

# HUNS CAN'T WITHSTAND SLAV VALOR

**Russians Inflict Colossal Losses on Germans, Smash Through Lines on the Dvina**

General Kuropatkin Directs a Terrific Artillery Bombardment for Three Days Against the Defences of Von Hindenburg on the Northern End of Line.

New York, July 21.—A Rome despatch to the Journal says: "The forces of General Kuropatkin, on the Dvina, in the northern section of the German line in Russia, have smashed through the German front with artillery fire lasting three days, according to despatches received here from Petrograd today. The Germans suffered what are described as 'colossal' losses.

"General Kuropatkin has been attacking the German defensive works with furious artillery fire for several days and has succeeded in destroying the enemy's position to such an extent that the Russians are now ready for infantry attacks.

"Field Marshal Von Hindenburg is directing, in person, the German defence."

**Annapolis Woman Freed of Charge**

Annapolis, N. S., July 21.—At the preliminary hearing of the case of Mrs. Amos Warren for the alleged poisoning of Mrs. Amos Taylor, held in Justice Vroom's court at Clements port, Dr. Finn, of Halifax, who was sent by the attorney general, reported the body had been exhumed but owing to the state of decomposition, he was unable to find any trace of poisoning and as there was no direct evidence to connect the accused with endeavoring to put an end to Mrs. Taylor, with whom she was living, the case failed and Mrs. Warren was set at liberty.

**THE SUCCESSOR TO LATE C. G. JAMES**

Ottawa, July 21.—W. J. Black has been appointed Commissioner of Agriculture succeeding the late C. G. James. For ten years before coming to Ottawa he was president of the Manitoba Agricultural College.

**Complete Retutation of Liberal Slanders Given**

**Report of the Meredith-Duff Commission That Investigated the Kite Charges Made on the Floors of the House of Commons Clearly and Emphatically Exonerates Sir Sam Hughes and the Members of the Old Shell Committee From All Insinuations Against Their Probity and Honor.**

(Special by The Daily Gleaner's leased wires.)

Ottawa, July 21.—When G. W. Kite made his statement in Parliament the whole attack was directed against General Sir Sam Hughes, who was accused of exercising undue influence on the Shell Commission for the purpose of securing orders for constituents, and also that fuse contracts be placed in the United States.

Mr. Kite's colleagues boasted that the evidence in their possession would drive Sir Sam Hughes out of public life, discredit the Shell Commission, and wreck the Government. The evidence has been submitted to a commission of two judges, one Conservative and one Liberal, men of recognized standing and integrity. The Liberal case was presented by a leading Liberal counsel, chosen by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and paid by the Government.

After such an enquiry the verdict cannot be questioned, and that verdict is a complete refutation of the aspersions and insinuations emanating from the Carvell-Laurier-Kyte-Pugsley quartette. The Commission clearly exonerated General Hughes from any warranted interference, undue pressure, or complicity in commissions. The same tribute is paid to the honor and honesty of the members of the Shell Commission.

The minor charges were that the concerns interested, the American Ammunition Company and the International Arms Company, were mushroom creations. That contracts could only be secured through Allison. That discrimination was used against Canadian concerns, that the contracts were improvident and that the million dollars' commission was a corrupt transaction.

In the review of the evidence the Commission finds little to corroborate these charges. The concerns mentioned were powerful in organization and financial resources, and the term "mushroom" as applied to them was unfair in every respect. Messrs. Harris and Sussman, it is stated, that they were told "to see Allison" is characterized by the Commission as an absurd deduction to be drawn from their conference with Colonel Carnegie. Nor was there discrimination against Canadian firms at the time the contracts under review were made in the opinion of the judges, except that fuse contracts might have been placed in Canada at that time, as similar contracts for fuse fuses were placed in Canada a few months afterwards.

Of all the contracts made only one was found to have been at questionable prices, and the Commission find that even in that case the contract was due to the exigencies of the time, which precluded the possibility of securing sufficient information. As to the famous million dollars' commission they find that the "arrangement" was, in substance, but the carrying out of what is a common practice of promoters who have acquired a concession or contract and bring into existence a company to which it is transferred, and that but for Allison's connection with Yokum the transaction would have been a matter concerning only the parties to it, and parties who should become shareholders in the company. They declare that the bond provided full security for cash advances.

Mr. Kite had charged that the money advanced on the contract was divided among Allison and his associates.

No improvidence shown.

Of the contracts charged by Mr. Kite to have been improvident and corrupt, one, that for Pierce aid, was never made, and no improvidence or corruption was shown in the Edwards valve contract for cartridge cases, or that with the International Arms Company for fuses. For the remaining contract, that for fuses with the American Ammunition Company, one that is found that on two-thirds of the contract the price was too high, and the total payment beyond what they believe would have been a fair remuneration amounted to \$600,000, but even in this, the solitary instance of over-payment, it is found that the Shell Committee were honest in intention, but simply made an error of judgment.

J. Wesley Allison is slated. His condemnation was certain and in his defence of this promoter General Sir Sam Hughes has placed the only obstacle in the way of complete exoneration of himself and confusion of his enemies.

The Ottawa Free Press, the Liberal organ in the capital, says that after hearing the evidence it is a satisfaction in saying that the report is absolutely fair and that it is a complete justification of the defence against the insinuations of the Liberal members in concluding its review of the verdict the Free Press says:

Opinion of Liberal Organ.

"The Free Press has been concerned only in the defence of the members of the Bertram Shell Committee who from its chairman down, we knew had been acquitted only by the most patriotic and most commendable honesty. That there had possibly been some errors of judgment we always admitted; and, when the Commissioners, after the most thorough enquiry, as we have said, found a complete error of judgment, and that due largely to a mistaken reading of a cable, in the conduct of vital matters, in which time was the essence of everything and which involved a total of \$22,000,000, we think it is a tribute to the splendid work of the Bertram Shell Committee, which was organized for a small job and soon found itself controlling the biggest industry in the country."

The Free Press claimed also that it has been completely justified in its defence of Sir Sam Hughes from charges of dishonesty.

In the Capital general satisfaction is expressed in the findings except among the active political workers in the Liberal party. They condemn it and yet claim that it justifies the statements made by their leaders in Parliament. General Hughes must repudiate Allison. He can no longer maintain that his "guide, counsellor and friend" has been true to him or to the Shell Commission that reposed in his patriotism.

General Hughes, in the face of the report, can repudiate Allison and remain without a stain on his administration, or continue to defend the Morrisburg promoter and be judged with him.

**Germans Frantically Rush Troops to the Somme to Ward Off Attacks of the Allies**

The British Again Advancing Into Fourceaux Wood, the Capture of Which Will Give Them Possession of the Highest Piece of Ground in the Vicinity.

London, July 22.—Some idea of the huge forces now engaged in the battle of the Somme, in Northern France, is given in the official statement from Berlin tonight, in which it is stated that more than 200,000 French and British troops attacked the German lines north and south of the Somme Thursday on a front of twenty-seven miles. Today's news from the battle ground, which has been contested bitterly since July 1, shows no great change in the relative positions of the Franco-British and German forces.

The British have again pressed forward to the German third line in the Fourceaux Wood, northeast of Longueval. This wood is an important strategic point, the capture of which would bring the forces of General Haig to the highest point on the ridge commanding the German positions in the less hilly country beyond, which is not so much broken up and not wooded, lending itself not too well to defence. This probably explains the desperate attempts of the Germans to hold the wood, where the heavy fighting continues.

**WOODSTOCK MAN OPERATED UPON**

Wallace Gibson Under Surgeon's Knife for Appendicitis—Condition Good.

Woodstock, N. B., July 22.—Mrs. D. E. Morgan of Hartland, mother of Coun. E. C. Morgan, is seriously ill. Her daughter, Mrs. J. Sterling King, came from Brownville, Kings County, yesterday to visit her mother.

At Sedgewick, Alberta, on July 5th, at the Methodist parsonage, by Rev. D. Walker Fomero, Christina L. Glidden, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Glidden of Woodstock, was married to George W. Davis of Meana, Alberta.

Miss Estella McKinney and the Messrs. Nellie and Jessie Foster are spending a month with friends in Boston.

Wallace Gibson of the Woodstock Foundry, Ltd., took sick on Wednesday night and was operated upon the following night for appendicitis. Dr. Rankin was in charge, assisted by Dr. Gibson, a brother, from Houlton. His condition is now satisfactory.

During the past week the thermometer was daily registering from 80 to 94 degrees in the shade.

It is unofficially announced that Colonel Guthrie will have during the fall and winter a company of his Kilties quartered in the Armory here.

Mrs. C. A. Blackmore of Harford left on Wednesday to spend a month with her daughter, Mrs. H. R. Garson of Ingram Post, N. S. She was accompanied by her daughter, Miss Edna Blackmore.

Mrs. W. W. White of St. John is in town, visiting her son, Lieut. D. V. White of the 65th Battery.

On Thursday evening at Connell Park the 65th Battery boys trimmed the locals by a score of 10 to 3 in a five-inning game. Arthur Glidden of the Battery umpired in a satisfactory manner. The line up of the Battery follows: A. H. Morrill, c.; W. H. Morrill, p.; Fogarty, 1st; Ingram, 2nd; Bovard, 3rd; Tuck, s.; Rand, r.f.; Teddie, c.f.; Steeves, l.f.

The draft of 50 men, under Lieut. D. V. White, which will be taken from the 65th Battery this week, will no doubt be replaced in a short time, as

**More Casualties Among Canadians**

Ottawa, July 21.—The midnight casualties list includes:—

Engineers.

Previously reported unofficially, now officially prisoner of war—Sapper John Robert McLeod, Thorburn, N. S.

Artillery.

Seriously ill—Gunner Ronald Moncrieff, Lunenburg, N. S.; Gunner Louis Joseph Wade, 113 Queen street, Halifax, N. S.

Infantry.

Wounded—Lewis Ayotte, Campbellton, N. B.

Lieut. Edgar Ince, 54 Gerrish street, Halifax, N. S.

James Kidson, Sydney, N. S.

J. G. McGrath, Escuminac, N. B.

MIDNIGHT LIST.

Infantry.

Killed in Action—Ralph N. Secord, Apohaqui, N. B.

Lieut. Bertram Smith, Box 45, St. John, N. B.

Mounted Rifles.

Previously reported unofficially, now officially prisoner of war—John H. Williams, 20 Hanover street, Saint John, N. B.

Wounded—Gunner Robert P. Randall, Moncton, N. B.

Mounted Rifles.

Previously reported unofficially, now officially prisoner of war—Sergt. Wm. J. Piaster, Beaver Dam, N. B.

Previously reported, now officially prisoner of war—Fred W. Boyd, Fredericton, N. B.

Clarence D. Hicks, Berry's Mills, N. B.

recruits are coming in steadily. So far there have been only two deserters from the unit, both foreigners.

Frank Woodman and Wm. Steeves left today for a few days' fishing on the Miramichi.

An elephant's trunk contains 40,000 muscles, whereas a man's body has only 527.

The foundations on which the steel building and dome of the Mount Wilson Observatory in California, are erected, were made heavy enough to withstand the stress of a 75-mile wind. They are built on the mountain top at an elevation of 5,889 feet. The dome is 106 feet high and 100 feet in diameter.

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**STEAMERS RELEASED.**

Montreal, July 21.—The British Admiralty has released three of the White Star Dominion Line steamers which were formerly in the Canadian trade, the Northland, Southland and Canada, and which have been engaged in the Government service between Great Britain and the Mediterranean. News of the release of the three ships was received here today.

On account of the incense heat, Montserrat City, Mo., farmers have been harvesting their oats by moon light. Last Saturday night the harvesters had to retire from the fields at 10:46 o'clock, the moon being in partial eclipse until 12:12.