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NO. 11

DECISION IN FOUR WEEKS' BATTLE IN FRANCE; GALLANT BELGIANS MAKING LAST STAND AT ANTWERP

TORY LEADERS FLOCK TO OTTAWA

An Early Election or Not the Burning Question Among Them.

CABINET DIVIDED

Rogers, Cochrane, Reed and Pelletier Said to Be Anxious for an Appeal Before Conditions Grow Worse—Borden, Foster and Others Against the Haste with Two Years' Office Ahead of Them.

ANTWERP SHIVERS UNDER HEAVY FIRE

Belgians Making Gallant Stand Under Personal Leadership of King Albert Against Army of 125,000 Germans

RUSSIANS FORCE GERMANS BACK TO THORN FORTRESS

Left Wing of Kaiser's Army Left in Poland Now Being Enveloped

Repulse of Strong German Reinforcements as Far North as Lille and Advance Against German Right Centre at Arras Arouse Hope That Allies Will Achieve Great Victory--Violent Fighting at Roye and French Have Advantage, Regaining Lost Positions--Russian Battle Front Along Frontier of Poland From Galicia to East Prussia--Roumania Shows Disposition to Take Hand.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Ottawa, Oct. 8.—The presence in the capital tonight of an unusually large number of Conservative politicians, including two provincial premiers, several members of the federal house and a number of prominent party workers lends weight to persistent rumors, which have been afloat for some time past, that the question of an early federal election is being considered.

Sir Richard McBride, premier of British Columbia, arrived this afternoon in conference with several of the ministers in the rooms of Hon. Robert Rogers at the Chateau the greater part of the evening.

Premier Matheson, of P. E. Island, has been at the capital for a couple of days. In addition, Messrs. Murphy (North Perth), Bennett (Calgary), Clark (North Wellington), and Blain (Fest), Hepburn (Prince Edward), Laine (Hastings), Paul, (Lennox and Addington), and a number of others arrived tonight.

Tonight the register of the Chateau contains the names of G. G. Lennox, W. W. Veitch, and R. A. C. Manning, prominent Conservative members of Manitoba.

It is now a matter of general knowledge at the capital that a wing of the government, including Hon. Robert Rogers, Hon. Frank Cochrane, Hon. J. D. Reid and Hon. L. P. Pelletier are urging strongly that an appeal be made to the people at an early date. They contend that conditions will never be more favorable than they are at present, that the position of the government will not improve through the continuation of present stringent conditions, and that the administration may reasonably claim a return to power by the election of an appeal to be granted another full lease of power to finish the work of military and naval organization which has been begun.

Opposed to this wing of the party, another wing which believes that an appeal to the people at a time when two years of the term of the government is still unexpired, when the commerce, finance and general business of the country is in a state of uncertainty, and when the welfare of the empire requires absolute unanimity and harmony among the peoples of the dominions, is not only unwise and inexpedient, but an admission of weakness.

Sir Robert Borden, the prime minister, is said to hold this opinion and to oppose an early election. Sir Geo. Foster shares this view. In fact, it is said tonight that he contemplates a trip to England at an early date. It is believed moreover that the imperial authorities would look with disapproval upon throwing the dominion into contentious politics at a juncture, such as this.

The gathering together at the capital of Conservative politicians is believed to have been instigated by a wing which favors an early appeal with a view to ascertaining the feeling of various parts of the empire in connection with the proposal, and if that opinion, as expressed by the representatives, is strong enough to endeavor to force the hands of those opposed to an appeal. The decision as to the holding of an early election still hangs in the balance.

London, Oct. 8, 10 p.m.—While the immense armies of the belligerent powers of Europe are engaged in death struggles along lines hundreds of miles in extent, in battles which for the numbers engaged, fierceness and stubbornness, have no precedents in history, the intrepid little army of Belgium is making a last stand behind the forts of Antwerp, one of the strongest fortified positions in the world.

For the moment at least, the struggle around the chief port of Belgium, attracts the most attention, for the result of the engagement there must have a considerable effect on the bigger battle between the Anglo-French and German forces, which now extends from the Swiss frontier right across France, almost to the North Sea.

The Germans, who, while attempting to cross the River Scheldt, southwest of the city, made their main attack from the east, succeeded some days ago, by the aid of their big 16-inch guns, in breaking through the first line of forts, between the first and second belts of forts. According to their own accounts they defeated the Belgian army and captured a number of guns.

Last night shells began to fall in the city itself, and from reports coming through Holland the railway stations, the Palace of Justice and several oil tanks have been damaged. At the same time six Zeppelin dirigible balloons flew over the city, dropping bombs, but it has been impossible, as yet, to ascertain the damage they have done.

King Albert of Belgium has called on all men of military age to assist in the defence of the city. Thousands of others, women, children and old men, have hurriedly left Antwerp. Among the few non-belligerents who remain are the American consul general, Henry W. Diesendorf, and his staff.

The towns of Holland are already crowded with refugees. The mayor of Rotterdam has sent out a warning that there is no more room there for the harassed Belgians, and the steamers for England are crowded with people flying from the German shells.

More than three thousand arrived at Folkestone today, and were taken in charge by committees appointed to care for them. Many of them are penniless, and have all their belongings in the small parcels they carry.

Five German army corps are taking part in the siege of Antwerp, which is defended by the Belgian army. The outer forts, like those of other fortresses which have fallen since the war began have not been able to withstand the fire of the big German guns, but the Belgians are still hopeful that with the inner forts, a flooded area, and a mobile field army, they may be able to save the city, until assistance may come by the defeat of the Germans in France.

SLOW BUT IRRESISTIBLE ADVANCE ON CRACOW

Population of That Fortified Town Reduced by One Half—Bent Austrians Keep Up Record and Beat Russians—German Version of Kiao-Chow Attack and of Suwalki Campaign.

CANADIANS IN HARBOR OF SOUTHAMPTON

Three Vessels Drop Anchor and Others Expected—Indian Contingent Includes Flower British Army.

(By Wm. Maxwell.)
(Special Cable to Daily Telegraph.)

France.—The rapidity and secrecy with which the allies' left flank has extended the line of attack are amazing. It reaches as far north as Arras and the significance of this movement has not escaped the Germans. They recognize that the front battle has been changed suddenly and the most dangerous attack they have to meet is no longer from the south, but from the west.

To meet this danger the Germans have been making desperate efforts to drive a wedge into the line at Lassigny and envelop the allies' northern flank in the neighborhood of Lille. This attempt has failed.

It has failed because the French no longer fear the Black Maria or the Whistling Rufus or any of those machines which the Germans have substituted for men. The French fought for days and nights with valor, stubbornness and skill worthy of the best traditions of this martial race (excision by censor). With this change of battle-front on the west has come new activity south and north of Soissons—we have at last begun advance and this advance has been made under conditions that will surprise the Germans when they learn them.

MORE FAVORABLE OUTLOOK FOR ALLIES.

London, Oct. 8, 10 p.m.—Decisive defeat of the German armies in northern France, followed by a forced back-movement of the German forces, which they poured in high hopes of victory more than a month ago, all realize how is an enormous task, but the official communication issued in Paris this afternoon gives the allies hopes that the long awaited decision is about to be reached. Not for many days has such a good report from the allies' point of view been published by the French general staff. The strong German reinforcements which appeared on the Belgian frontier in the region of Lille have, according to this report, "made no progress at any point," while at certain points the enemy has moved back, particularly to the north of Arras, where the fighting is developing under conditions favorable for us.

The cavalry are fighting even further north than this, and, in fact, says the French communication, operations have developed almost to the North Sea. Around Roye, where the Germans captured important heights from the French last week, the French have regained some of the positions which they were obliged to abandon.

From the north of Arras, where two forward movements by the Anglo-French troops have been mentioned within the last few days, the Germans seem to have withdrawn some of their men, probably to strengthen their extreme positions, but the French have been trying to work ever since the battle began nearly four weeks ago.

Resting On Arms in Centre.

On the contrary, between Rheims and the Meuse, the armies are resting on their arms, awaiting their turn to take the offensive. But on the heights of the Meuse, between the fortress of Verdun and St. Mihiel, where the Germans crossed the Meuse a couple of weeks ago, the contest still goes on. The Germans have withdrawn to the north of Hattinghetel. They still, however, hold St. Mihiel and some of the heights north of that town on the right bank of the river.

The conjecture, therefore, that the French had driven them back across the river soon after they made their advance and captured, besides the town itself, the forts of Romains and Paroches, proves to be incorrect.

In the Woerwe district the Germans, without success, have delivered violent attacks against the French, who doubtless were trying to get behind the German force which has established itself on the Meuse at St. Mihiel. With the repulse of their attack west of Apremont, the Germans at St. Mihiel are considered to be in rather a dangerous position.

As an offset to this favorable French statement, the German account, issued last night, says that the French attacks in the Argonne, and to the northeast of Verdun, were repulsed, while no decision has been reached in the fighting on the German right wing.

This latter statement remains true today, for, although the French claim to have met with success, there is nothing to indicate that any definite result has been attained, and there probably will be a great deal more fighting, and a further extension of the wings, possibly in the direction of Antwerp, before either side is compelled to give way.

Russians Fighting Along Frontier.

The other big battle line between the regions of Russia extends from the north to the East Prussian border. Another Russian force is besieging Przemysl in Galicia, and still another is invading Hungary. On the East Prussian frontier, the fighting appears to have come to a standstill for the present. The Russians have driven the Germans back

ITALIAN ROYAL FAMILY EXPECTS AN ADDITION

Rome, via Paris, Oct. 8.—Official announcement is made that the announcement of Queen Helena is expected next January. The king and queen already have four children—three girls and a boy.

FURIOUS BOMBARDMENT BY 16-INCH GUNS

London, Oct. 8, 5:32 p.m.—Antwerp was subjected to a furious bombardment throughout last night, telegraphs the correspondent of the Star at Ghent.

"Shells from the German 16-inch guns were falling early this morning in the Place Verte, close to the Cathedral."

RUSSIANS TAKE TERN IN WINNING

London, Oct. 8, 10:15 p.m.—A Russian despatch to Reuters' Telegram Co. says the Russians have completed the systematic organization of the conquered regions around Leningrad, which has been made into a province divided into thirteen districts.

The Russian troops, adds the despatch, are advancing slowly, but irresistibly, upon Cracow, the population of which has already been reduced by one-half.

MONTENEGRINS TAKE TERN IN WINNING.

Rome, Oct. 8, by way of Paris, 6 p.m.—The Montenegrin minister here has received a despatch from Cetinje stating that the Montenegrins troops facing the Austrians on the Herzegovina frontier, defeated the Austrians and occupied Blizak, in Herzegovina.

They took four officers and 125 men prisoners, and captured some quick-firing guns, many rifles and a quantity of ammunition.

GERMAN EXPLANATION OF SUWALKI DISASTERS

Berlin, Oct. 8, by wireless to Sayville.—German newspapers today publish articles setting forth that they are satisfied that the British and Japanese attack upon the Tsing-Tau, the fortified position in the German territory of Kiao-Chow, have been repulsed. They declare that the splendid defence of the Tsing-Tau garrison is an indication of the carrying out of the promise of the government of the colony to defend the territory to the bitter end.

According to news given out officially today in the German capital, the splendid and loyal conduct of the Polish soldiers in the German army has made possible the dissolution of the German anti-Polish Union.

A great part of the German army, under General Von Hindenburg, has effected a junction with the Austrians on the Polish frontier, in Russian Poland, where the Russians are concentrating on the right bank of the river. Only a small portion of Von Hindenburg's army remains near Suwalki, these troops succeeded in preventing the Russian advance in the direction of East Prussia, and this in spite of the numerical superiority of the enemy.

HALF OF INDIA'S ARMY ARE BRITISH REGULARS

Paris, Oct. 8, 1:30 p.m.—The British Indian army is said to be rapidly becoming acclimated. French generals who have inspected their artillery, cavalry, infantry and engineer and ambulance auxiliary corps describe the army as splendidly equipped.

The people of the French cities where the men are quartered are favorably impressed with the solemn courtesy of the Orientals. They never, however, enter the cafes or accept hospitality.

All the men, except the Gurkhas, are great in stature. There is scarcely a man under six feet in height, while some are giants.

More than half the Indian contingent are white troops, who are regarded as the flower of the British army. Transport and artillery supply wagons were brought with the men from India.

Herds of goats that furnish the milk supply are pastured near the camps, but the principal sustenance of the native Indian soldiers are wheat cakes, which they themselves bake.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN MONTHLY SESSION

Fredericton, Oct. 8.—(Special.)—On account of acting Premier Clarke being detained at St. Andrews, where he is attending court, it is unlikely that any matters of importance will be taken up tomorrow. Other members of the executive are here and the Lieutenant-governor arrived by this evening's train. Other officials included Col. Baxter and Col. McAvity.

The atmosphere is heavily charged with political rumors and important decisions are expected during the next few days.

It was stated this evening that the report of the royal commission consists of 100 typewritten pages and is now in his honor's hands.

PALACE OF JUSTICE DAMAGED

London, Oct. 8, 7:05 p.m.—A despatch to the Central News from Amsterdam says that during Wednesday night no fewer than six Zeppelins flew over Antwerp, dropping bombs in all directions. The extent of the damage done is not known, but one of the bombs damaged the Palace of Justice.

IMPOSSIBLE TO HOUSE MORE REFUGEES

London, Oct. 8, 7:25 p.m.—A despatch to the Reuters Telegram Company from Amsterdam says that the mayor of Rotterdam has requested the manager of the railway not to send any more trains with refugees from Belgium, as already there are thousands in the city, and it is impossible to house more.

KING ALBERT LEADS ARMY OUT

Berlin, Oct. 8, 10:15 p.m.—News has been received here that the King of the Belgians marched out of Antwerp today at the head of a portion of his army.

BURGOMASTER DIES WITH BULLET IN CHEST

London, Oct. 8, 9:55 p.m.—M. De Baretat, burgomaster of Lananen, Belgium, has died at Namont as a result of a bullet wound in his chest, says the Central News Amsterdam correspondent.

BELGIANS ADMIT SITUATION SERIOUS

London, Oct. 8.—The Amsterdam correspondent of the Chronicle, under Wednesday's date, says the Germans have crossed the Nethe and are advancing on Antwerp from that source.

Another army, says, is to be making an attack in an eastern direction from the village of West Malle.

"Early this morning," the correspondent continues, "the first long stream of refugees arrived at Paris, on the Belgian-Dutch frontier. They came from the villages inside the inner fort line and they were allowed to travel only in a northerly direction. By noon the roads presented a pitiable sight. Thousands were struggling with their household belongings in carts drawn by horses and dogs."

Under Tuesday's date the Times' Antwerp correspondent says: "The precise strength of the German attacking force is unknown. The most authoritative estimate is that they number 125,000 men, and are well provided with artillery, including some heavy 26-centimetre, and apparently some 42-centimetre guns. The last named gun, however, is rarely used. The weight of the German attack during the night was thrown on that part of the river near Lierre."

It has just returned from headquarters, where the chief of staff frankly described the situation to me as being serious."

GETTING BACK TO PRETEXT FOR WAR

Bordeaux, via London, Oct. 8, 10:08 p.m.—The Wiener Tagblatt, a Vienna paper, which has written a copy of the treaty and covering thirty-seven pages, has been read to twenty-five prisoners who are charged with having been concerned in the murder of Archduke Francis Ferdinand, the heir apparent of the Austro-Hungarian empire.

It is expected that the trial will last three weeks, according to the newspaper.

AUSTRIAN REFUGEES NOT WELCOMED IN ITALY

Rome, via Paris, Oct. 8, 7:41 p.m.—The Italian government, in its endeavor to maintain neutrality, is exercising the strictest surveillance over persons coming across the frontier from Austria. Numerous deserters from the Austrian army are taking refuge in Italy, and some criminals also are seizing the opportunity to escape punishment in Austria by alighting themselves as deserters and coming into this country.

Many Austrian subjects of Italian birth also have fled to Italy because of their unwillingness to serve in the Austrian army.

DEMY REPORT OF LANDING YESTERDAY

London, Oct. 8.—(Gazette Cable.)—The announcement, in the London press, that the first Canadian contingent was landing today, was disowned in all the official quarters. One result of the report was that the high commissioner's office was deluged by personal and telephone inquiries, but the invariable reply was "No knowledge," even to one fair caller, who tearfully begged for news.

Major-General Alderson and Col. Carson were down at Salisbury yesterday to inspect the arrangements, which they report as most satisfactory, the accommodation being much better than that enjoyed by the Territorials in many centres. The Territorials are sleeping on the ground with blankets, whereas the Canadian units have wooden floors. No appointment has yet been made of a chief of staff, in which capacity Col. Carson is temporarily acting. Hon. G. H. Perley is expected to accompany the officers who will meet the forces on their landing.

Violent Engagements in Roye Region.

Paris, Oct. 8, 11:38 p.m.—The official communication issued by the French war office tonight says: "On the whole the situation is stationary, the positions occupied remaining the same, notwithstanding several violent engagements, notably in the region of Roye."

Conspicuous Rangers and Royal Camerations.

London, Oct. 8, 10:47 p.m.—A casualty list of British officers, issued tonight, reports one officer killed, three died of wounds, six wounded and two missing.

A list was also issued under dates of Sept. 15, 16 and 17. This includes 37 non-commissioned officers, and men killed; five died of wounds; 370 wounded, and 628 missing. The missing being chiefly the Conspicuous Rangers and Royal Camerations.

Amsterdam, Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m.—A telegram from Berlin says that the evening papers of the German capital announced that on the afternoon of Oct. 6 the German torpedo boat destroyer S-126 was sunk by a British submarine and that nearly all the crew was saved.

The sinking of the German destroyer was announced by the British admiralty Wednesday, but the designation of the craft was not given. The S-126 was built in 1904-5 and was 210 feet in length, and carried three 400-pounders and three torpedo tubes. Her crew was fifty men.

Washington, Oct. 8.—The German liner Kronprinzessin Cecilie, probably will be removed by the government from Her Harbor (Me), where she found refuge from British cruisers at the outbreak of the war, to avoid injury from ice during the approaching winter.

She will be taken to New York, as it has been represented that the vessel can make the cruise without going beyond the territorial waters of the United States, thus escaping the possibility of seizure by British war vessels.

GRAVES OF BRAVE ON PLAINS OF NORTHERN FRANCE

Grim Scenes in Wake of Armies as Great Battle Goes On

ONE GREAT CEMETERY

Corps of Old Men Engaged in Grim Task of Burying Bodies, While Women Follow and Plant Willow Crosses for Officers—How Gravedigger Slew Uhlans—An Unnatural Confirer of Burning Bodies

(News of the World, Sept. 26).

Over the fair fields of France where lately the Germans marched and still more lately retreated, grim scenes are now being enacted from day to day. Thousands and thousands of bodies await the last services of the living, and these are now being given them as rapidly as an army corps of grave diggers can fulfil the duty.

Day after day and night after night this army of old men apply themselves to their dreadful task. Their women follow behind bearing little bundles of peeled willow wands and strands of wire. They cut a few inches from each wand and bind it on crosswise with the wire. And whenever an officer is found cold and stiff amid the huddle of the dead a cross of willow wand is planted over his grave. Hour after hour, night after night, the corps of the sextons with the women ply their harrowing trade, weary and wan, marking cemetery after cemetery.

Their bundles of sticks diminish as this acreage of the dead swells. One cannot call it God's acre; it is the Devil's! The dismal night glooms on the tall candles in the horn lanterns flicker feebly—flicker and go out. The dawn talks up out of the east, not softly, as these September dawns would strive to set the fairies dancing back across the glades to their daytime hiding places—not softly but with a jagged frown wrinkling heaven's brow, as if from a grudge far away marking the passage of the hours. Then come the piled rills, rills careering overhead at the command of a relentless southwest wind. Heaven above is sobbing, sobbing.

Now she is pouring her tears in drearily streaming down the hills. The shallow trenches, packed with the dead, become quagmires, and down every little hill the water streams and bubbles. It is brown water, tinged with streaks of red.

Blood and Tears.

The British and the French are laid out on both sides, brothers-in-arms in a common grave. On the grave of officers, as just indicated, is placed a cross, and perhaps a willow wand. The graves of Germans are treated differently. They are collected in huge piles, and with sticks and petrol are put to the flames. Some of these graves have strange stories to tell. One of these men, who had followed the line of battle for thirteen miles, from his own village, Rouvray, near Levegnin, helping to bury the French and British dead, and helping to burn the German corpses, related his experiences to the Daily Chronicle correspondent.

His work is not nearly done, for during the fighting in the region round the forest of Villers, the German dead had been left upon the ground as he can, the gravedigger has been unable to cover up all these brothers-in-arms who lie out in the wind and the rain.

"I walked among the fields," says the correspondent, "where they lie, and among their roughly-piled graves, and not far from the piles of the enemy's dead who are awaiting their funeral pyres. My guide grasped my arm and pointed to a little dip in the ground beyond the abandoned village of Levegnin. 'See there,' he said, 'they take some time to burn. He spoke to a matter of fact way, like a gardener pointing to a bonfire of autumn leaves."

But there, in line with his forefathers, rose a heavy rolling smoke, sluggish in the rain under a leaden sky, and I know that those leaves yonder had fallen from the great book of human life, and this bonfire was made from an unnatural harvesting. As my guide led me through a fringe of forest and led me through his own adventures, and heaped corpses upon the enemy.

He had killed one of them with his own hand. As he was walking on the edge of a wood a solitary Uhlans came riding over the field, behind the crest of a little hill. He was one of the opposites of the strong force in Crepy-en-Valois, and had lost his way to that town. He demanded guidance, and to point his remarks picked his lance at the chest of the guide chamber. But the peasant had been a soldier, and he held a revolver in the side pocket of his jacket. He answered civilly, but shot through his pocket and killed the man at the end of the lance.

The Uhlans fell from his horse, and the peasant set his lance and cocked his gun as souvenirs of a happy moment. But the moment was brief. A second later and the peasant was sick with fear for what he had done. If it should be discovered that he, a civilian, had killed a German soldier, every living thing in his village would be put to the sword, and among those living things were his wife and little ones.

He dragged his trophies into the forest and lay in hiding there for two days until the enemy had passed. I saw the lance—reached from the floor to the ceiling of his cottage—and for years to come in the village of Rouvray it will be the centre piece of a thrilling tale. It was only one of many that I heard on this day's tramp towards the guns."

Death of German Admiral.

Berlin, Oct. 8, via London, Oct. 8, 10:40 a.m.—The death has been announced in Berlin of Admiral Friedrich A. Breyling, retired. He was well known as a writer on naval subjects. He was born in 1838.

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