

## GERMANS HAVE CAPTURED FIVE OF NAMUR FORTS

### ALLIES PLAN OF ATTACK FAILED --- RETIRED TO DEFENSIVE POSITIONS---GERMANS IN NAMUR

#### FIRST PONTOON FLOATED DRY DOCK IN FULL SWING

ENSE UNDERTAKING THAT WILL MAKE RUPERT PROSPEROUS IN SPITE OF WAR --- PAY ROLL TO BE DOUBLED SHORTLY

The first pontoon of the float-dock was launched yesterday at 10 o'clock. Notice had been given of this on Saturday and a number of local citizens came down to witness the event. The number, too, were late. They likely thought that, like other appointments, the would be deferred. Mr. Bell, manager of the drydock, however, is a man of his word when he says three the clock.

The big pontoon was sitting on ways just held up by the last one, and when the word was given it slid out into the water as easily as a duck.

The dimensions of the pontoon are 130 x 44 x 15 feet. The sides are 10 x 12 inches and are closely studded and braced with these immense timbers and bolted together. Then it is fixed on the bottom and deck with six inch Douglas fir, and the sides with the same material, but six inches in thickness. This there is a coat of pine varnished with arsenic; then a coat of tar followed by another coat of felt; on top of that is a coating of galvanized sheet iron on both sides and then a coating of one and a half inch steel boards put on with galvanized nails. Any torpedo who poked his nose through a hole such as that is worthy of a medal.

The pontoon contains 300,000 lbs of timber and thirty tons of rivets.

The 44-foot ends of this pontoon there will be steel wings

38 feet high and 15 across, the base securely fastened to the deck making the side of the pontoon 53 feet high.

There will be in all twelve pontoons when finished and the steel wings will be in three sections securely tying together in one case six pontoons and in the other cases three each. They can then have three separate docks or can arrange them in any combination they wish. The capacity displacement of the whole twelve pontoons is 20,000 tons. This is arranged by opening the gates on the lower sides and flooding the pontoons with water. Each pontoon has two twelve-inch centrifugal pumps so that after the dock is sunk and the ship slipped in place, the water can be pumped out in two hours, raising a ship of 20,000 tons or a smaller ship in a proportion of the time. The whole length of the dock will be 600 feet. The timber used in the completed dock will be 4,250,000 feet.

The next pontoon will be launched on September 22nd, and six will be completed before January 1st.

There are 125 men employed exclusively on the dock and that number will be doubled almost immediately. The dry dock payroll is \$10,000 per week at present. This does not include the men employed on the other parts of the works where about an equal number are employed. It would appear from all this that there is a busy time ahead for Prince Rupert in spite of the hard times which many feared the war would bring. Cheer up, the best is yet to be!

#### OUR ELECTORAL DISTRICTS SUGGESTED DIVISION SKEENA

MISSION ON RE-DISTRIBUTION HELD SESSION HERE YESTERDAY---WANT SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORWARDED

Yesterday afternoon Justice Macdonald and Justice Macdonald Commissioners on Provincial Distribution, convened in the house, W. P. Ogilvie, the mission secretary, accompanied the commissioners.

There was only one definite suggestion made as the notice of sitting was very short and the interested did not have time to gather information. Mr. Manson, M.P.P., suggested that Skeena be divided into two districts and that a piece be added to Atlin. The later would be Grand Bay, Stewart and Gravelly Inlet.

Prince Rupert district would take Kaiaen and Digby Islands. Skeena District would take in the old Skeena District east of Copper River.

East District would take in Skeena Crossing to the west and down to the present boundary at River's Inlet. The Charlotte Islands would be a district by itself.

According to the last voters' list, Skeena District would have 13 votes, the Coast 964, and the Rupert 1,690.

Mr. Manson pointed out that the districts were small in relation, they are growing very rapidly.

His suggestions were made by Mr. Manson, T. D. Pattullo, H. Glas, Neil McLeod and A. S.

The latter predicted that the Q. would be a great dairy country and would populate rapidly. The commissioners suggested that the representatives of both political parties get together and make a joint recommendation to the commission.

It is understood that the Hazelton representatives want the Omineca District on the boundaries of the mining district which would make the dividing line at Kilselas.

#### BRITISH TROOPS IN BATTLE AT HAINAULT

London, August 25.—According to an official report a great battle is raging in Hainault. The Allies are acting on the defensive and are gallantly holding their own. The loss of life is not reported, nor the probable outcome of the struggle.

#### EXTRA CAR FERRY IS RUSHING COAL TO CANADA

London, Ont., August 25.—A move that is mystifying everyone here, but is believed to be closely connected with the war, was made today when an extra car ferry was ordered to rush coal across from Connant to Port Stanley. One of the big new ferry boats running between Ludington and Muskegon has been added. Huge quantities of coal are to be stored at the lakeside. Railway officials declare the extra boat was not put on because railway business warranted it.

Mr. J. S. Cowper, formerly editor and manager of The Daily News and now a member of the Vancouver Daily Province staff, is visiting the city. He is leaving in the morning for a tour into the interior and will return to Vancouver on Sunday next.



NEW EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA

Archduke Charles Joseph of Austria and his wife. He is the heir to the Austrian throne by the death of his uncle, Francis Joseph, which is reported this morning.

#### MAYOR ADMITS HE ASKED FOR TROOPS

But Department Had Already Arranged in Their Mind to Send Them

The City Council meeting last evening looked like a short session, something quite foreign to the present regime. But those who hoped a record was going to be broken were disappointed. Just as the motion to adjourn was on the lips of an alderman on the south side, Ald. Montgomery asked the Mayor if he had nothing to report on his jaunt to Victoria. This was sufficient invitation for the Mayor and he proceeded to give a book-length monologue on his visit south and his engagement of the militia to defend Prince Rupert.

He admitted that he had asked for the militia, but that the department had already arranged in their own mind to send them. There were no big guns available, and the Rainbow was busy, and the militia was the best he could do under the circumstances. Towards the end of the evening the Mayor waxed indignant at Ald. Montgomery who laughed and at others who smiled. He claimed that even if we do not consider the militia are needed for protection we ought to be glad they are here to spend their money.

#### PARIS GETTING READY FOR GERMAN ASSAULT

London, August 25.—A late despatch says that the French are busily preparing for an assault on Paris. This would only be brought about by a decisive victory over the Allies by the Germans.

Try Smith & Killas' ice cream.

#### FRENCH ARMY MAKING GOOD IN ALSACE-LORRAINE

Paris, August 25.—A general battle is now being fought in southern Alsace and the Vosges Mountains.

Along the River Muerthe the main body of troops is under the command of General Pau.

An army from north of Wavre is approaching Neufchateau, attacking the German forces which have been defiled through Luxembourg and are now on the right bank of the Semois.

Another army from the direction of Sedan has crossed the department of Ardennes, engaging the German army corps which has been proceeding between the River Lesse and the Meuse. A third army corps from north of Chimay is advancing to the attack of the German right wing between the River Sambre and the Meuse.

A fourth army corps composed of the British army which comes from Mons is moving on the Germans who sought to pass our left wing. Followed step by step, its right now finds itself attacked by the left wing of our army, which is working in conjunction with the British.

From this side the battle continues vigorously. The mission of the British and the French is to hold the entire German army in Belgium while the Russian allies pursue their successes on the other border of Germany.

Thus the German armies find themselves hotly pressed on both boundaries.

The Princess Ena arrived here early this morning with 200 tons of coal for the Rainbow. Coaling was in progress aboard the cruiser all morning.

#### NOTICE NEW REGIMENT

LISTS HAVE BEEN OPENED AT PECK, MOORE & CO.'S OFFICE, THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE AND THE POLICE STATION TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FROM THOSE WHO WISH TO JOIN THE NEW REGIMENT OF MILITIA THAT IS TO BE FORMED HERE.

C. W. PECK.

#### GERMANS WON FIRST BIG BATTLE

#### ENEMY NOW IN POSSESSION OF FIVE NAMUR FORTS

(Special to THE NEWS)

London, August 25.—The Official War Bureau announces that the city of Namur has fallen. The Germans are said to have captured five of the forts and the fall of the other four is imminent.

The London Times says this is an inexplicable incident which will require a good deal of explanation. Other English papers express the opinion that the news of the day is bad and if the Allies losses have been heavy they may see the Germans march in earnest on to Paris.

In a first class battle the French, though in a strong position in central Belgium, were driven out in two days' fighting by the power of the German attack.

There is a general tone of anxiety in the English papers owing to the official announcement that the Allies after assuming the offensive, had to retire to covering positions.

#### EMPEROR FRANCIS DIED YESTERDAY

Paris, August 25.—Emperor Francis Joseph died yesterday. What effect the passing away of the aged ruler of Austria will have on the European campaign is a matter of conjecture. European diplomats look for internal troubles breaking out in the Austrian kingdom.

Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria, was born August 18th, 1830, and was proclaimed emperor after the abdication of his uncle, Ferdinand, on December 2, 1848. He was crowned King of Hungary June 8th, 1867. In 1854 he married Elizabeth, daughter of the Duke Maximilian of Bavaria. She died by the hand of an anarchist in Geneva, September, 1898. A son of the late Emperor, Archduke Rudolph, and heir apparent, committed suicide in 1889.

#### WAR WILL HOLD CANADA SAYS SIR W. VAN HORNE

Montreal, August 25.—Sir William C. Van Horne, ex-president of the C. P. R., on being asked what he thought of the war, made the following statement:

"I do not imagine any harm can come to Canada, and the longer it continues the better it will be for the Dominion and the United States. Our crops of wheat, oats and coarse grains will recoup Canada for any outlay she may decide to make on behalf of the British Empire."

#### LIEGE FORTS ALL STILL HOLDING OUT

London, August 25.—A despatch from a Paris source says that according to an announcement in the French capital the Germans are making a great effort against Namur, which is vigorously resisting. All the Liege forts are holding out. The entire Belgian army is concentrated on Antwerp.

#### WAR SITUATION TODAY

Today's news from the Belgium battlefield may appear gloomy on the surface, but it must not be taken as a defeat. The Allies took the offensive in the vicinity of Namur and through Mainaut. Apparently the superior forces of the Germans compelled them to retire to their defensive positions which have been chosen and strengthened during the past two weeks.

The Germans are reported in the city of Namur and in possession of the forts, but they have still the entrenched position of the Allies to overcome.

There is nothing in the early despatches to show that the enemy have yet reached the French border through the Allies.

It is quite possible even that the Allies may allow a section of the German army into France with the object of cutting them off.

London newspapers have a tone of criticism but one battle does not make a victory and in being forced back the Allies are only in the position the German army found itself two weeks ago when it first retired from Liege.

In the Yellow Sea it is apparent that the German station is doomed although it may hold out for a long time.

#### ALLIES MET WITH REVERSES--- RETIRED FROM MURDEROUS FIRE

TOOK OFFENSIVE AT FIRST---COMPELLED TO FALL BACK ON DEFENSIVE POSITION---NAMUR REPORTED TAKEN

(Special to THE NEWS)  
New York, August 25.—A cablegram to The American from London says in its summary of the war situation The London Times says Namur has fallen. This in the words of an official announcement, necessitates withdrawal of the portion of the Allied troops on the line at Sambre to the original defensive position of the French.

#### FRENCH OFFICIAL REPORT

Paris, August 25.—The French War Office issues the following statement:—

The French and British plan of attack having failed, owing to unforeseen difficulties, they have retired covering their positions.

West of the Meuse the British army and our left wing were attacked by the Germans. They behaved admirably, holding their ground with traditional steadfastness.

The French assumed the offensive with two army corps. The African brigade was carried away in their eagerness and were received by a murderous fire but did not give an inch but on being counter attacked by the Prussian guards were obliged to retire, only after inflicting enormous losses.

East of the Meuse our troops advanced across an extremely difficult country and made a courageous attack when they emerged a wood, but were obliged to fall back after a stiff fight to a position south of the River Semois.

On the order of General Joffre, our troops and the British troops withdrew, covering their positions. Our troops are intact. Our cavalry has in no way suffered. Our artillery affirmed its superiority. Our officers and soldiers are in the best condition, morally and physically.

#### FIERCE FIGHT AT CHARLEROI

London, August 25.—Since yesterday the Germans have been attacking Charleroi which the French are holding. The Germans invaded the town from the Montagny side and came out by turning the bridges in front of the railway station. There was a hot fire for possession of these bridges as well as the railway station and other buildings. German shells were falling in the town and houses were wrecked. The Hotel Europe, seen from

the railroad, appeared to be seriously damaged. A mass of French artillery troops in endless lines poured out and the Germans were driven back with serious loss.

#### LONDON DEEPLY MOVED

London, August 25.—This day's waiting brought home the realities of war to the British people. Never before has the whole nation been so deeply moved. Many thousands have relatives and friends in the army and they know the casualties must be great. The only information of the events the country has are contained in brief official bulletins and the vague character of these have not been cheering.

#### ITALY ARMY MOBILIZE BUT REMAIN NEUTRAL

(Special to THE NEWS)  
London, August 25.—A despatch to The Times says the Italian Premier has assured a committee of Deputies that no mobilization of troops is imminent in Italy. If it did occur it would mean no abandonment of Italy's neutrality.

#### JAPANESE EMBASSADOR LEFT BERLIN YESTERDAY

(Special to THE NEWS)  
Berlin, August 25.—The Japanese charge d'affaires was handed his passports by the German Government and has left Berlin, preceding toward the Dutch frontier.

#### BRITISH, JAPS AND FRENCH TO ATTACK TSING TAU

(Special to THE NEWS)  
Peking, August 25.—The blockade of Tsing Tau has started. Up to the present time only British regiments have received orders to co-operate with the Japanese operations against Kaio Chau on the land side. The French are expecting orders to assist the British.

#### EXECUTION DENIED

(Special to THE NEWS)  
Washington, August 25.—The German Ambassador gave out a statement here saying that there was absolutely no truth in the rumor that Carl Liebknecht, the German Socialist, had been executed.

#### NOTICE TO EAGLES

All members of the Fraternal Order of Eagles are requested to attend a meeting tomorrow evening at 8:30 in the K. of P. Hall.