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WEATHER—UNSETTLED

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SAILLY-SAILLISEL CAPTURED; OPINION IN UNITED STATES IS WAR WILL BE DECLARED

THE GREAT BRITISH DRIVE CONTINUES

Following Up Capture of Grandcourt, Army of Britain Sweeps Up on Both Banks of Ancre—Fall of Saily-Saillisel Most Important Accomplishment in Present Winter Campaign.

GROUND GAINED ON ANCRE SINCE JAN. 1 REPRESENTS ADVANCES OF AVERAGE DEPTH OF NEARLY THREE-QUARTERS OF MILE ON FRONT OF OVER THREE MILES—FRENCH WIN IN THE ARGONNE.

London, Feb. 8.—The British troops have captured Saily Saillisel, on the Somme front in France, according to an official communication issued tonight.

The report from headquarters in France reads: "We attacked this morning an important enemy position on the highest point of Saily Saillisel Hill, on the Somme front. We gained the whole of our objectives and captured a machine gun and 78 prisoners, including two officers."

"Our capture of Grandcourt has been followed up vigorously on both banks of the Ancre, and considerable progress has been made. During the night we attacked and captured Bailliescourt Farm, on the Beaucourt-Mirau-Mont road, and south of the Ancre carried another hostile trench lying between Grandcourt and our old front line. In these operations we have taken a further 82 prisoners, including one officer."

Great Gain on Ancre. Several patrols have been operating south of Lake Presba. Our advanced posts have occupied Ojan, and are before Vestenl."

Berlin's Statement. Berlin, via Sayville, Feb. 8.—A spirited bombardment was in progress in the Somme sector today, says the supplementary war office statement tonight. It reads:

"In the Somme sector there was temporarily strong firing. Near Saily partial engagements are in progress. There is nothing of importance to report from the other fronts."

Shipped to New York. Westport, N. Y., Feb. 8.—All the available stretch siege guns at Westport were shipped to New York today for use at the forts protecting the city.

French Surprise Huns. Paris, Feb. 8.—The official communication issued by the war office tonight reads: "Spirited artillery fighting took place south of the Somme, in the regions of Denicourt and Lihons."

"In the Argonne, in the sector of Boland, we carried out a surprise attack which enabled us to bring back about twenty prisoners. Nothing of importance occurred on the rest of the front."

"Enemy airplanes dropped projectiles in the region of St. Vincent bridge. Four civilians were killed and five wounded."

Belgian communication: "Last night the Germans attempted to enter the Belgian lines. A strong enemy party advanced and attacked our positions south of Dixmude, but was received by infantry and machine gun fire. Our assailants were decimated, the survivors retreating. We took about a dozen prisoners also. Numerous dead were left on the field before the trenches, one of whom was an officer."

"Enemy lines: Several days of fighting, particularly pronounced on the Franco-Italian front in the direction of Højilla and at Monastir. The enemy has shown a certain activity along the whole front. Bulgarian reconnaissance have been reported at Kalemdra, ten kilometres south of...

BIG RALLY OF GOVERNMENT FORCES AT WESTFIELD BEACH

The Candidates Enthusiastically Greeted by Large Audience—Hon. Mr. Murray Says That People Must Choose Between this Government and the Crowd Who Held Office Prior to 1908—Messrs. Jones and Dickson Speak of Government's Splendid Record.

"The opposition will tell you the old government is a thing of the past, and I can well understand that they would like to disregard the record of the old administration. But the opposition at their convention have nominated members of the former government. Yes, Mr. Chairman, the influence of the old crowd is there. And when the election goes to the polls on February 24th they will be voting for the present Government with its record of progress, its honest, prudent and businesslike administration, or they will be voting to go back to the old crowd who were in power prior to 1908, when conditions were such that the people of New Brunswick indignantly arose and hurled themselves against those men who had disgraced the province."

Work of the Farmers. If it was not for the farmers where would the rest of our population be? It was the activity of the agricultural department under the leadership of Hon. Mr. Murray to advance the interests of the farmers. Hon. Mr. Murray had taken the greatest pains, shown the greatest industry, had neglected his private business at Sussex in order to devote his time to the working out of measures to benefit the farmers. After the soil had lost its virgin fertility, it was necessary to resort to artificial means to keep it in a proper condition to produce. The agricultural department had taken up these matters actively, and had worked them out along scientific lines. By its work in lighting the Brown Tall mode the department had saved for the province its valuable apple trees, which otherwise would have been destroyed in the numerous branches of farming great development had been made under Hon. Mr. Murray's regime and he was satisfied that the Premier would show the same attention to this industry in the future as he had shown in the past.

Activities of the Department. The department had purchased a ditching machine which was being used for demonstration purposes. There was no doubt that with proper ditching of the land there would be bigger crops. He advised the farmers of this section to get together and arrange with the government to send the ditcher here to give a demonstration of the work that would be accomplished.

The one great thing that interested the farmers was good roads. Since he had gone to Fredericton, in common with his colleagues he had given his time and attention to endeavor to improve the roads of Kings county. He fully realized that good roads were of great advantage to the farmers as they had to pass over the roads to get to market to dispose of their produce. Hon. Mr. Smith had worked out a practical road policy, the operation of which would result in greater improvement in the condition of the highways of the province.

George B. Jones. Mr. Jones was introduced by the chairman as the kind of a man whom the people liked and everyone respected. Mr. Jones said he did not think he was worthy of the introduction. Since he had been elected nine years ago as a representative of the people he had had the best of his ability to looking after the interests of his constituents and he had spared neither time nor expense in travelling from one end of the county to the other in connection with the duties which his position involved. He hoped to follow the same course in the future, if again honored with the confidence of the people. He paid a high tribute to the worth of Hon. Mr. Murray, who through comparative unknown to the people of this section of the county at the elections nine years ago was now the first minister of the province. Knowing Mr. Murray as he had for twenty-five years, he was confident from the outset that Mr. Murray would make good. In Mr. Dickson the county had a splendid representative, one of the most progressive farmers of Kings, who like himself, was not given to the making of long-winded speeches, but who had done excellent work on the committees of the house where a vast amount of the legislative work was accomplished. The greater part of the discussion took place in committees and Mr. Dickson had been a most valuable member of the committee of agriculture, animal...

Hon. Robert Rogers, Minister of Public Works, Announces that Norton-Griffiths Contract will be Re-Let to Another Tenderer in Near Future.

SPECIAL TO THE STANDARD. Ottawa, Feb. 8.—Hon. Robert Rogers announced today that the Norton-Griffiths contract for the St. John harbor work had been cancelled and a new contract was being prepared and tenders called for immediately and work carried on as expeditiously as possible.

The Norton-Griffiths firm failed to carry out their contract. St. John is and will always be one of our great ocean ports. Any delay in providing adequate harbor facilities at St. John would cripple Canada's trade. Every effort has been made to secure the completion of the contract by the original successful tenderers but the necessity will not permit of further delay and the work must be expedited. To do this an amended contract is being prepared and will be ready shortly. Tenders will be called for and the successful tenderers must complete the work in the time specified.

It is understood that the engineers of the department are already at work with the new contract to be submitted to tenders.

NEW YORK FINANCIERS THINK WAR INEVITABLE

President Wilson and Rest of Official Washington Not Acting Hastily, But Frankly Say that Germany's Murderous U-Boat has Brought Republic to Verge of War.

New York, Feb. 8.—Many financiers here think that war is inevitable and that this country and Germany are just marking time to give their citizens a chance to get out of the enemies' country and to make their necessary financial arrangements before war is declared. When war is declared it will have been discounted and over-discounted in Wall Street.

Washington Waiting. Washington, Feb. 8.—The American government still is without the official evidence of an overt act by Germany considered necessary to justify President Wilson in going before Congress for authority to use necessary means to protect American seamen and property. There no longer is any doubt that the ruthless submarine campaign is in full swing, in defiance of the warning of the United States.

Causes for War. It is generally conceded that on the basis of preliminary reports the torpedoing, without warning, of the passenger liner California, with an American on board, makes out a clear-cut case of technical violation of the rights of the United States.

President Wilson, however, is represented as determined not to plunge the country into war on a technicality. When he moves it will be on complete evidence of an outrage about which there can be no question. Then...

The Opposition Campaign. Mr. Jones declared that the gist of the opposition's arguments in the present campaign was nothing but misrepresentations and falsehoods. The opposition had declared the road supervisors had been dishonest and had cooked their accounts, notwithstanding that the accounts now before him were sworn to in sharp contrast to the conditions under the old government.

Under the terms of the present Highway Act the name of every man who worked on the road with a full statement of the time and the amount was placed in the account. The accounts were audited and cheques forwarded to the supervisor for each of the men who had worked. He would like to ask his audience if the former supervisor, Mr. D. W. Muckende, or the present commissioner Mr. Edgar Stevens, were likely to make out incorrect accounts and swear to their truth. Under the old government no information whatever was given with respect to the expenditure. Take the auditor-general's report for the years from 1901 until 1908 and it would be impossible to find the details of any expenditure. As an illustration, in the report for 1904 the road accounts appeared on the pages 213 to 250 in fully twenty-five per cent. of the accounts no returns were ever made. In most cases the road supervisors were sent \$200 or \$300, and the department never received any vouchers or itemized account for the money that had been sent. Anyone who doubted that statement could come forward and peruse the auditor-general's report himself.

Hop. Mr. Smith's new road policy was briefly explained by Mr. Jones, who said that he heartily approved of the new measure, and he felt that everyone would be satisfied with its operation.

How Opposition Did Things. What was true with regard to expenditures of road moneys under the old government was true also with regard to the expenditure on bridges. The account would show so many dollars charged against the Westfield bridge, or the Salmon Rock bridge, but not even the name of any workman was given under the old government. Now there is a complete and itemized statement of the names of the workmen, the amounts they secured, the price of the lumber, cement or whatever material was used in its erection.

Bonded Over-expenditures. Hon. Mr. Murray then proceeded to a discussion of the opposition's so-called platform, and contrasted it with the progressive policies of this administration. The opposition were waging in the province a violent campaign of false accusations, and innuendoes, a campaign of vilification and abuse never equalled in any province of Canada. To such an extent had this character of a campaign been carried out that there was great repulsion of feeling. Political opponents had told him, not once but many times that they did not approve of the methods that had been pursued. A man high in the opposition party had stated to him that he would not give his support to such a party, as he believed a clean, fair fight and a decision from the people based entirely on the record and policies of the two parties.

Timothy Murnane Dead. One of the best known baseball authorities in America dropped dead Wednesday night at the ticket window of the Schubert Theatre in Boston in the person of Timothy H. Murnane.

NETHERLAND GOVERNMENT IS NEUTRAL

Washington, Feb. 8.—The Netherlands government, through the American legation at The Hague, has formally declined to accept President Wilson's suggestion that it follow the course of the United States and break off diplomatic relations with Germany. Information to this effect reached here today in confidential despatches from Holland.

HUN WIRELESS STATION IS DISCOVERED

Rio Janeiro, Feb. 8.—At the suburban town of Niteroy, on the Bay, five miles east of Rio Janeiro, there was discovered today a wireless telegraph station, which was established to communicate with German ships which are being detained in the harbor.

It is reported, on good authority, that Peru and Chile will address protestations to Germany in regard to the German measures of naval warfare.

Berlin, Feb. 8, via London.—The German foreign office last night asked James W. Gerard, the American ambassador, to sign a proposal reaffirming the treaties of 1799 and 1812. The ambassador referred the government officials to Spanish and Swiss intermediaries.

DEVELOPMENT OF ST. JOHN TO BE PROCEEDED WITH

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