

BE OUR PARTNERS IS TORONTO RY.'S SCHEME

Joker Is Plan to Guarantee
Shareholders Six Per
Cent.

PITTS IS AUTHOR

Shareholders Asked to Interest
Business Men in "Ser-
vice at Cost."

The first gun has been fired in the Toronto Railway Company's attempt to prevent purchase by the city when the franchise expires in 1921. The company's proposition is in brief as follows:

1. City and company to become partners in ownership of the road, which company will continue to manage.
2. A sliding scale of fares to be provided, which will be applied from year to year as cost of service war-
rants. Fares to increase with cost of service and decrease if costs de-
crease.
3. Service to be given "at cost," but (this is the "joker") said cost will include a dividend of six per cent. on the stock of the company, including the "watered stock" at present employed, and such capital sums as have been prudently spent and are properly chargeable to capital.

For some time it has been known at the City Hall that the company has had "feelings" out with regard to some kind of a deal whereby absolute purchase may be avoided. Now that the proposed terms are known, they are being received with derision. Toronto proposes to buy the street railway outright and run it without paying dividends to anybody.

Pitts is Spokesman.
Herman H. Pitts, director of the Toronto Railway Co., is apparently the company's spokesman in broaching the "patched-up peace" offer to the public. It will be remembered that Mr. Pitts, who is an Ottawa man, used to make a rumpus in the meetings of the Toronto company, on one occasion attacking the management and then seconding the management's report. Finally, when the directors were increased, Brother Pitts was included on the score, it was said, or proxies held by him which made it impossible to increase the directorships without his consent.

And now Mr. Pitts comes along with a fat envelope full of circulars which is being sent out to all shareholders of the Toronto Railway Co. These bear the impressive title "Association of Holders of Public Utility Securities," are dated from Ottawa and signed by Mr. Pitts as secretary. He says that it has been decided to form this association because of the difficulty of financing street railways in Ontario and in view of the expiring franchises. Both these conditions are, of course, applicable to the Toronto railway. He goes on to propose "the co-operative scheme," or, as it is usually called, "service-at-cost," which, he claims, "has all the advantages of public ownership while eliminating all the defects." He points out that "it guarantees the shareholders a fixed rate of interest," at which shareholders will exclaim "Hear, hear," but at which public ownership men at the City Hall exclaim, "Then that settles his proposition. Toronto will have none of it."

Bring Pressure to Bear.
The plan adopted in order to bring about a partnership between Toronto and the company is not disclosed, but apparently it is to have its beginning in getting the co-operation of all shareholders in public utility companies in order that they may bring pressure to bear upon the civic authorities. Every Toronto Railway Company shareholder is provided with a petition with room for signatures calling for an "educational campaign," "whereby the public may be impressed with the advantages of service-at-cost." And to each shareholder has come the instruction to "secure as many as possible of the officials of your financial institutions, business men and all persons holding shares or bonds of any public utility as members of this association."

The circular says: "This is done for the purpose of grouping together the thousands of holders of such securities who are now represented by a comparatively small number of companies, but who count in the thousands and whose moral support and personal sympathy and propaganda are of paramount usefulness in an educational campaign of such magnitude and importance."

Use Massachusetts as Example.
The Pitts documents do not state what plan is proposed in Ontario, but they present the Massachusetts plan as an example, and say that "it has given the public control of their street railway systems just as fully as if they had been municipalized." In other words, Toronto is being offered a "substitute" for public ownership, a substitute which bears the suspicious label, "something just as good." The plan outlined provides not only for sliding scale of fares, but for a reserve fund which would make it unnecessary to change the scale in case of rapid temporary fluctuations in receipts. It also provides for "rehabilitation, extension and improvement of lines."

In Massachusetts a director is appointed by the Governor of the State



BLOOR STREET VIADUCT NOW A REGULAR PROMENADE.
Large numbers of pedestrians and automobiles have gone across the Bloor street viaduct since it was formally opened the other day. The above photograph shows an afternoon crowd.

French Cross Canal 7 Miles W. of Ghent

Gain Bridgehead at Nevele—
Audenarde Encircled
by the Allies.

London, Oct. 21.—The French troops on the allied centre in Belgium have gained a bridgehead across the Lys Canal at Nevele, 7 miles west of Ghent.

Audenarde Encircled.
Paris, Oct. 21.—(1 p.m.)—Allied troops have crossed the Scheldt River at several points in the region of Audenarde, fifteen miles south-west of Ghent. Audenarde has been encircled, and its fall is expected momentarily. German resistance is reported to be weakening on this sector of the front.

Activity on Italian Front.
Rome, Oct. 21.—Considerable artillery fighting on the Asiago plateau and Mount Grappa sectors was noted in today's War Office communiqué. At Sisonet French patrols penetrated the enemy lines, inflicting heavy losses, taking prisoners and machine guns. A hostile outpost in the Frenzella Valley was dispersed.

New Forces Against Yanks.
Washington, Oct. 21.—American forces of the Verdun Sunday campaign, their pressure against the pivotal point upon which the German retreat is swinging, Gen. Pershing reported to-day.

The Germans have constantly increased their forces there in a determined attempt to hold that sector and prevent disaster to their retreating forces in Belgium and northern France, he said.

New Factory Plant.
Wilson, Lyle, Badgerow and Co. have taken out a permit for the erection of an addition to their factory on Duke street, Nos. 102-110. The erection will cost \$22,000.

WEATHER ELSEWHERE
The following are the temperatures at the local observatory since noon yesterday:

Yesterday:
5 p.m. to 8 a.m. 35
8 a.m. to noon 34
Noon to 5 p.m. 32
Lowest yesterday, 30.
Highest yesterday, 35.

Tomorrow:
Rainfall and Upper St. Lawrence Valley—Moderate westerly winds; fine with moderate temperature. Tuesday—Fresh west wind; fair and cool.

Lower St. Lawrence Valley—Fresh westerly winds; moderate temperature. Tuesday—Fresh west wind; fair and cool.

Maritime Provinces—Strong south-west to west winds; occasional showers. Tuesday—Fresh west wind; fair and cool.

Upper St. Lawrence Valley—Fresh westerly winds; moderate temperature. Tuesday—Fresh west wind; fair and cool.

Lower St. Lawrence Valley—Fresh westerly winds; moderate temperature. Tuesday—Fresh west wind; fair and cool.

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Sacking of Douai Acme of Vandalism

By J. T. B. LIVESAY,
Canadian Press Correspondent.

With the Canadian Forces, Oct. 20.—A visit to Douai shows that the city has not been destroyed, but sacked. A half-hearted attempt was made to burn down a part of Grand Place, but, as a whole, the buildings are intact, including the wonderful old Hotel de Ville (Town Hall), with its superb middle-age decorations and frescoes, but here the hand of the Hun is evident, because many historic pictures have been removed from their frames, its archives and files of its various business departments lie trampled on the floor in ruin.

Everything movable has gone. In the cathedral the rich vestments litter the aisles and the stripped lead from the roof lies in piles awaiting removal.

A clean sweep was made of the entire city. Even those things not worth removing or too broken to be salvaged were trampled on and broken. Perhaps to provide sacks to remove loot feather beds have been emptied and the ticking removed. The shells are perfect, but the cats have gone. It is a city of echoing silence, peopled only by starving cats.

Appellants in Court of Revision
Say That Business Has
Suffered Greatly.

That King street, west of Bay, has suffered severely in loss of business was the contention of a number of appellants at the Court of Revision to-day. One big firm told the court that they actually had to beg some people to take quarters in their buildings for a number of days.

Mr. Lawrence Solman complained that there was no business on King street and that his business interests suffered thereby. The S. H. Jones, stated that it was almost impossible to rent stores.

"We have spent \$7,000 on the place this year and we get only \$500 out of it," the court was told.

W. B. Taylor, for the North American Life Assurance Co., had a similar story to tell.

Adargh blamed the leasehold system for the stagnation in business. "You cannot expect people to take leasehold properties and spend a lot of money in improving them," he said.

The court will take all the King street cases up together.

Use for war purposes does not mean exemption from taxes. The Court of Revision to-day refused to exempt the Hostess House at 72 King street, where allied soldiers are entertained. It is assessed at \$60, 133, and the ladies who conduct it thought the city should be generous. But the city will not carry generosity so far.

The court was informed that the Y. M. C. A. had decided to withdraw its appeal against the assessment of the Triangle Club at Queen and Victoria streets, which is also used for war purposes.

"Those buildings were there when Columbus discovered America," was J. W. McNabb's way of emphasizing the age of the buildings at 159-163 Simcoe street, on which he wanted a cut. He complained that he could not get adequate revenue from them.

"How can you expect a big revenue when your buildings date back to Columbus time?" queried Harry Nixon, of the Asst. Dept. They gave Mr. McNabb a cut of \$25 a foot on the \$440 a foot lot.

Arthur L. Eastmore, agent, had his business assessment at 12-14 King street reduced from \$5,500 to \$4,000, and Robert Smellie, barrister, same building, got a \$500 cut off his \$4,000 business assessment.

Undertaker Sues Joseph Miller.
D. M. Johnston-Curry Company, undertakers, are suing Joseph Miller for \$269 expenses in connection with the funeral of his sister, Mrs. Lillie Johnson. Defendant claimed that he did not give the order for the burial. Judge Denton is hearing the action.

107 Sick in Works Dept.
The City Treasurer's Department reports a slight decrease in the number of employees absent to-day. In the Works Department, 112 were away on Saturday. Since then 22 more have taken influenza, while 27 have returned to duty, so that the absentees now number 107.

FOE PLAN DEFENSIVE. WAR BEHIND RHINE?

Would Require Months for the
Allies to Break That Line—
Final Blow May Be in East.

Washington, Oct. 21.—Here are the A-B-C's of the war situation to-day as I get them from an army officer in allied councils:

A. The Hohenzollerns will not now abdicate or be overthrown, and the German States will not submit to democratization. They will fight till they are crushed.

B. The German withdrawal from Belgium and northern France is, in accord with German plans, and the "peace" offers are mere camouflage to conceal their military purposes.

C. Germany means to wage a defensive war behind the Rhine, and in the spring her forces will reach this line, which a million Russian prisoners and thousands of French and Belgians forced laborers have prepared.

D. The Rhine front is well high impregnable, not only because the forts are strong, but also because of the immense number of troops concentrated on a short defensive line.

E. Therefore, the war must be won by striking Germany at the rear, through Austria and the Balkans. A drive here is set for the spring. The collapse of Germany, and real surrender, not a fake peace offer, will follow.

There will be further "peace" feelers from Germany this officer believes, but they will be camouflaged, like the last; the real purpose is to conceal the German plans for the fall.

Even under conditions of an armistice, it would take at least two months for the 3,000,000 men in the German army to evacuate France and Belgium.

Any thinned officer points out, it would require 3,000 railway trains to move the Huns back to the Rhine, and 3,000 more trains to move their supplies and guns back to the Rhine. Each train would carry about 1,000 men. Even if we assume that the Germans could operate a train every hour, that would mean moving 24 trains a day, or 24,000 men a day. It is easy to figure at that rate that it would require more than four months to move 3,000,000 men.

But there are more than one railway line in the Huns could use; there are at least three. If we assume that they can move 24 trains a day over these three roads, that permits them to move 72,000 men a day. It would take a month and a half to move the German army out of Belgium, and another month and a half to move its guns and supplies.

These figures would be under an armistice, when there would be no British, French and Americans interfering.

How much longer will it take them with "Hohenzollerns" everywhere at their rear? It would seem that their retreat will extend well into the new year, and there always is the possibility that Foch, by a surprise attack, may wreck their plans by cutting off the retreat of many thousands of their men.

PLENTY MILK IN CITY
Clay Dairy Managers Have Shortage
of Drivers, But Plenty
of Milk.

Numerous complaints about the irregular delivery of milk to private residences has been denied by the Toronto dairies. One grocer on Spadina avenue, states that the Farmer's Dairy have cut his daily supply of 20 quarts down to 11 pints. Other housekeepers say that the City Dairy refused to deliver any milk, and the dairies that their whole supply was being requisitioned by the hospitals.

"There is absolutely no truth in this complaint," said Robert D. Hughes, manager of the Farmer's Dairy Company. "We have enough milk on hand at the present time to supply all needs, both individual and hospital. The only hardship we labor under is the lack of drivers. Out of 57 men who take regular routes, 25 are laid up with influenza."

"What would you suggest as a remedy for this trouble?" The Star asked.

"Well, we would fill all orders, no matter how big, if people would only come to our place for their supply, and arrange for its delivery. We have lots of milk, but not enough drivers."

The City Dairy Company stated that all their drivers were out, and all their routes covered.

"How about the complaint of you refusing to supply a woman when she phoned her order?"

"It was not done on the authority of the management," was the reply given.

THE FLU DEATH TOTAL 540 IN THREE WEEKS

Thirty-Six New Victims Registered at City Hall to
Noon To-day.

Deaths Registrations, City Hall.

	Influenza.	Pneum.
October 1-20	18	13
October 21 (To Noon)	358	182
Total	376	195
Total same period in 1917	19	521

Deaths From All Causes.

October 1-20	773
Monday (To Noon)	36

It is three weeks to a day since the Spanish influenza epidemic gripped Toronto and registrations at the office of the City Clerk up to noon to-day showed that so far it has taken a toll of 540 lives. Of this total 358 deaths were from influenza and 182 were from pneumonia and other consequent complications. Registrations up to 12 o'clock to-day showed 18 deaths from influenza and 13 from pneumonia. Deaths from all causes for the first 21 days of October, including to-day's incomplete returns, total 809.

The registrations to-day were:
Influenza—Mrs. Jessie W. Durham, aged 22, 26 Kent road, ill 9 days; Gerald F. Bahe, aged 29, 42 Winchester street, ill 2 weeks; Mrs. M. Tanner, aged 4, 237 Erie terrace, ill 2 weeks; Edward W. Hale, aged 36, 417 Margaret street, ill 8 days; "Baby" Brimble, aged 8 months, 48 Austin avenue, ill 2 days; Alfred B. Le Gros, aged 33, 127 Bouldry ave., ill 9 days; Mrs. Ethel Hendrick, aged 27, 609 Euclid avenue, ill 10 days; Yet Hing Low, aged 29, 163 Adelaide street west, ill 4 days; Alfred B. Le Gros, aged 33, 127 Bouldry ave., ill 9 days; Harvey Peterson, aged 20, 121 Wright avenue, ill 2 weeks; John Sutherland, aged 18, 118 Dufferin street, ill 7 days; Mrs. Mary L. Atherton, aged 43, 119 Wolsley street; Bernice Wilkinson, aged 3, 355 Balliol street, ill 10 days; Frederick Bloom, aged 28, 663 Balliol street, ill 8 days; Mrs. Alice Courtney, aged 39, 114 Main street, ill 1 week; Mrs. Jane Fuller, aged 22, 769 Gladstone ave., ill 7 days; David Walker, aged 42, 112 Pender street, ill 11 days; Mrs. Emma E. Brazier, aged 34, East York, ill 1 week.

Pneumonia—Dorothy Pinke, aged 18 months, 489 Sackville street, ill two days; Mrs. Mary E. Kingston, aged 40, 113 Alcorn avenue, ill five days; Mrs. Jane Hall, aged 29, 52 Hollis street, ill four days; Mrs. Catherine Kirkey, aged 45, 1257 Dufferin, ill four days; Peter G. Bartolmeo, aged five, 156 Lappin avenue, ill 12 days; Mrs. Fanny E. Aguirre, aged 39, 71 Melville avenue, ill one week; Mrs. T. Scardapane, aged 70, 223 Maria street, ill one week; A. W. Dagg, aged 9 months, 254 Leslie street, ill one week; Ernest F. Crossland, aged 23, 8 Crown Park road, ill 10 days; Mrs. E. E. Slaughter, aged 36, 346 Delawana, ill four days; Pearl Semeluk, aged 7 months, 194 Maria street, ill two weeks; Joe Toddy, aged 18, 174 Ivy avenue, ill four days; George Christie, aged 25, 357 King street west, ill one week.

Could Have Had Y. M. C. A.
Mayor Church stated to The Star to-day that if the military had wanted the Central Y.M.C.A. as a hospital the big Colborne street building would have been secured. "I am told that it was offered to them two years ago, and that the new Knox College was also offered to them. If those offers had been accepted they would now be so hard up for hospital accommodation."

Information came to the City Hall to-day that there had been fifteen deaths in the Central Y.M.C.A. hospital. Repair Park in the old Central Prison. The place is said to be in bad repair and city officials are to inspect it.

Dispute Every Inch
On American Front

With the American Armies in France, Oct. 21.—German prisoners state that Germany made arrangements to evacuate France, before the peace note was sent to President Wilson. These prisoners remarked: "The Americans have the worst blood-letting sector of the entire line. Every foot of ground is to be disputed until the German retreat from the sea region is completed."

The line is quiet to-day.

VACCINE FOR THE PUBLIC
Provincial Board of Health Now in
Position to Supply the
Serum.

"The Provincial Board of Health is now in a position to supply prophylactic vaccine for the use of the general public as a preventative to the attacks of influenza," was the interesting statement made to The Star at noon to-day by Dr. J. W. S. McCullough, Chief Medical Health Officer of the Province.

"It is expected that in a few days the Canadian Board of Health, working in co-operation, will be able to supply all those who need prophylactic vaccine," said Dr. McCullough.

"Our reports show us that there is still no diminution in the wave which is now sweeping over the Province," says the Provincial M. O. H.

SLACKER TREATY WORKS.
A.A.M.A. Citizens Who Did Not
Register Are Defaulters To-morrow.

Following the ratification of the treaty between Canada and the United States the Military Service Act will after to-morrow apply to all American citizens residing in Canada between the ages of 19 and 44. Under the treaty these Americans should have registered and failing to do so will be regarded as defaulters, but those who failed to register may enlist voluntarily in the Canadian army, after to-morrow.

THE WAR REVIEWED Significance of Events Reported To-day

The allies have freed 6,300 square miles of France from German domination. The enemy still holds 4,200 square miles of France. The allies now occupy nearly 1,200 square miles of Belgium. The enemy at present retains ten thousand square miles of Belgian soil. During the last wonderful ten days, the allies have released 1,850 square miles of French and Belgian territory, or more than they had released in the four years of war preceding July 18, 1918. The greatest advance yet registered by the allies is eastward from the Montdidier region to beyond Laon, where it reaches fifty miles. During the 96 days of the allies' offensive they have freed an average of 75 square miles of territory every day, making a total of 7,200 square miles. This figure includes the 6,300 square miles of France referred to above and 900 square miles of Belgium. Previously the allies had held 300 square miles of Belgium territory. During the 119 days of the German offensive, the enemy gained ground at the average rate of 23 square miles a day. Not one-inch of his gains this year is retained by him to-day.

East of Lille the allies have crossed the Belgian frontier along a front of 20 miles and advanced beyond it to an average distance of four miles. It will be remembered that the Belgian frontier zig-zags in a general direction south-eastward from the North Sea and that one big jog forms a salient around Lille and the other two French towns of Tournai and Roubaix. These three now are all in allied hands, and passing beyond the British

have reached the outskirts of the Belgian town of Tournai, which is on the middle course of the Scheldt River. The battle-line at present starts from the North Sea at the Dutch border, runs along a canal southward past Ghent for a distance of about 17 miles, turns southward along the Lys River for 15 miles and near Courtrai turns southward for 20 miles to beyond Tournai. This last sector straddles the high ground between the Lys and Scheldt rivers which parallel one another at a distance of ten miles for a stretch of 30 miles and unite at Ghent.

CROWDING THE ENEMY BACK FROM THE LYS TO THE SCHELDT.
On the map appearing herewith, the battle-line is located. The situation is obscure at a number of points, owing to the fact that the allied patrols are well out in front of the main forces. The infantry troops are known to be lining the canal to the west of Ghent, but unofficial reports indicate that Ertvelde and Sleydinghe, north and north-east of Ghent, are in allied hands and also that south of Ghent the allies are moving on Alost. The British are leaving the Lys River behind them as they move towards the Scheldt in a south-easterly direction from Courtrai and Isegheem. The Germans several weeks ago expected to be able to make a stand on the Ghent-Valenciennes line and they have nearly reached the positions they then mapped out for defence, but the general situation is so unsatisfactory that we may expect a withdrawal through Ath, Grammont and Alost to Termonde. The British forces moving on Mons via Denain and Valenciennes which threaten to outflank this line. Denain already has been taken by Canadian troops who also hold other parts of the front between the Scarpe and the Scheldt at Denain. Late despatches say the British are nearing St. Amand.

ALLIES CROSS THE SCHELDT NEAR AUDENARDE.
Opposite the arrow-head on the map, south of Aelre, the allies have smashed across the canal. Here they are less than seven miles from Ghent. More important still, they have driven forward to the Scheldt at Peteghem and Audenarde and crossed the river at a number of points. Unofficial reports state that Audenarde is virtually surrounded, and its fall is expected at any moment. Developments here are calculated to cause a hasty German retreat from the sector between Denain and Audenarde, the enemy withdrawing at least as far as Lenz with little delay.

Threaten the Railroad.
British and American troops are fighting their way ahead along a ten-mile front, east of Le Cateau. During the past day they have advanced a mile on this line, and appear to have reached a point from which they can check the advance of the French along the Oise and Serre Rivers, where successes are reported. On the southern side of the Lys salient, the German lines by reaching the heights to the west of Grand Lup.

In the Champagne Sector.
Through the Champagne sector, there has been no change in the line, but just west of the Argonne Forest, the French have moved ahead once more. They have reached the outskirts of the village of Terson-Saint-Alene, north of Vouziers. This seems to be a strategic point, as it is the north-east of the Argonne Forest. The village of Le Chesne is an important highway centre and on the line of railways running south-south-east from Buzancy, behind the front where the Germans are striving to stop the American drive on the Meuse. From the Argonne to the Meuse, the French, the event would be almost certain to bring about a German withdrawal east of the forest.

Americans Held Up.
American forces are apparently meeting with desperate resistance along the front west of the Meuse. No significant progress has been reported there during the past couple of days. This front is so important to the enemy that he is making a great effort to hold it firmly. It is generally expected, for the time being at least, in holding up the Americans.

CITY SWALLOWS FIRST PILL
Samuel Fieldhouse's Morley Avenue
Trial Costs Paid To-day.

The execution writ issued by Samuel Fieldhouse against the city for \$2,070.88, costs of the trial of the Morley Avenue sewage-disposal action, has been paid, or the payment has been authorized, according to L. St. Aubert, the city solicitor. The \$2,070.88 does not include the costs of appeal. The appellate costs will be another pill.

INDEPENDENCE OF HUNGARY
Emperor Charles to Bow to the Inevitable and Issue Manifesto to that Effect.

Special to The Star.
Amsterdam, Oct. 21.—Emperor Charles will shortly issue a manifesto to the Hungarian people announcing the independence of Hungary, according to the Budapest newspaper, the Rhenische Westphalian Gazette. The Rhenische Westphalian Gazette, the Hungarian manifesto will say, is to have economic independence and will maintain her own army and her own diplomatic corps.

Americans Regain Lost Ground.
With the American Army North-West of Verdun, Oct. 21.—(Noon.)—Fierce fighting took place to-day in the Bois de Rappes on the western end of the American line. In the face of terrific machine gun fire the Americans were forced to fall back. Later they counter-attacked and regained the part of the wood that had been lost.

From the Women's Department of

BRITISH OUTFLANK THE MORRAL FOREST

Germans Forced From Positions
of Great Natural Strength
on Wide Front.

CLOSE TO TOURNAI

British Marching On the Scheldt
River Render This Junction
Useless to the Enemy.

Canadian Press Despatch.
New York, Oct. 21.—The Associated Press to-day issues the following: British troops in smashing through the formidable German positions along the Selle River north of Le Cateau captured more than 3,000 prisoners. The Germans were forced from positions of great natural strength on a wide front, and the British gains were maintained despite enemy counter-attacks. The British now hold the heights between the Selle and Harpies Rivers, and are in a position to outflank the Mormal Forest and cut the railroad between Valenciennes and Avesnes.

Further north the allied forces continue their progress through Belgium and French Flanders from Denain to the Dutch frontier. On the north the Belgians are approaching Ghent, while in the centre the British are marching on the Scheldt River and outflanking Tournai, an important railway junction, which has been rendered useless to the Germans.

10 Miles From Ghent.
In spite of the efforts of the Germans to check the advance of the allied forces, the British, French and Belgians continue their sweeping march from Tournai to the Dutch frontier. Official reports show that they have reached points within ten miles of Ghent.

The Belgians are along the Deynze-Eecloo Canal, which runs northward from the Lys River to Zeebrugge, and have taken a number of important points near the waterway. Further south, the French have crossed the Lys, and have established bridgeheads at various points. Along the Lys, the British and French arms have moved swiftly toward the Scheldt River, and are at Pecq, on the west bank of the river.

In this sector of the battle line, the allied forces are making a steady advance, and it seems they will be able to reach Ghent with their main forces in a very short time.

The Germans have flooded some of the water channels, but this has failed to interfere with the progress of the allies.

On the map appearing herewith, the battle-line is located. The situation is obscure at a number of points, owing to the fact that the allied patrols are well out in front of the main forces. The infantry troops are known to be lining the canal to the west of Ghent, but unofficial reports indicate that Ertvelde and Sleydinghe, north and north-east of Ghent, are in allied hands and also that south of Ghent the allies are moving on Alost. The British are leaving the Lys River behind them as they move towards the Scheldt in a south-easterly direction from Courtrai and Isegheem. The Germans several weeks ago expected to be able to make a stand on the Ghent-Valenciennes line and they have nearly reached the positions they then mapped out for defence, but the general situation is so unsatisfactory that we may expect a withdrawal through Ath, Grammont and Alost to Termonde. The British forces moving on Mons via Denain and Valenciennes which threaten to outflank this line. Denain already has been taken by Canadian troops who also hold other parts of the front between the Scarpe and the Scheldt at Denain. Late despatches say the British are nearing St. Amand.

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