

GERMANS BEATEN BACK

HAIG'S FORCES REPULSE TEUTONS WITH HEAVY LOSSES TO ENEMY

GERMAN DRIVE IN PICARDY HAS COME ALMOST TO A HALT, WITH BRITISH LINES STILL FIRM

French Have Delivered Dashing Counter Attacks Over a Front of About Six Miles, Driving the Germans Back For a Distance of Several Miles—British Also Repulse German Attacks.

COUNTER OFFENSIVE IS AT HAND ALLIES THINK

French Drive May be Forerunner of Great Movement—American Troops Are Held In Reserve With French For the Great Drive to Come—Allies Confident.

Slowly assuming the shape of a giant plough share the German drive in Picardy has come almost to a halt except at the very tip of the salient driven into the lines of the entente allies. As the area covered by the Teutonic offensive stands now (it runs, on the south in an almost straight line from Landricourt, on the old "Hindenburg line," to Montdidier, well behind the allied positions as they stood in 1916.

Savage Fighting.

Savage fighting has taken place on the French part of the line. The German attempts to advance on the extreme tip of the salient driven into the French positions have been fruitless and they have been driven back at the point of the bayonet. The British on the front north of the Scarpe also have repulsed the enemy, but south of this river they have been forced to retire.

From Montdidier the line to the northeast runs with a sharp angle to Warvillers and there it turns northward and passes along the Somme river to above Albert, where it again turns to the northeast until it joins the old lines held by the contending armies on the morning of March 21.

Two New Features.

Out of the confusion of the battle, and the contrary claims of the contending armies, two new features stand out. The first is that the French, over a front of six miles, have driven into the German lines along the southern side of the salient established by the Teutonic drive. The other is that the Germans have begun a new operation to the east of Arras, which may be the inception of a widening of the area of battle to the northward.

May Be Big Move.

At the present moment, the allied world is looking anxiously for news of the success of the French thrust into the flank of the German forces. The fact that the drive progressed rapidly and cut a deep notch into the German-held ground in the region of Noyon, may indicate that this movement is the counter-offensive which has been expected for the last three days. Progress by the French for a considerable distance into the German forces would cut off the Teutons fighting at the very tip of the "plough share" and compel them to retreat, or at least pause until the menace to their communication can be removed.

Might Overturn Whole Plan.

A further advance by the French might easily overturn the whole plan of the Germans and bring about a new phase of the battle in which the allies would strike hard all along the front and compel the Germans to relinquish their dearly bought conquests.

The German activity near Arras may have for its purpose either a new drive at the allies' line or a defensive operation intended to stop an English blow from the north coincident with that began by the French.

The British held firm north of the Scarpe, but to the south of the river have been driven back. Their line now is near that occupied in July, 1916, and runs straight from Arleux, north of Arras, to Boisieux, on the line held by the

"Eventually—Why Not Now?"



BATTLE OF PICARDY GROWS MORE LIKE SITUATION AT BATTLE OF MARNE DAILY, WITH GERMANS EXPOSING BOTH FLANKS

Marked Improvement Shown on Larger Part of the Allied Front, But the Crisis is Not Yet Past—Time for the Allies to Strike With Great Counter Offensive Appears to Be at Hand, If Allies Have the Troops.

(By FRANK H. SIMONDS.)

NEW YORK, March 28.—The eighth day of the great battle in Picardy shows a marked improvement on the larger part of the allied front between Arras and Noyon, but despite the general betterment there has been two developments which do not encourage the feeling that the crisis of the contest has, as yet, been safely passed. The first of these developments is the sudden and remarkable leap forward of the Germans north of Lassigny and west of Roye, which has resulted in the evacuation of Montdidier. The second development, of growing intensity of artillery preparation east of Arras, which should betoken the coming of a new thrust in this region. With respect to the German advance in the center and capture of Montdidier, it must be recognized that this push has driven a wedge between the mass of the French and the British and has already cut one of the two Paris-Amiens railroads, which are the main routes of lateral communication between the two allied armies. At Montdidier, the Germans are thirty-one miles from their starting place at St. Quentin and are hardly more than ten miles east of the latitude of Amiens, although nearly twenty miles south of that town. The capture of Amiens would bring with it an instant dislocation of the Germans. Their wedge which they have driven forward to Montdidier is rapidly narrowing and they are now exposed to the obvious peril of attacks on either side of this awkward bulge, attacks which would threaten the safety of the troops in the point of the bulge.

Paris and Verdun in the Marne campaign. As a result the Germans are thrusting themselves between two allied pivots and offering an inviting target for just such an attack as Maunoy made from Paris on September 5, 1915, in the first phase of the Marne.

Great Moment Near.

If the allies have at last collected their army of manoeuvre and can now put it in, if the British and the French have reserve armies north and south of the German wedge, then it would seem that the moment is about arrived when the strategy of the Marne can be repeated and one or both of the German flanks assailed.

Now as to the threat at Arras, once more the Marne parallel will serve to illustrate. In that battle the effort of the army of the crown prince was to isolate Verdun which was the hinge of the French armies on the east as Paris was on the west. Now Arras is the northern hinge of the allied armies and so far the British troops have swung backward on this hinge with a fairly steady movement and the German drive has been steadily forced southward into an ever narrowing front.

As a result there has come the very real danger to the Germans incident to the awkward bulge of their lines toward Montdidier. In word they have broken through between Arras and the Oise on a very narrow front and the wedge is being steadily blunted. They have failed to break the southern hinge by an attack on the French and it would seem that they are now about to attack the northern hinge in front of Arras.

Allied Advantages.

On the other hand, it is well to remember that on this Arras front, the allies have all the advantage of position since they hold the high ground won in recent campaigns. The absence of a German success in this

region would seem slight unless the British trenches have been denuded to furnish reserves for the imperilled district further to the south.

There is less cause for panic now than at any moment since the German drive began. The British situation has been pulled together from the Scarpe to the south bank of the Somme and the French, taking over the flank of the British along the Oise, are steadily slowing the German pace.

The parallel of the Marne is striking, if only in the geographical circumstances, and the tactical and even the strategical resemblances are not to be mistaken. The Germans have offered the flank to the French from Noyon to Montdidier as Kluck offered his flank to the army of Maunoy east of Paris along the Ourcq in September, 1914.

The allied armies now fighting have escaped danger of a swift and complete disaster. They have retarded an attack which was too powerful for them to check at once. They have given their high commands a week in which to prepare a counter thrust and they are "going strong," but the situation is developing rapidly out of which must come a decision and a solution of all the problems.

WANT PRICES INCREASED.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 28.—Increase in price, to stimulate production and improve the quality of coal, were offered today by the fuel administration to operators who use special means for eliminating impurities from their product. Twenty cents a ton may be added to the government price for coal, at the mine, where mechanical appliances and additional labor are employed to eliminate slate or carbon from the fuel.

FIERCE AIR FIGHTING.

LONDON, Mar. 28.—The continuation of fierce air fighting in the battle area is shown by the report of aerial operations issued tonight, which says that on Wednesday, twenty-four German machines were brought down in air fighting and seven were driven down out of control. Nineteen British machines are missing.

BELIEVED HAIG'S REPORT PRESAGES COUNTER ATTACK

Washington Officials Think Moment for Blow is at Hand.

AMERICANS WILL BE IN BATTLE LINES

News of Beating Back of Germans Cheers All of Washington.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Announcement by Field Marshal Haig tonight that the German machine along the whole British front had been beaten off today with heavy losses gave new zest tonight to speculation here as to the allied counter-attack which officers feel certain will not long be delayed.

Americans Ready.

War department officials generally appeared to be satisfied that substantial American forces would enter the battle lines with the French when the signal for the counter blow is given. Major General March, acting chief of staff, stated last night, however, that he was not advised as to the numbers or disposition of American units which may be employed with the French army of attack. The new outbreak of the German thrust at Arras, reported early in the day, caused some apprehension here lest the allies might find it necessary to further delay their effort to seek victory after bitter days of steady fighting of ground. Definite word from General Haig that this new drive also had been checked added to the

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AIRPLANE STEEL RUINED BY SPIES OVERMAN STATES

Displays Portion of Steel Bracket Plugged With Lead and Painted.

SPIES ARE AT WORK IN CURTIS FACTORY

North Carolina Senator Springs Sensational Surprise on Senate Floor.

(By S. R. Winters.)

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Displaying a piece of steel that had been plugged with lead and then painted to disguise its intent, as the work of a spy, Senator Lee S. Overman, of North Carolina, in a series of sensational utterances in the senate today, expressed the opinion that there are 400,000 German spies in the United States. The bracket exhibited, was evidence of the methods employed by a German workman in tampering with the steel used in manufacturing fighting airplanes so as to retard the program of the American air craft board. "If I were secretary of war or president of the United States, I would commander the Curtis plant and turn out every man in that plant and hire only loyal Americans and dispense with those under suspicion," declared the North Carolina senator.

"I want to say in passing that some of the leading men in that plant have German names. I make no charge (Continued on Page Two.)

SUBSCRIPTION GOALS FOR EACH DISTRICT ARE ARRANGED BY TREASURY

Each Federal Reserve District Assigned So Many Liberty Bonds.

NEW YORK GETS BULK.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Subscription goals which each federal reserve district will be expected to reach or pass during the third Liberty loan campaign opening April 6, arranged today by the treasury, give the New York district thirty per cent of the \$2,000,000,000 loan total or \$600,000,000 as its share, the same as in the second loan. The Chicago district is allotted 14 1-16 per cent or \$425,000,000. It was found Boston had been given a disproportionate share in the second loan, and the district's percentage has been reduced from ten to 8 1-8 per cent. Cleveland, Minneapolis and San Francisco were given the same proportions as in the second loan and other districts were raised slightly.

The goals of each state, county and city will be determined by federal reserve district committee on the basis of population, wealth and business conditions.

Quotas by districts are as follows:

District	Percentage	Quota in Millions
Boston	8 1-8	250
New York	30	900
Philadelphia	8 1-8	250
Cleveland	10	300
Richmond	4 1-8	120
Atlanta	3	90
Chicago	14 1-16	425
St. Louis	4 1-8	120
Minneapolis	3 1-8	105
Kansas City	4 1-8	120
Dallas	2 3-8	60
San Francisco	7	210

BRITISH CASUALTIES.

LONDON, Mar. 28.—British casualties reported for the week ending today amounted to 3,618, divided as follows:

AMERICAN LABOR WILL SEND DELEGATION TO FRANCE AND ENGLAND

Will Explain Position of Labor in United States Toward War.

WILL SAIL SOON.

NEW YORK, March 28.—To make known to British and French labor the position of labor in the United States with regard to the war, a delegation of nine American labor leaders, with credentials of the American Federation of Labor, will sail shortly for England and France.

This was announced late today by the American Alliance for Labor and Democracy, of which Samuel Gompers is president.

The American labor mission, according to a spokesman for the alliance, will tell British and French labor leaders that organized labor in the United States is committed to the prosecution of the war to a successful conclusion and will not confer with any representatives of an enemy country.

The mission officially known as the "American Federation of Labor Mission" is composed of the following: James Wilson, president, Pattern Makers League of North America; chairman, John P. Frey, executive officer, International Molders Union of North America; secretary, William Short, president Washington State Federation of Labor; Miss Helinda Scott, president Straw Hat Trimmers and Operatives union; Miss Agnes Nestor, vice-president Glove Workers International union; Wm. H. Johnson, president International Association of Machinists; George L. Berry, president, International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants union; Chester M. Wright, member International Typographical union; Martin F. Ryan, president Brotherhood of Railway Car Men.