, although it is frankly admitted that the next few days will be highly critical. It is believed that Amiens will be successfully covered, but not without the most desperate fighting.

If the Germans are checked here the worst will be over and the allies can breathe easier.

The third and probably the greatest crisis is rapidly approaching, for strategic questions of the utmost importance must be decided shortly.

Amiens Suffers Heavily.

The Germans apparently are about ready to launch a major attack on Amiens, which is already within range of their big guns and has suffered heavily from the enemy's air bombardments. It is natural to expect that this will prove the psychological moment when the allies will throw in their reserves, which are powerful and numerous enough not only to ward off the German spearhead, but to break its haft.

If the allies catch the enemy off his balance the odds might turn strongly in their favor.

As the crucial moment of the battle approaches, there is no question but that the belligerents are preparing to

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