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## BRITISH BATTLE FOR CAPTURE OF LENS

### NEW DRIVE AT COAL CITY SUCCESSFUL

First Line Trenches From Lens to Loos Captured—Hill 70, Commanding Lens, Taken—Satisfactory Progress Made at All Points—French Attack Near Coast in Vicinity of Dixmude and Meet With Success.

BRITISH FRONT IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM, Aug. 15.—Considerable numbers of German prisoners are beginning to arrive in the collection depots. The new British front has been established on a triangular line like a pair of shears whose points are to the north and south of Lens.

This afternoon British and Germans were in close grips in the western part of the city of Lens itself, following the brilliant morning advance whereby the Canadians captured Hill 70 and then swept on northwest of Lens.

The British and French returned to the attack in northern France and Belgium last night and preliminary reports indicate that they have won considerable success. The principal blow was struck by the British on a front of about 4000 yards from the northwestern outskirts of Lens to the Bois Hugo northeast of Loos. General Haig announces that his troops carried the German first line at all points and are making satisfactory progress. Hill 70, a German stronghold, northwest of Lens, which dominates the city, has been stormed by the Canadians.

Since the beginning of the attack on the Northern end of the Franco-Belgian line the Canadians have been making steady progress around Lens, driving slowly into the outskirts of this important and bitterly disputed mining center. The new attack on the front immediately north of Lens, evidently is designed to close around the city from the north. If successful, this operation may compel the Germans to evacuate the town without a direct attack on it, with the heavy sacrifices such a move probably would involve.

The French attack was made near the coast, in the vicinity of Dixmude. The official communication from Paris reports good progress west of

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### ARMY SEEKS TO PLACE RIGHT MAN IN RIGHT PLACE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15.—Army officers who will organize the fractional army divisions face the task of making the best possible use of men selected for duty by the local boards. Among them will be highly trained individuals, specialists in particular lines and efficient mechanics. It is the intention of the war department to get the maximum advantage for the nation out of each man's special qualifications and his previous occupation will be carefully considered in assigning him to duty.

During the months of training at the cantonments a process of shifting and transfer will ensue, as men are sorted out. One man will be assigned to transport trains because of his special knowledge of horses or motor trucks; another to hospital work because of previous training in that line of work; another to aviation because he has worked with gas engines; still another to the artillery because he shows special ability in that line or his civil occupation has trained his sight and hands.

### HILL 70 WON BY CANADIANS WITH BAYONETS

In Battle of Lens, Which Began at Daybreak, Canadians Storm Citadel Commanding Lens Defenses and Considered Impregnable—Last Dominating Position.

CANADIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Aug. 15.—In the battle of Lens, which began at daybreak this morning, the Canadians have once more made a splendid and successful attack upon the Germans. Early reports indicate that the Germans first and support lines along a front of 4000 yards, extending from the environs of Lens to the chalk pits 1500 yards south of Hallach, have been carried by storm. The assaulting waves included men from all parts of the Dominion.

Won by Canadians.

BRITISH FRONT IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM, Aug. 15.—Hill 70, the famous German stronghold, northwest of the French mining city of Lens, which dominates the city and the Loos salient, was captured this morning by the Canadian forces. The British also pushed their lines into the northwestern environs of Lens in a semi-circle around the eastern side of Hill 70. The British attack was made on a 4000-yard front at an extreme depth of 1000 yards.

Beginning at a point just above Hugo wood, the new British positions now run southeast and beyond Hill 70 toward Lens. The line then bends southwest and encircles the suburbs of St. Laurent and St. Emilion.

Guns Pounded for Days. The British guns had been pounding for days at Hill 70, which the Germans considered impregnable. The infantry attack began at 4:25 o'clock this morning. The capture of Hill 70 ranks in importance with the biggest military operations of this year. It was the last dominating position in this section which remained in the hands of the Germans, and from it a wide territory can be controlled.

Hill 70 is to Lens and the Loos salient what Messines is to Ypres, and in some ways it is even a more enviable position than the Messines ridge, because even after the fall of Messines the Germans still retained the Hilken ridge, from which they could sweep the country surrounding Ypres.

Germans Prepared. Hill 70 was bombarded with guns of all calibers, which worked havoc among the German defenses on the rest of this eminence. The Germans undoubtedly prepared for the attack as fully as possible, as there is no question that they were aware it was impending.

It was just twenty-five minutes past 4 o'clock when the British guns dropped a protecting barrage before the Canadian trenches and the troops leaped over the parapet for the charge. Details of the fighting are not yet available, but the troops swept forward with the invincible precision which has characterized the latest work of the great British fighting machine.

### OVERDREW ACCOUNT AND IS ARRESTED

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 15.—William Alexander, who told the police he was a constructing engineer, was arrested early today in a hotel here on a telegraphic warrant from the sheriff of Santa Clara county, charging him with having passed bad checks in San Jose. He said he was well known in Portland, Or. His explanation was that he did not know his personal account had been overdrawn, and that the amount involved was less than \$20.

### GREAT WAR MYSTERY

What Is Edison Working on Day and Night?

Rumor That Inventor Has Perfected Method of Solving U-Boat Problem—Westinghouse Plant Is Secretly Building Contrivance Under Edison's Direction.

ORANGE, N. J., Aug. 15.—Here is the wonderful war mystery! More thrilling than trench capture! More important than wheat! More romantic than air duels! More engrossing than these and all the rest, because it is still a mystery.

What is the mysterious secret invention Edison, America's wizard, has perfected to destroy the U-boats. This is the big question mark of the entire world war.

Here are the facts:

Summary of Facts.

1. Almost a year ago it was widely announced that America's electric genius had a marvelous scheme by which electric rays would set off explosives at great distance.

2. Several months ago a prominent member of the naval consulting board of experts announced American inventive genius was about to turn against Germany a mysterious destructive agent that would rid the sea of U-boats.

3. July 14 Edison himself, in one of his rare statements, issued to his subordinates, said cryptically: "We now have all the rebellious elements under control. Today will be remembered as the time when we removed the last flax from the record."

4. July 20, the navy department permitted the announcement that a device to detect U-boats ten miles away was nearly perfected.

Government Silent.

5. A high government officer said only a few days ago that Edison had just completed a task that would make him the greatest man in the world.

6. The Westinghouse company, leading makers of electric appliances, is enlisting 1000 men willing to be absolutely locked in from the outside world, holding no communication with it, for ten months, making "war munitions."

7. Edison, white-haired, had been working for months, 16, 18, 20 hours a day, in a veritable frenzied debauch of sleepless night and days, on the submarine problem before he made his electrifying announcement.

8. No government official will say a word.

Now—what is the conclusion?

Conclusion Guessed.

1. Was the announcement of the new rays of remarkable power somebody's dream?

2. Was the naval consulting board expert either a liar or a maniac? The board is not made up of that kind of men. Furthermore, his statement was not denied.

3. Did Edison boast wildly when he said he had solved the last war puzzle? Well—you can number 100 magical inventions from Edison's brain. Can you number one boast?

4. Was the navy department talking thru its hat when it said U-boats were unmasked ten miles away?

5. Is the high government official who said Edison had finished a job that would "make him the world's greatest man" crazy?

6. Is the Westinghouse company turning itself into a prison because it believes that will attract labor in these times of labor shortage?

Wonderful Mystery.

7. Why doesn't some high official put these speculations to rest by an official denial of them all?

Isn't it plain that, instead of more than the facts being revealed, there exist more facts than have even been hinted at?

Jules Verne predicted the U-boat. John P. Holland built it.

H. G. Wells in his "War of the Worlds" told how the invading inhabitants of Mars used against the earth folk a powerful light ray that burned everything in the path it swept.

Is Edison, thru a Westinghouse-made machine, to turn this light ray on the German sharks?



### ULTIMATUM OF I. W. W. ORDERS GENERAL STRIKE

Walk Out August 20 Unless Demands Are Complied With in Four States—Demand Release of All Class War Prisoners, Ten-Hour Day in Harvest Fields and No Interference

SPOKANE, Aug. 15.—Unless five specific demands are granted by August 20, the Industrial Workers of the World will call a general strike in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, according to a statement today by James Rowan, district secretary of the organization.

The call for a general strike is addressed to all construction and harvest workers. Rowan said the governors of Washington, Idaho, Montana and Oregon have been notified of the call for a strike, unless their demands are granted. The demands are as follows:

All class war prisoners must be released.

A ten-hour day in the harvest fields.

Better sanitary conditions.

No discrimination against union men for being such.

Union halls must be allowed to conduct legitimate business of organizing workers without interference from commercial clubs, vigilantes or corporation-controlled public officials.

The call for a strike resists that for "the last few weeks a systematic persecution has been carried on against our members. Halls have been closed. Our members have been arrested by hundreds and thrown into jails and held there without trial and without any charges being preferred against them. The treatment accorded our fellow workers in these places is nothing short of barbarous."

The lynching of Frank Little, an I. W. W. member, in Butte, is cited as an example of the "tactics that are advocated against us by the master class."

PARIS, Aug. 15.—Six persons were killed and nine others were wounded when strikers clashed yesterday with soldiers at Barcelona, according to a statement issued by the Spanish captain-general and received here by the Petit Parisien.

### FORMER CZAR AND HIS FAMILY SIBERIAN EXILES

Ex-Emperor Nicholas, Wife and Children Secretly Removed From Palace at Tsarkoe-Selo and Shipped for Unknown Destination, Reported to Be Tobolsk, Siberia.

PETROGRAD, Aug. 15.—The semi-official Russian News Agency announced tonight that Former Emperor Nicholas and his family were removed today from the palace at Tsarkoe-Selo and that it was reported they were being transported to Tobolsk, Siberia.

Tobolsk is an out-of-the-way town of western Siberia, far from the railroad and visited only by steamers which ply the Irtysh river. In former times it was an administrative center for exiles banished to Siberia by the Russian rulers. It is a city of something more than 20,000 inhabitants. The climate is extremely severe in winter.

PETROGRAD, Aug. 15.—Nicholas Romanoff, the deposed Russian emperor, and the members of his family were spirited away under circumstances of extreme mystery early yesterday morning from Tsarkoe-Selo to an unknown destination, which the provisional government firmly refuses to reveal.

None Saw Departure.

No one except the local military and officials specially sent from Petrograd witnessed the departure, and according to a statement made to the Associated Press by N. V. Nekrasoff, vice-president of the council of ministers, the account published in the only newspaper that reported the affair was imaginary.

It appears that the plan was to remove Nicholas before dawn, but the train arrived at Tsarkoe-Selo several hours late. Instead of the gorgeous imperial train in which Nicholas was taken to the Tsarkoe-Selo from Mohilev in March, an ordinary train composed of three sleeping cars, a dining car and several third-class coaches was sent. A second train was assigned to take the baggage and servants, fifty of whom accompanied the ex-emperor and his family into exile. Nicholas was very depressed in appearance, but ex-Empress Alexandra, who was seen walking for the first time in months, seemed lively and pleased at the prospect of a change in surroundings.

PETROGRAD, Aug. 15.—Former Emperor Nicholas and his family are being transferred to another point. They were removed in an ordinary train instead of the gorgeous imperial train on which Nicholas was brought to the palace. The former emperor appeared to be much depressed. Former Empress Alexandra seemed to be pleased at the prospect of a change. M. Nekrasoff, vice-premier, said today that the removal of Nicholas was decided on after a series of secret sessions held by the council of Ministers on Monday. The motives of the minister, he said, are political and military. It was decided to get Nicholas out of the way before circumstances arose making it difficult. When the former czar reaches his destination the fact will be announced.

The provisional government today formally refused to reveal the destination of the former imperial family.

### CROWD DEMOLISHES SUFFRAGISTS' BANNERS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15.—Tearing of banners from the suffrage pickets of the woman's party at the white house gates and attacks upon the party headquarters at La Fayette park, across the way, continued today. Good natured, but determined, crowds tore down the banners as fast as they appeared.

### UNCLE SAM TO PURCHASE WHEAT CROP

Hoover Forms Fifty Million Dollar Corporation to Purchase Enough of 1917 Wheat Crop to Stabilize Prices—Agencies to Be Opened at All Principal Wheat Terminals—No Commission to Be Charged Except to Cover Cost of Operation.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15.—Government purchase of enough of the 1917 wheat crop to stabilize prices in the United States was forecast in the formation today of a \$50,000,000 corporation by the food administration. The intention is to take over the entire harvest if necessary to maintain fair prices. The corporation will make all allied purchases of wheat and flour and thus will stabilize prices to the allies.

The food administration will open agencies at all the principal wheat terminals, carrying on its transactions with the usual dealers. No commission charge will be made except to cover costs of operation. The price to be paid for wheat will be fixed by a committee under the grain division, headed by President Garfield of Williams college. This price is to be maintained in private as well as government transactions.

The corporation will be put under the grain division of the food administration and its executive officers will be the same as the officers of this division, whose names were announced today as follows:

Herbert Hoover, chairman; Julius Barnes, Duluth, president; Gates W. McGarrath, New York, treasurer; F. G. Crowell, Kansas City, vice-president; Edward Chambers, Chicago, transportation director; Curtis H. Lindley, San Francisco, counsel; J. W. Shorthill, York, Nebraska, secretary.

Price Fixing Board.

The personnel of the wheat price fixing commission was announced as follows:

Henry A. Garfield, president of Williams college, chairman; Charles J. Barrett, Union City, Ga., president of the Farmers' Union; William D. Doak, Roanoke, Va., vice-president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen; Eugene E. Funk, Bloomington, Ill., president of the National Corn association; Edward F. Ladd, Fargo, N. D., president of the North Dakota Agricultural College; R. Goodwin Rhett, Charleston, S. C., president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States; J. W. Shorthill, York, Neb., secretary of the National Council of Farmers' Co-operative association; James W. Sullivan, Brooklyn, N. Y., of the American Federation of

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### TEUTON DRIVE THRU RUMANIA PUSHED RAPIDLY

BERLIN, Aug. 15.—Austro-German forces in the lowlands of the Serech river, on the Rumanian front, yesterday stormed the bridgehead at Baltareu, on the west bank of the river, according to the official statement issued today by the German general staff. The Russians and Rumanians lost on the Serech and in the mountains, the statement adds, more than 3000 prisoners.

Troops under Field Marshal von Mackensen are pursuing the retreating Russo-Rumanian forces in the mountain land on both sides of the river Putna. On the fringe in the mountains the Teutons yesterday captured Straoni, northwest of Pantzu.