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Eager British, Fressing On, Capture Two Important Places North Of Vimy

Drive Along, Despite the Weather Conditions—Khaki Forces Now Straddle the Souches River — French Allies Strike Hard Blow at the Distressed Enemy

London, April 12—The British captured, early this morning, two important positions in the enemy's lines north of the Vimy Ridge and are astride of the River Souches, according to an official statement issued by the war office. The statement:

"The weather continues wet and stormy. Early this morning we attacked and captured two important positions on the enemy's lines north of Vimy Ridge, astride the River Souchez. A number of prisoners were taken by us.

"During the night two hostile attacks upon our new positions on the northern end of Vimy Ridge were driven off by our machine gun fire with heavy German losses. Some progress has been made south of the River Scarpe."

MORE BRITISH GAINS

London, April 12.—About 1,000 yards of trenches south of Farbus Wood in the region southeast of Vimy were captured by the British this morning. Reuter's correspondent so wires from the front. A hill southeast of Wancourt also was captured. The British yesterday took eleven additional guns in the fighting between Crosilles and Scarpe.

FRENCH HIT 'EM HARD

Paris, April 12.—(Noon)—In an attack last night on the new front below St. Quentin, between Coucy and Quincy-Basse, the French drove back the Germans to the southwestern edge of the upper Coucy Forest, capturing several important positions. The war office so announces. In the Champagne the Germans were ejected from trenches east of Sapigneul.

The statement follows: "Between the Somme and the Oise, artillery fighting continued with violence during the night, especially in the region of Urvillers.

"South of the Oise our troops, after artillery preparation, attacked the German positions east of the line from Coucy La Ville to Quincy-Basse. After a spirited engagement we forced back the enemy as far as the southwestern edge of the upper Coucy forest. Several important points of support fell into our hands, notwithstanding the resistance of the enemy, who left a number of dead on the ground and prisoners in our hands.

"In the region northeast of Soissons there were patrol encounters and active artillery fighting, especially in the sector of Laffaux. North of the Aisne our reconnoitering parties penetrated the German lines several points and brought back forty prisoners, one of whom is an officer.

"East of Sapigneul a sharp attack enabled us to expel the enemy from certain positions of trenches which he had held since April 4 and our line was re-established intact. Two surprise attacks by the Germans in the Champagne, in the sectors of Ville-Sur-Tourbe and Butte-Du-Mesnil, were broken up by our fire, which inflicted losses on the enemy.

"In the course of an incursion into the German lines in the Woevre, northeast of Remnauville, we inflicted appreciable losses on the enemy. Patrol encounters occurred southwest of Le Intruy."

GERMANS IN STATES SAY THE KAISER MUST GO

Hyphenated Ones Turning to Support of Wilson—Eighty Per Cent. of World Population and Wealth Against Teutons

(J. M. Robinson & Sons, Private Wire Telegram.)

There are strong reasons for believing that many German-Americans who were ardently pro-Kaiser a few weeks ago have been converted by President Wilson's address to congress, calling for a war declaration, to the position that the Kaiser must go and that the people, the world over, including Germany, must rule hereafter. They do not express much hope of a German revolt now, but confidently expect the people to rise when peace comes.

It is estimated in well-informed quarters that more than eighty per cent. of the population controlling about eighty per cent. of the wealth of the world, is now arrayed against autocracy as represented by the Teutonic allies.

Reported in Washington that Carranza will soon place embargo on oil exports to England.

Government bond issue of $7,000,000,000 is expected to be passed by both houses on Friday.

Brazil severs relations with Germany.

Council of National Defense names board of five railroad men to direct operations of American railways throughout the war.

Strong opposition in congress to president's conscription plan.

RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT COMMANDEERS RESERVE OF THE 1916 HARVEST

London, April 12.—A Petrograd despatch to Reuter's says that the provisional government has ordered all reserves of the 1916 harvest of corn and cereals which are fit for fodder to be placed at the disposal of the state. The entire reserves of the 1916 harvest, except what is required for seed and the needs of the families of the peasants, has also been expropriated.

SON TO PRISON FOR LIFE; GIRL GOES FOR FIVE YEARS

Cornwall, Ont., April 12.—Sentence was handed down this morning in the case of Emerson St. Pierre, yesterday found guilty of manslaughter in connection with the death of his father, William St. Pierre, shot on February 8 and buried in the cellar of his home, and Nettie Richmire, paramour of the male prisoner, who this morning pleaded guilty to being an accessory after the fact.

Emerson was given life imprisonment and the woman five years.

FREDERICTON HEARS OF TWO CASUALTIES

Lieutenant Thompson Killed, Captain Barbour Severely Wounded — Henry Braithewaite Meets Loss

Fredericton, N. B., April 12—Mrs. A. G. C. Thompson, stenographer in the Bank of B. N. A., was officially notified this morning that her son, Lieutenant Thompson, had been killed in action in France. He was a member of the staff of the Bank of Montreal in Grand Mere, P. Q., and went to the front as a private in an infantry regiment, winning promotion on the field. It is supposed that he lost his life in the fight at Vimy Ridge. He was twenty-two years old and unmarried. His father, now deceased, was at one time manager of the Bank of B. N. A., in Brantford, Ont. Great sympathy is felt for Mrs. Thompson, who is called upon to mourn the death of her only child.

Mrs. F. W. Barbour was notfied this morning that her son, Captain Royden Barbour, had been severely wounded in France. He went to England with a New Brunswick battalion and has been at the front for some time.

A sporting camp on the Miramichi owned by Henry Brathewaite, a guide, of this city, was recently destroyed by fire, involving a loss of $500. The fire is supposed to have been of incendiary origin. Besides the camp equipment, he lost an English rifle valued at $150.

Mrs. Geo. W. Ross, of this city, has received word of the death of her daughter, Mrs. Hugh Miller, in Westville, N. S.

Frederick Goodine, who went to Palm Beach, Florida, last fall for his health, died there last week.

The board of trade will protest to the railway companies against increased freight rates on fire-wood.

PETROGRAD CHEERS THE GRANDMOTHER OF REVOLUTION

Arrives From Siberia After Spending 44 of Her 73 Years in Exile

London, April 12.—Telegraphing from Petrograd, Reuter's correspondent says: Mme. Catherine Breshkovskaya, grandmother of the Russian revolution, arrived here today. She was welcomed by enormous enthusiastic crowds."

Mme. Breshkovskaya was released recently from Siberia after having spent forty-four of her seventy-three years as a convict, prisoner and exile in northern Asia.

HUNGER CRY MORE INSISTENT EVEN THAN WAIL OVER DEFEAT

Food Situation in Germany Dominating All Other Considerations — Bread Ration Cut Down One Quarter on Next Sunday

London, April 12.—The food situation is dominating all other considerations in Germany, according to the Berlin Vorwaerts, as quoted in an Amsterdam despatch to the Central News. The Vorwaerts says:

"Notwithstanding all the big events, the new food regulations which are to be introduced on April 15 form the exclusive subject of discussion in the most sonsiderable circles of the people.

"The nearer the fateful day approaches, the greater becomes the tension. A diminution in the bread rations forms a serious difficulty for the entire population and causes greater preoccupation."

Some weeks ago the German newspapers announced that the bread ration would be reduced by one-fourth beginning on April 15, owing to the scarcity of wheat. It was stated that the potato ration would be continued at five pounds weekly, and that 250 grammes weekly would be added to the meat ration. Surprise and consternation were expressed by the press over this prospect and the Berlin Volks Zeitung declared that it would mean that for many the limits of the bearable would be exceeded. The bread reduction was ordered, it was stated, as a necessary step to ensure the lasting of the present stocks until next harvest.

NEGLECT OF PORT DISCUSSED BY CITY COUNCIL

Plain Speaking Regarding Attitude of Federal Government

"NO MONEY" FOR PRESSING NEEDS

Council Again Disapproves of Bond Issue for Permanent Paving—West Side Street Work Discussed

A little discussion which arose towards the end of the meeting of the common council committee this morning gives some idea of what the council thinks of the way the city and port of St. John is being treated by the present federal government. Mention was made of several pressing needs which are being neglected on the excuse that there is no money available ,while at the same time government money is being poured into Halifax for harbor improvements.

Considerable time was devoted to the consideration of Commissioner Fisher's proposals for street work in Union street, West St. John, which would involve relaying the street car tracks. The commissioner's report, recommending that the work should be proceeded with, was adopted although other members of the council seemed sympathetically inclined towards the company's contentions.

Proposals for permanent paving work to be undertaken this summer at a total cost of about $57,000 were advanced by Commissioner Fisher, but as the opposition to the issue of bonds for the purpose was still evident, the matter was dropped.

Amended bills relating to second hand stores and boarding houses were recommended to the council.

The council will meet in committee again at 11.30 tomorrow morning to consider the report of the assessment commission.

Mayor Hayes presided this morning and all the members of the council were present.

The Power Company

The first business was the presentation by the commissioner of public works of a report on a communication from the N. B. Power Company, as follows:

"Regarding the letter of 10th inst., from the N. B. Power Company on the question of the raising of the tracks on Union street, St. John West, your commissioner begs leave to report that, after careful consideration of the company's proposal to raise the tracks when renewing the rails two years hence if the city would postpone the paving until that time, he is not able to recommend delaying the laying of the paving.

"Further, your commissioner is now of the opinion that the company can and should raise the tracks at the present time, at least in part, without waiting for new rails and he hopes that the company will decide to do so.

"The suggestion from the company that the roadway be narrowed and the tracks moved westward has been considered by the road engineer and your commissioner, and a conclusion reached that the roadway is none too wide as it is at present.

Respectfully submitted,
(Sgd.) "G. FRED FISHER.

The commissioner moved that the report be adopted and a copy forwarded to the company. It was his opinion that the company could find sufficient rails, those laid in Ludlow street and not in use, for instance, to replace those which could not be relaid.

The city solicitor, who was present, said that if the grade of the street is changed, the company must make their rails conform with the new grades. He drew attention to a statement made at the meeting with the company's directors when it was said that the company wishes to replace the rails with a heavier and higher type. If they relaid the present tracks they would have to relay them even the sleepers later when the new rails were to be put down.

The mayor said that he could understand that it would be difficult or impossible to secure new rails and he did not favor imposing any avoidable expense on a public service corporation, as the public always has to pay the bills, with interest.

The letter from the company, intimating that they would have a claim against the city, if the grade on the western side of the street was raised so as to make the surface water drain towards the tracks and thus hamper operations, was presented. He also read a letter he had sent to P. W. Thomson, a director of the new company, in which he said that, under certain circumstances, he would give favorable consideration to the proposal to postpone the work. He explained that, since then, further investigation had led him to decide against postponement.

The motion was adopted.

Bills for legislature were taken up. On motion of Commissioner McLellan the bill relating to second hand dealers was recommended to the council to be forwarded to the legislature, and the bill relating to regulation of boarding houses was recommended to the council for its first reading.

Permanent Pavements.

The matter of laying permanent pavement this year was again brought up by the commissioner of public works. He said he had been waited on by the representative of a paving concern who had assured him it was not too late to undertake the work and that his company would be willing to tender. He could not recommend that Market square should be undertaken this year but he thought that the other work could be undertaken. The list includes the following items:—

Main street, from Adelaide to Cedar	$32,000
Union, from Prince William to Charlotte	11,000
Union, from Waterloo to Brussels	$7.500
Princess, from Germain to Charlotte	5,000
Total	$57,000

This would be the smallest amount that outside contractors would come here for. He believed that permanent streets should be laid, not only for the improvement of conditions but as a matter of economy in upkeep. He hoped that the council might withdraw its opposition to a bond issue.

The mayor said that he could not change his attitude. If the assessors do not find extra valuations the increased taxes would represent an increase of thirty-five cents on the tax rate. The citizens have shown that they are opposed to any unreasonable increase in the taxes and until the citizens come to the city hall and demand that the work be done he could not support any work of this kind.

Commissioner Russell also opposed a bond issue.

Commissioner Wigmore asked if the money which must be spent on Main street would not be equal to the charges for permanent work. If it is not improved, he said, Main street might as well be fenced off.

As there was no seconder to Commissioner Fisher's motion that the work be undertaken, the matter was laid over.

What St. John Gets.

Commissioner Wigmore drew attention to a statement in the morning papers regarding imperial expenditures for developing Halifax as a naval base..

Commissioner Russell said that it was useless for St. John to try to get anything. They had not been able even to get a couple of search lights for Partridge Island, which naval men say are greatly needed.

The mayor also remarked that St. John does not seem to be able to get the money for the urgently needed extension of the breakwater, while government money is being poured into Halifax.

Commissioner McLellan remarked that what St. John had secured from any government had depended largely on the ministers who happened to be at Ottawa. He did not regard it as surprising that Halifax could get so much when the prime minister sits for that constituency.

SWEDES TO LOOK AFTER DUAL MONARCHY AFFAIRS

London, April 12.—Austria-Hungarian interests in Great Britain have been taken over by the Swedish minister

A TANK PLAYED BIG PART IN THE TAKING OF MONCHY

British Progress Under Extraordinary Weather Conditions

WORD ABOUT CANADIANS

Hot Fighting at Vimy, Where They Are Slowly But Surely Pressing Forward — All Efforts to Dislodge Them From Crest Fail

(From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press.)

British headquarters in France, April 11, via London—Under the most extraordinary weather conditions recorded in France in a score of years, the British offensive about Arras, continues successfully. This morning the cavalry went into action and contributed to the taking of Monchy-Le-Preux and other important positions.

The taking of Monchy-Le-Preux was aided by a "tank." The British infantry reached the village late Tuesday, but the German machine guns posted there needed special attention before an attack. So digging themselves in the Tommies watched by their arms throughout the night. Early today the British turned their artillery against suspected machine gun emplacements while the "tank" circled the town, scattering terror and death as it went.

When it had completed its circuit the infantry sprang forward from their shallow trench and charged in a sort of encircling movement, meeting with little opposition so well had the artillery and "tank" done their work. A number of prisoners were taken as well as machine guns. The remainder of the garrison fled in the direction of a wood, whence later in the day, reinforced, they attempted to counter-attack.

The British have taken a copse three quarters of a mile northeast of Monchy and also Pelves on the bank of the Scarpe. Roeux on the north bank of this vagabond stream, misnamed river, is now in British hands.

Some of the hottest fighting along the entire battlefront is taking place at Vimy where the Canadians are slowly but surely pressing forward down the eastern slopes, their patrols scouring the forests, which screen that side of the ridge. All efforts on the part of the Germans to shell them off the crest or out of the woods have failed.

LIEUT. COLONEL W. LEONARD, OF LONDON ONTARIO, KILLED

Major Heard of Truro is Wounded — Names of a Few Casualties Reported

London, Ont., April 12.—Lieut.-Col. Wood Leonard, who went to the front at the beginning of the war, has been killed in action. He won promotion and the distinguished service order for gallant conduct.

His brother, Lieut.-Col Ibbotson Leonard, went overseas in command of the second divisional cavalry. Colonel Leonard was associated with his father and brothers in the manufacture of boilers and engines here.

Ottawa, April 11.—Casualties:

INFANTRY

Wounded

Major Oliver G. Heard, Truro, N.S.

ARTILLERY

Died of Wounds

Driver G. M. Sutherland, Earltown, N.S.

MOUNTED RIFLES

Died of Wounds

B. H. Nickerson, West Baccaro, N.S.

GERMAN CONSULS ON THE WAY HOME FROM CHINA

Peking, April 12.—Twenty German consuls and their families left Shanghai today on a Dutch steamer. They will proceed by way of San Francisco to Germany.

Phelix and Pherdinand

WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, director of meterological service

Synopsis—The small disturbance which was over Lake Superior yesterday has passed southeastward across the Great Lakes and an area of high pressure from the north is now spreading over Ontario accompanied by cooler weather.

Ottawa Valley, northeast and northward—Mostly cloudy and cold today and Friday. A few local snow flurries.

Showery

Maritime—Fresh northerly winds, mostly cloudy and cool, Friday showery.

New England—Partly overcast and colder tonight and Friday; fresh north west winds.

WILSON HAS COLOSSAL PLAN TO KEEP THE ALLIES OVERSEAS WELL SUPPLIED

Quickly Built, Light, Wooden Ships of 2,000 Tons and Over to Be Furnished in Great Numbers to Break Down German Submarine Blockade

Washington, April 12—A campaign of colossal proportions to break down the German submarine blockade and keep the Entente plentifully supplied with food, clothing and munitions has been determined upon by President Wilson and his advisers as the United States' physical stroke against her enemy.

Unable now to send an army into the trenches, the president believes the United States can do an even greater service in the common cause against Germany by providing a grand armada of merchantment to invalidate the undersea campaign about which have been rallied the fading hopes of Prussian conquest.

For weeks officials have been at work on such a plan, but not until today was it revealed on how great a scale the task had been projected, or how great importance was attached to it in the administration's general war programme. Virtually every detail has now been completed and by fall the campaign itself will be in full swing.

Quickly built light wooden ships of 2,000 tons and upwards are to make up the fleet of merchantmen, and to insure maximum construction the shipping board has enlisted the country's entire shipbuilding facilities. Upwards of 100 private plants on all the coasts will help, giving the board's orders precedence over other class of work except the most urgent naval construction.

LITTLE COSTA RICA RAISES HER VOICE ON SIDE OF RIGHT

Washington, April 11.—Without formally announcing abandonment of their neutrality, two more Latin-American republics—Argentina and Costa Rica—have given assurances of their moral support for the United States in the war against Germany.

Argentina, choosing a middle course between those of Brazil and Chile, her sister nations in the influential A.B.C. trio, has notified the state department that she "recognizes the justice" of this country's stand against German aggression. The communication contains no intimation, however, that the Argentine authorities contemplate an actual break with Berlin and it is assumed here that for the present, at least, neutrality will be observed.

Little Costa Rica, just emerging from the throes of a revolution sent word to her diplomatic representative today that she endorsed the course of President Wilson and was "ready to prove it if necessary."

Argentina's position was defined in a note reaching the state department today in answer to the notification of this government of a state of war. The communication is regarded here as defining a status just short of an open break.

It is recognized that in defining her position so frankly Argentina has assumed the grave risk of having Germany break relations with her and by some diplomats her attitude is regarded as little less than an invitation to Germany to regard her as unfriendly. Her outspoken approval of the United States' course may go far, in the opinion of many here, towards influencing some of the smaller Latin-American nations.

Costa Rica's announcement was unexpected, for the new government set up there by Frederico Tinoco and perfected today by a legislative declaration of his election as president has not been recognized by the United States.

Rio Janeiro, April 12.—The breaking off of diplomatic relations with Germany is officially announced by the Brazilian government in a communication to the press.

Buenos Aires, April 12.—The government will make no official pronouncement of Argentina's neutrality in the war between the United States and Germany, as it considers its note of yesterday sufficient. This note embodied a declaration that Argentina supported the position of the United States with reference to Germany.

President Irigoyen had a two hour conference with the minister of war today. It is reported that the class of 1895 is to be called.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT.

A case is proceeding in the police court this afternoon, arising from a report of Chief Blake of the fire department against the Canadian Fairbanks Morse Company, Limited, Water street, for having the passage-way in their building blocked on an occasion of a visit from the chief.

SNEERS AND BOASTS IN BERLIN; BUT THEY DO NOT WIN VICTORIES

Another "Contemptible Little Army," This Time The American

Major Moraht Would Brush Aside Importance of New Ally—German Newspapers Braggart Still as Enemies Multiply

Amsterdam, via London, April 12.—The American army is held up to ridicule by Major Moraht, writing in the Deutsche Tages Zeitung, who jeers at the idea that the United States can give any effective military aid to the allies. He says:

"The American navy is no danger to Germany. The Civil war cost half a million lives because neither side had a trained army. Now Wilson, forgetful of history, is trying the same thing, but it will be shown once more that the braggadocio of his countrymen is in inverse ratio to their fighting value."

Major Moraht concludes with a sneer at "shoddy American war material" concerning which, he says, the Russians could tell a tale.

The Vorwaerts says ironically that it is now considered good form to join the anti-German world league. The Socialist organ declares that Brazil, Peru and Chile, professing to be preparing to fight for humanity and civilization, are really instigated by their material dependence on New York, London and Paris and the ease with which rich German trans-Atlantic communities can be attacked. It urges, however, that "as the fruits of many decades of pioneer work are at stake, the menace should not be minimuized," the world league is becoming grotesque in size, it concludes—"Goliath versus David."

The Kreuz Zeitung says: "Thirteen hundred millions of the world's inhabitants are fighting seventy million Germans. Let the rest of the earth come as well, we will beat them all."

FROM SAPPER PETER J. HARDING

In a letter to his son, Bernard, Sapper Peter J. Harding, of Sheriff street, who is at the front with a first contingent unit, writes of the hard and steady fighting which was in progress when he wrote. The Germans were falling back on their section of the line, but were disputing every foot of the way, and their artillery was busy day and night making things interesting for the allied forces.

Sapper Harding says that he is well and is having a good time, but, after the long, hard winter, he is glad that summer is coming again. He sends his regards to all his friends.

CANADIAN CLUB

The Canadian Club executive met at luncheon today at Bond's with the president, Mayor Hayes, in the chair, and made arrangements for the holding of the annual meeting. There was also a discussion as to future speakers before the club.

War Over By End Of 1917?

London, April 12.—A feeling in some quarters that the war may end before the last of the year is indicated by the fact that in underwriting circles business was done yesterday "to pay total loss if peace is not declared before December 31," at forty-five guineas per cent.

Some time ago business was done at the rate of 15 per cent. against the declaration of peace within eighteen months.

A report in Wall street that ten-to-one was being offered at Lloyd's that peace would be concluded within ninety days was described as more in the nature of a jocular bet than any attempt to trade.

The wide betting odds frequently mentioned are not seriously considered as indicative of market opinion.