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TODAY'S NEWS
TODAY

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THE ALLIED FRONT REMAINS UNBROKEN

GERMANY'S EFFORT IS NO NEARER GOAL THAN A WEEK AGO

German Armies Definitely Checked at Places and Slowed up at Others

AMERICAN TROOPS ARE NOW ENGAGED

Pershing's Men Assisting Allies — American Artillery Forces Enemy to Evacuate Richecourt

Germany's supreme effort to break the Allied front in the West apparently is no nearer accomplishment today than it was on the day the great drive started and she is estimated to have lost 400,000 men in the futile effort during less than a week's fighting. She has not given up the attempt, however, the advices from the front indicating that her forces are massed for a drive in the region of Roye and Noyon in an effort to break through there as a preliminary to a rolling-up process either to the north or south.

As against the chances of her accomplishing this purpose may be counted the factor of forewarning for the Allies. There seems no doubt now as to where the heaviest hammer stroke is to fall and the opportunity is offered of disposing the vast Allied reserve forces to meet it—an opportunity lacking in the earlier stages of the drive.

The Entente line, as it now runs, with British, French and Americans standing together, presents an unbroken front throughout the battle area. There has been a slowing down in the German pressure north of the Somme, except possibly in the vicinity of Albert where the British are holding doggedly. In the Noyon region and along the line of the Oise to the east, the French, by their valiant defense, have likewise compelled the Germans, weakened by their ceaseless efforts and heavy losses, to reduce the force of their pressure. Meanwhile it is clear that the Germans themselves are being compelled to admit that their success in driving back the Entente lines for such great distance on so wide a front is by no means a decisive one. "Nobody can foresee what will result from it," General von Ludendorff declared in an interview in alluding to the victory he claims.

Concurrently the Germans are apparently finding their position in the East, where they were supposed to have insured peace with Russia and the Ukraine, none too secure. In Odessa, the Black sea port, upon which they relied to insure them the shipment of sorely needed grain from the Ukraine by way of the Danube, has been recaptured by the Bolshevik and Ukrainian troops, the Russian semi-official news agency reports. This follows shortly upon the news of the recent recapture of two other Black sea ports, Kherson and Nikolayev, by the Bolsheviks.

It was upon Odessa that Germany also was reported as relying as a key point on the direct route to the East, she boasted of having secured in her scheme of penetration into the Orient. Germany is reported to have left control of affairs in the Ukraine largely in the hands of the Austrians while she was engaged in her great effort on the Western front, and apparently they are making none too good a job of it. Having regained nearly all the devastated Somme region in their offensive, the German armies now find themselves before Allied and defense which grows stronger each hour. In the North the enemy has been definitely checked and in the South, where his latest and most important gains have been made, he has been unable to push west of Roye and Noyon.

The British line from the Scarpe river Southwest, through Albert to the Somme, has held fast for 24 hours and the Germans have been repulsed in local attacks along this sector. The front here is now West of the old Somme battlefield and West of the Ancre river, just North of Albert, which is 18 miles Northeast of Amiens. South of the Somme, the Germans have advanced West of the old front before the beginning of the Franco-British offensive of 1916, but have not yet gained it West of Roye. The most bitter fighting has occurred on the front South of the Somme and still continues, but the enemy has been checked West of Roye-Noyon sector.

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ENEMY DRIVE NOW HELD UP EVERYWHERE

Paris, March 27.—Last night the German advance was held up everywhere, according to the official statement of the war office today. The enemy, weakened by heavy losses, it adds, has been obliged to slow up his efforts.

The statement follows: "Last evening and during the night, the Germans weakened by their heavy losses, were compelled to retard their efforts. The valiance of the troops defending the ground foot by foot, is beyond all praise.

"The French are holding a line running through L'Echelle, St. Aurin and Beuvraignes, north of Lassingy, in front of the southern part of Noyon and along the left bank of the Oise. During the night the French repulsed strong reconnoitering parties which attempted to approach their positions northwest of Noyon.

"In the remainder of the front, there was an intermittent bombardment."

On the British Front.

London, March 27.—A heavy attack was made early in the night against the new British line south of the Somme. It was repulsed after severe fighting, the war office announces.

In consequence of attacks yesterday afternoon and evening astride the Somme, the British troops on both banks were forced back a short distance in the neighborhood of Bray.

The announcement follows:

"As a result of the enemy's attack yesterday afternoon and evening astride the Somme our troops on both banks were forced back a short distance in the neighborhood of Bray. A heavy attack made early in the night against our new line south of the Somme was repulsed after severe fighting. At one point in the neighborhood of the river the enemy forced his way into our positions but was thrown back by our counter attacks.

"Further local fighting has taken place also north and northeast of Albert but the situation on this part of the battle front remains unchanged."

ESTIMATED LOSS BY THE GERMAN ARMY MORE THAN 400,000

Average Casualties to Kaiser's Forces 50 Per Cent of Men Engaged

GERMANS RECLAIM EVACUATED GROUND

Have Advanced Back to Where They Were at the Beginning of the Battle of Somme in 1916

CALIBRE OF BIG GUN IS 8.8 INCHES

Paris, March 27.—The calibre of the shells that are being fired into Paris by the German long-range gun is 8.8 inches and the length of the shell is 20 inches. L'Homme Libre, Premier Clemenceau's newspaper, stated. The shell weighs 200 pounds and contains less than 20 pounds of explosives. The shell is provided with a fuse protected by a threaded stopper, and has a diaphragm inside which divides the shell into two compartments of unequal size. Two holes in the diaphragm afford communication between the two pockets. These facts are accepted as an explanation of the two explosions which, on occasion, have followed in quick succession and which led to the belief that two guns were firing.

The conflict in the sector around Roye and Noyon appears to be of great importance from the many indications that the German higher command is attempting to split the Allied front there and start a rolling-up process either way.

From the average of casualties in the various German units as given by prisoners who arrives at the conclusion that the German Emperor has lost 50 per cent. of these men since he gave the signal for the advance. The Germans have now reclaimed virtually all the territory they held at the beginning of the Battle of the Somme in 1916. At some places they have not re-taken all the old ground, but at other points they have overstepped it somewhat.

The British official statement of yesterday said it had been established that more than 70 German divisions had been engaged in the battle. The usual estimate of the present strength of a German division is 12,000 men, so that a loss of 50 per cent. would

mean casualties in excess of 400,000 for the Germans in less than a week of fighting.

ANOTHER CHAPTER IN THE KING WILL CASE

Motion Made in Chicago Court to Set Aside the First Will

Chicago, March 27.—A petition to set aside the first will of the late James C. King has been filed in the Probate Court, it became known today wherein Marcy C. Melvin seeks to gain probate of a second will which Gaston B. Means claims to have discovered. The first will was made in 1901 and the later document in 1905. Hearing of the petition has been deferred in May 16. An endowment of \$2,000,000 was provided in the first will for the James C. King home for old men and a comparatively small sum was bequeathed to Mrs. Maude King, the widow whose death near Concord, N. C., led to the trial there of Gaston Means for murder. He was acquitted. The second will leaves the bulk of the \$3,000,000 estate to Mrs. King and makes no provision for the home for old men. A petition to establish the validity of the first will was filed recently by Attorney General of State Brundage and is awaiting hearing.

HAIG THANKS PRESIDENT.
Washington, March 27.—Field Marshal Haig's reply to President Wilson's cablegram was received today at the White House.

"Your message of generous appreciation of the steadfastness and valor of our soldiers in the great battle now raging has greatly touched us all," cabled the Field Marshal. "Please accept our heartfelt thanks. One and all believe in the justice of our cause and are determined to fight on without counting the cost until the freedom of mankind is safe."

FORCE OF RUSSIANS CAPTURES ODESSA AFTER HARD FIGHT

SOUTHERN TEXTILE ASSOCIATION SETS CONVENTION DATES

Will Be in Session at the Seashore Hotel on June 21 and 22

MERCHANTS ASSO. TO MEET ON THE BEACH

Sessions Will Be Held on June 17—Scores of Delegates Are Expected to Attend Meeting

The North Carolina Merchants' Association will meet in annual session at Wrightsville Beach June 17, with headquarters at the Seashore Hotel, according to advices received today by the Chamber of Commerce, and the date of the annual convention of the Southern Textile Association which again selected the Seashore and Wrightsville Beach, as meeting places, June 21 and 22, according to advices received by the Chamber of Commerce.

It has been known for some time that the Textile Association would return here for their annual convention, but little has been said of it because of the non-arrangement of dates. Today, however, the Chamber of Commerce was officially notified of the dates. In returning to Wilmington the textile people are paying the city and the beach a distinct compliment. Their last annual convention was held at Wrightsville and the members in attendance were loath to return home after their convention had been officially closed. In fact, many members remained for several days, enjoying the Seashore's excellent table and the delightful breezes that are wafted in from the ocean. The Textile Association is one of the largest organizations in the country, over 200 delegates attending the annual meetings. Their convention of last year was one of the most successful held at the beach and many delegates were of the opinion that the environs had much to do with the success of the convention.

Mr. J. M. Davis, of Newberry, S. C., is president of the association, and Mr. A. B. Carter, of Greenville, S. C., is secretary.

Decision of the Merchants' Association to meet in annual session at Wrightsville has just been arrived at and the Chamber was promptly notified by Mr. J. Paul Leonard, of Statesville, president of the association, and the membership of which includes the foremost merchants of the State. While the session will be only of one day's duration, a lot of work will be jammed into that period and the meeting is expected to be attended by an unusually large number of delegates.

ADMINISTRATORS TO SEIZE HOARDED WHEAT

Washington, March 27.—State food administrators will be encouraged by the Food Administration to requisition summarily any stocks of wheat actually being hoarded. A general order to this effect has not yet been promulgated, but State administrators have been advised that they have authority to act.

JAPANESE SHIPPING FOR UNITED STATES

Washington, March 27.—Negotiations for the transfer of 150,000 tons of Japanese shipping to the United States have been completed on the basis of two tons of steel plates for one ton of deadweight ship capacity. The agreement is understood to be in the nature of a preliminary one intended to bridge over the period of negotiations now being conducted by American Ambassador Morris, at Tokyo, for a wider and more permanent understanding.

North Carolina Postmaster. (Special to The Dispatch).
Washington, D. C., March 27.—The following North Carolina postmasters were today nominated by the President: Harry R. Hastings, Sylva; Benjamin J. Skinner, Farmville; and William H. Griffin, Fittsboro.

Austrians Are Being Forced From Southern Ukraine Cities

RUSSIAN SITUATION ATTRACTS ATTENTION

Ukrainians, Bolsheviks and Other Factions Are Showing Signs of Kicking Over the Traces

London, March 27.—Odessa has been recaptured by the Soviet and Ukrainian troops after a bloody battle in which naval forces took part, according to a Moscow dispatch from the semi-official Russian news agency.

The German war office on March 13 announced that Odessa had been entered by German troops. The preliminary peace treaty between Rumania and the Central Powers contained a provision engaging Rumania to support the transport of troops of the Central Powers through Moldavia and Bessarabia to Odessa.

Semi-official announcement was then made that Germany had obtained a direct route by way of Russia to Persia and Afghanistan. Odessa is the most important seaport of Southern Russia and the fourth city of Prussia in size. Its population is about 450,000.

Other Cities Recaptured. Moscow, Sunday, March 24.—Official reports say that Nikolayev, Kherson and Znamenska, all southern Ukrainian cities, have been recaptured from the Austrians by Red Guards and armed civilians. (The recapture of Kherson and Nikolayev was reported in press dispatches yesterday from Petrograd). The population of Kherson organized and expelled the invaders. A heavy artillery bombardment is reported in connection with the capture of Nikolayev.

Demands not set forth by the Germans in the peace treaty with Ukraine are creating disorder there. The latest of these demands is that Ukraine surrender 85 per cent. of its grain and its sugar from 114 refineries except that needed for local consumption. The Ukrainian Rada has protested that this is not in the terms of the peace treaty.

The German commander at Kiev, requested the bankers there to float a loan of 10,000,000 rubles on security provided by German financial institutions. The bankers declined to do so. German troops are constantly moving eastward through Kiev. (Continued on Page Eight).

GERMANS CAPTURED 936 GUNS, 100 TANKS

Berlin Also Claims Bringing Down 93 Allied Airplanes in Battle

Berlin, via London, Tuesday, March 27.—"French divisions, brought up from Noyon, were defeated at Frelich and Bataucourt. Busy was captured and we are standing on the heights to the north of Noyon.

"Our dispatch service has taken a prominent share in the successes we have achieved. Laboring untritingly, they have rendered possible co-operation between units fighting next to one another and gave the leaders assurance of being able to guide the battle into the desired channels. Railway troops which carried out a tremendous advance from the beginning of the fighting without any friction and which are now coping with the traffic behind the front are working ceaselessly on the reconstruction of destroyed railways.

"Since the beginning of the battle 93 enemy airplanes and six captive balloons have been brought down. Cavalry Baron von Ritchofen has achieved his 67th and 68th aerial victories. Lieutenant Bongartz, his 32nd; First Lieutenant Loerzer his 24th; Corporal Baumer his 23rd; Lieutenant Kroll his 22nd and Lieutenant Thy his 20th.

"The booty in guns has increased to 363, and over 100 tanks are lying in the captured positions. "On the rest of the Western front, artillery battles continue, increasing on the Lorraine front to great strength. "From other theatres there is nothing new."