

## GERMANS CONTINUE DRIVE.

### HUN FORCES AGAIN HAMMERING AT FRONT DOOR OF AMIENS.

Haig's Men Withdraw From Village of Villers-Bretonneux on Northern End of Latest Fighting Front—So Far as Known Allies Hold Firm in Other Places.

After three weeks of preparation in the Somme, during which time they launched an offensive in Flanders, the Germans have resumed their hammering at the front door of Amiens. For days there has been heavy artillery firing along the northern sectors of the Somme salient and finally the German infantry began their attempts to advance on the line passing Villers-Bretonneux, have caused a British withdrawal from this village, according to a report from Field Marshal Haig. This marks a German gain of about a mile.

Villers-Bretonneux is about 11 miles directly east of Amiens and is on the northern end of the latest fighting front. It is situated between the Somme and Luce Rivers, and while it is flanked on the south by low lying ground, it is by rolling hills to the west and northwest.

The fighting on the rest of the front where the Germans have resumed their drive toward the allied base of supplies in Northern France has not, so far as known resulted in any notable retirements on the part of the allies. The German official report issued on Wednesday was silent as to events in this sector of the front.

An attack on this particular part of the line in the Somme region had been expected and it is probable that preparations to meet it had been made. The British lines held firm in this region during the last days of the initial drive while the Germans were able to forge ahead farther south until they reached the village of Castel, about three miles from the railroad running to Paris from Amiens.

This new drive has been made at the same time that another blow has been struck at the British and French lines northwest of Ypres. Savage fighting is reported at various points along the line from Bailleul to Merville and Berlin claims that heights to the northeast of Bailleul have been stormed. Coincident with these attacks, here have been assaults on the British forces near Bethune, along the Lawe River, but these have been repulsed.

Some of the uncertainty as to the success of the British exploit in attempting to seal up the harbors of Zeebrugge and Ostend has been cleared up by observations carried out by aviators. Grave damage was done to the mole at Zeebrugge and the channel leading out to sea from the port of Ostend is said to have been partly blocked.

On the front in France, with the exception of the Somme salient, there has been little fighting of an unusual nature.

The situation between Germany and Holland is still obscure. It has been reported that a virtual ultimatum was delivered to the Netherlands government by Berlin but this is not as yet known to be a fact. Dispatches from The Hague insist that Holland will not depart from her attitude of neutrality. An unofficial report says that the Dutch minister has left for The Hague and that the German minister has started for Berlin.

## VILLERS-BRETONNEUX IN THE HANDS OF GERMANS.

### Huns Attack Whole British Front South of Somme and French on Right—Score Partial Success After Early Repulse.

London, April 24.—Field Marshal Haig reports that the Germans have taken Villers-Bretonneux. The text of the statement reads:

"About 6.30 this morning, after a violent bombardment the enemy attacked our whole front south of the Somme and the French on her right and was repulsed. Later in the morning an attack on our positions in this sector was renewed in strength and, although repulsed with loss on the southern and northern positions of the front, made progress at Villers-Bretonneux, where the fighting has been severe through the day.

"By evening the enemy had gained possession of the village, and the fighting was continuing.

"Other attacks by the enemy this morning on the north bank of the Somme and north of Albert were repulsed; we secured a few prisoners.

"By a successful local operation carried out this morning northwest of

Festubert a post, captured by the enemy in this locality on the 22nd, was regained. The hostile garrison offered strong resistance and lost heavily. We captured a few prisoners and four machine guns.

"Early in the morning the enemy delivered a strong local attack, without success against our new positions east of Robecq. Our line was maintained intact and 84 prisoners were left in our hands. Additional prisoners were secured in successful minor enterprises in the forest of Nieppe and in the neighborhood of Mœren."

With the British Army in France, April 24 (By the Associated Press.—) Hard fighting developed this morning on the southern battle front, the enemy attacking south of the Somme along the line of Villers-Bretonneux, Hangard-en-Santerre, Hailles and Castel. Early developments indicated that the Germans were trying only for limited objectives.

On the British sector Villers-Bretonneux, which nestles on a ridge overlooking the long stretch of the Somme valley, was the storm center, and here the enemy for the first time since the war began had tanks in action. Three of these engines of war accompanied the storming infantry, which at latest reports had battled forward into the eastern outskirts of the town.

From the French sector came word that the Germans had made very slight progress.

The assault was preceded by a heavy bombardment about Villers-Bretonneux. At the conclusion of this preparation the Germans surged forward along the whole British front south of the Somme. The first attack was thrown back but the enemy immediately came forward again, and this time met with more success. In the face of heavy machine gun and rifle fire the Germans pushed on towards the town, their three tanks leading.

The British gave way slightly and the enemy got a footing in the eastern fringe of the town.

Farther north, a little above the Albert region the British infantry put up an S. O. S. for artillery protection about 4 o'clock this morning and what appeared to promise a serious attack began to show. It turned out to be nothing more pretentious than an attempted raid, however.

Between Robecq and Givenchy-le-Labassee there was also considerable enemy shelling this morning and the Germans made a small attack in an attempt to take a position near Givenchy. But this movement was quickly stopped by the British.

## ALL DAY BATTLE STILL GOING ON.

### Defenders Continue to Strive Desperately to Prevent Advance of Invading Forces.

Paris, April 24.—The battle on the whole front south of the Somme and on the Avre lasted all day and still continues, according to the war office announcement tonight. The Germans gained a footing in the woods to the northward of Hangard-en-Santerre and also in the eastern outskirts of the village, which the French are desperately defending.

Several enemy assaults were shattered near Hailles and attacks at Senecat wood and Hill 82 also failed.

The statement says: "An intense bombardment of the Franco-American positions south of the Somme and on the Avre was followed by a German attack carried out all along this front by considerable forces at 5 o'clock in the morning. The efforts of the enemy were directed against Hangard-en-Santerre, the region of Hailles and Senecat wood.

"South of the Avre the battle which lasted all day, continued at the present hour. It was particularly stubborn in the region of Hangard. After a series of furious assaults the enemy succeeded in gaining a footing in the wood north of Hangard as well as in the eastern outskirts of the village, which our troops are desperately defending.

"The fighting was less violent in the neighborhood of Hailles. Several enemy assaults directed against the ridge east of the village were broken down by our fire and our counterattacks.

"Farther to the south the Germans were similarly checked in their attempts against Senecat wood and Hill 82, which remained entirely in our possession.

"On the right bank of the Meuse the artillery was quite active."

The reference in the official statement issued by the French war office definitely locates the American

## GERMANS MAKE GAINS.

### NEW DRIVE FOR AMIENS RESULTS IN SOME HEADWAY.

French Forced Out of Hangard and British Line Near Bailleul Dented, But British Recapture Villers-Bretonneux—Battle Continues With Unabated Fury.

Paris, April 25.—The Germans have captured the village of Hangard, on the front southeast of Amiens, the war office announces. The battle continued throughout the night in this sector. The French lost Hangard, recaptured it and finally were again forced out of the town, but are holding the ground around it.

## FIGHT ALL NIGHT.

### Infantry Attacks Preceded by Intense Artillery Bombardment.

London, April 25.—Three attacks by the Germans on the British positions east of Amiens have been repulsed, it was announced officially this morning.

After the Germans were repulsed by the French northeast of Bailleul late yesterday the enemy renewed their attacks this morning after an intense bombardment of these positions and the British positions further east.

The British regained ground around Villers-Bretonneux by counter attacks, and took prisoners.

Severe fighting was in progress all last night, and still continues in that sector, and on the Bailleul sector the battle is continuing over a wide front.

## SHOOTING PARIS AGAIN.

### Big Gun Resumed Bombardment This Morning.

Paris, April 25.—The long range bombardment of Paris was resumed again this morning.

## LOSE THOUSAND GUNS.

### British Have Suffered Great Loss in Recent Battle.

London, April 25.—The British have lost nearly a thousand guns, between four and five thousand machine guns and great quantities of ammunition since the present battle in France began, Winston Spencer Churchill told the House of Commons today.

## THE ZEEBRUGGE RAID.

### Naval Attack on German Bases Arouses England.

Ottawa, April 25.—The naval raid at Zeebrugge continues to be the all engrossing topic in England, says Reuter's dispatch from London. Special leave has been granted to the men who participated. There are columns of interviews in the daily press. Reflecting the spirit of the survivors, one said he would go again tomorrow on a similar errand even though he knew he wouldn't return.

## AMERICAN LOSS AT SEICHEPREY.

### Few Killed and Not Many Wounded.

Washington, April 25.—The number of Americans killed in the German attack at Seicheprey April 20th was less than a dozen and the wounded about twenty. These figures, made known today, appeared to give support to the German claim that a hundred and eighty-three Americans were captured, since it had been previously admitted that the American casualties were around two hundred.

Union, April 24.—Milus Smith, a negro living in Pea Ridge, about eight miles from Union, was shot by Sheriff Fant while resisting arrest and died shortly afterwards. The negro fired at the sheriff seven times without any result. He had said he would kill any man who tried to arrest him and a few days ago had refused to be taken by officers.

troops which were moved from the southern sectors of the battle line to parts of the French front which were hard pressed during the great German drive through Picardy.

On April 10 dispatches from both the French and British headquarters in France reported the arrival of American troops. This was prior to the time when the French extended their lines far to the north of Montdidier. The French official statement may indicate that Americans did not move to the north when the British forces were replaced by the French, but held the positions to which they were originally assigned.

## IMPROVE POSITION.

### GERMANS AND GERMANS BOTH ADVANCE IN BATTLE.

Heavy fighting continues without the sector east of Amiens appears to have been quiet at that point.

April 25.—Heavy fighting in the sector east of Amiens, Reuter's correspondent headquarters reports that the Germans appear to have gained a footing at Villers-Bretonneux. British counter attacks drove them back to the fringe of the town at all places. The British held the ground and the general position has improved considerably.

English and German tanks participated in the fighting at Villers-Bretonneux. The correspondent says the British tanks got among the Germans and did great execution.

## TEACHERS' SALARIES.

### State Council of Defense Has Increased Pay to Maintain Efficiency.

April 24.—David R. Clark, chairman of the South Carolina Council of Defense, has issued the following statement:

"The efficiency of democracy and the safety of this nation as a whole depends upon an efficient and patriotic citizenship. An efficient citizenship cannot be had unless without a public school system of high efficiency.

The efficiency of the school system largely depends upon the character, education and experience of the teachers.

The South Carolina Council of Defense has held from 85 to 100 men and women in various occupations in connection with the war. The average salary of these men is \$150 per month.

"Many banks and mercantile concerns are looking for efficient women at good salaries to replace men who have been called into service.

"Many of the most efficient school teachers in the State intend to seek commercial employment at the end of the present school year.

"If the authorities controlling the schools of South Carolina do not immediately recognize the danger and apply the necessary remedy, our school system will be badly crippled at a time when efficiency is more vital than ever before.

"There is but one remedy—adequate salary. We cannot expect expert, consecrated service for the wage of an average day laborer.

"Our teachers do and should occupy positions of influence and leadership in their respective communities, and it is unfair to keep them in their present humiliating financial condition.

"I personally know efficient teachers of high patriotism who are receiving salaries barely able to meet their absolutely necessary expenses and who deeply feel their inability to respond to requests for contributions to worthy patriotic causes.

"If adequate funds are not available from taxation, school trustees should raise by private subscription from the school patrons sufficient additional funds to pay an adequate salary to secure and keep the services of competent and experienced teachers.

"The structure of our government depends more largely upon our educational system than upon any other one agency. Let us keep this fact clearly before us and do our full duty to our schools no matter how urgent are other calls for patriotic service.

(Signed) "D. R. Coker, Chairman S. C. Council of Defense."

Washington, April 25.—The casualty list today contains 49 names. Killed in action, two; died of wounds, six; died of accident, four; died of disease, seven; other causes one; severely wounded, five; slightly wounded, twenty-four. Lieut Lawrence Ayer was included in those killed in action. Lieut. James C. Marquardt died of accident.

Washington, April 25.—Scores of cities passed their Liberty loan quotas today as shown in reports to the national headquarters. Total subscriptions reported are one billion eight hundred thirty-seven million, eight hundred sixty-eight thousand, three hundred and fifty dollars.

## SPEAKER CLARK FOR SENATE.

### Governor Gardiner Tenders Appointment as Successor to Late Senator Stone.

Jefferson City, Mo., April 24.—Governor Gardiner tonight tendered to Champ Clark, speaker of the house of representatives, the appointment as senator to succeed the late William J. Stone. The governor announced he had sent the following telegram to Mr. Clark:

"I have the honor of tendering to you appointment as senator to fill vacancy caused by death of Senator Stone. I hope to have early advice of your acceptance."

## Makes No Comment.

Washington, April 24.—Speaker Clark tonight received the telegram from Governor Gardiner offering him the appointment as senator to succeed the late Senator Stone, but declined to discuss it. The tendering of the office to the speaker has been expected by many members of the house of representatives, but they do not believe Mr. Clark will surrender the speakership to accept it.

## DUTCH-GERMAN CRISIS.

### Holland and Germany Said to Be Far Apart—Rumors of Action.

Amsterdam, April 24.—The Het Volk announces that the German minister to The Netherlands has left The Hague for Berlin, and that the Dutch minister to Germany is on his way from Berlin to The Hague.

Washington, April 24.—Washington was without any official information tonight to throw light on the situation between Germany and Holland and officials and diplomats could only speculate on reports that Germany had delivered an ultimatum to The Netherlands government demanding the movement of war supplies through Dutch territory.

If the Amsterdam report that the Dutch minister has departed for Berlin and the German minister for

the step short of breaking diplomatic relations has been taken. And a rupture of relations is the step short of war.

It is possible that the ministers might have been recalled by their government for conferences, though such a step hardly would be probable since it would be open to misinterpretation.

## CHAUTAQUA WAR TAX.

### Important Information for Purchasers of Season Tickets.

Special war tax revenue stamps for use on season tickets to the coming Redpath Chautauqua have just been received, and these stamps will be affixed to tickets upon presentation at the Y. M. C. A. and payment of the 10 per cent. of the purchase price of the ticket, as required by the government.

When the ticket sale was launched in Sumter, the government stamps had not been printed. A special ruling by the internal revenue department was required, due to the fact that the season tickets are retained by the owner for use at the ensuing entertainments, and it would be impracticable to collect the tax at each entertainment.

The government revenue tax amounts to 25 cents on all adult season tickets sold during the advance sale at \$2.50; the tax on children's tickets is 13 cents. When the advance sale closes, the price of tickets will be advanced to \$3.00 for adults and \$1.50 for children, with a consequent increase in the government tax.

Tickets may be stamped at the gate on the opening day of the chautauqua, May 1. No season ticket will be honored for admission unless it bears the government stamp. Those who wish may wait and have their tickets stamped at the grounds on the opening day, but because of the large crowd that will be present it is suggested that all who can do so will call at the Y. M. C. A. in advance and pay the government tax. This will obviate delay and confusion, and will enable the holders of stamped tickets to go right to their seats in the big tent.

The Redpath Chautauqua organization is serving the government in collecting this revenue entirely without compensation, and it is believed that Sumter people will cooperate with the government and the Redpath organization in the same loyal manner as was displayed in the recent Liberty Loan campaign.

## AIRCRAFT DICTATOR NAMED.

### JOHN D. RYAN WILL DIRECT ENTIRE QUESTION OF AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION.

Successful Financier to Have Position Corresponding to That Held by Schwab in Ship Making—Full Power Granted to Act in Executive Capacity.

Washington, April 24.—Direction of the army's great aircraft production problem has been placed in the hands of a civilian, John D. Ryan, copper magnate, railroad man and financier.

Secretary Baker announced the step tonight, disclosing at the same time a reorganization of the signal corps under which the aviation section virtually is divorced from the corps proper, heretofore supreme on all questions. With aviation production turned over to a civilian division headed by Mr. Ryan, Brig. Gen. William L. Kenly is made chief of a new division of military aeronautics, to control training of aviators and military uses of aircraft.

Major General Squier, chief signal officer, will confine his activities to the signal branch. Howard Coffin, chairman of the aircraft board and under whose direction the building program has developed to its present stage, retires from the board and relinquishes the chairmanship to Mr. Ryan. The aircraft board itself, created by congress, will continue as advisory body. Throughout all the agitation over delays and mistakes in getting speedy production of aircraft under way, all critics have agreed that the great fault lay in the absence of centralized control. The power of Mr. Coffin and his board was subject to the signal corps and this divided responsibility has been blamed largely for the fact that the program is about three months behind.

Mr. Coffin himself will be

"The appointment of a single individual with definite and adequate power to deal with all aspects of army aircraft production is a logical and necessary step.

"It is necessary to get away from any question of a division of responsibility, either in fact or in the public mind. The aircraft board remains, as since its creation in October, an advisory body; but under this new arrangement the chairman of the board becomes also the supreme executive agency. For proper results both the power of execution and the responsibility must be concentrated in the same hands. The method of Mr. Ryan's appointment would seem to accomplish this result."

This reorganization forecast at the war department since before the senate military committee made its reports referring to the aviation program as a "humiliating failure," follows a preliminary report from a special committee of investigators appointed by President Wilson and headed by H. Snowden Marshall of New York. The report never has been made public.

Assistant Secretaries Crowell and Stettinius and Major General March, acting chief of staff, are understood to have worked out the new plan of organization. The authority given Mr. Ryan corresponds to that given Chas. M. Schwab as director general of the Emergency Fleet Corporation. He has the task of speeding up production in all of the many plants working on aircraft for the army and is given full power in that respect.

Mr. Ryan's war work up to this time has been confined to an active part in the work of the Red Cross war council. President Wilson is said to have had a hand personally in the selection. Born in Michigan 54 years ago, Mr. Ryan has had a busy life as an industrial leader. He is president of the Anaconda Copper Company, of the United Metals Selling Company and of the Montana Power Company. One of the big things in which he has played a part was the electrification of the mountain division of the C. M. St. P., probably the greatest undertaking of the kind ever attempted.

Brigadier General Kenly, chief of the new military aeronautics division, recently returned from France where he has had charge of aviation under General Pershing. Soon after the first expeditionary forces went over he was sent to France and given the rank of brigadier general in the National Army.