

Weather Forecast:
Fair and Mild

The London Advertiser

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HOME
EDITION

Victory In Spring Certain—Sir John French Says So

Disgraceful Waste of Money In Government's Buying of War Supplies

GERMANY IS LOSING HEART

Morale of the Kaiser's Troops Shows Falling Off, Says British Chief.

AMMUNITION IS SHORT

Marshal French Believes That Decisive and Definite Victory Is At Hand.

[Canadian Press.]

Paris, March 23.—"Ammunition, ammunition, nothing but ammunition." That is the essential problem which the war presents, in the opinion of Field Marshal Sir John French, commander of the British forces in France and Belgium, according to the Havas Agency's correspondent at British headquarters.

"Ammunition is the pre-requisite of all progress and of all pushing ahead," Sir John is quoted as saying, in an interview with the Havas correspondent. "Everyone needs plenty of ammunition, but the Germans need it more than we do. I have had a feeling for some time past that they were being sparing of their shells. They don't squander them as at the beginning. They are economizing, because the lack of nitrates necessary for the manufacture of explosives is making itself felt in Germany."

"Neither is the morale of their troops the same. One gets from them an impression of fatigue and lassitude. They had based all their calculations on a sudden smashing victory. That plan failed, and the state of mind of their troops has suffered as a consequence."

"Economic difficulties in the interior of the German Empire are becoming more serious. No doubt the Germans still are far from famine, but they manifestly are hampered in obtaining a food supply, and that is a great deal."

"I do not believe it will be a long war. Spring promises well for the Allies."

"We are convinced, I and all those here, that a decisive and definite victory awaits us at the end of all these hard months of war."

"RODE THE BUMPERS" SO THEY COULD ENLIST

Three Men From Hamilton Appeared in Local Police Court.

Following their pleas for a chance to enlist, John Hess, John Smith and Rowland Howard, all of Hamilton, arrested by the police last night on a vagrancy charge, were today turned over to the military recruiting officers by Police Magistrate J. C. Judd.

Hess, who acted as spokesman for the trio, said that he was an ex-machine gun man and a former soldier. He asked that he and his pals be given a chance to enlist, as they had ridden a freight from Hamilton to this city in order that they might be able to join the volunteers.

His worship readily consented to give the men a chance to enlist and make arrangements to this end with recruiting officers.

"The men were found by Patrolman Fowler in a shack at the corner of Hale and Trafalgar streets, sitting around a fire they had started. Officer Fowler escorted the men to police headquarters, where they were detained over night."

DESERTER OR NOT?

Uniform Found But No One Reported Missing.

Military police are looking, although with little expectation of success, for the man whose uniform, complete, was found today hidden in a barn at the rear of a laundry at 25 Carling street. Evidently the uniform had been deserted there for some time. The man and not been missed from his battalion, and the officers have no clue as to whom the deserter can be.

FORMER LONDONER WHO DIED AT FRONT

Advertisement Illustration.

LIEUT. WM. GALAUGHER, Chaplain of 1st Battalion, was one-time resident of this city, was killed in France. His demise was catalogued yesterday.

A "RANKER" WHO ROSE



MAJOR-GEN. SIR WILLIAM R. ROBERTSON, who has been appointed chief of the general staff to succeed Major-General Sir A. J. Murray. Gen. Robertson has risen from the ranks, having served the first ten years of his military life in the ranks. Lately he had charge of the transportation of supplies to the front.

BOOTS ISSUED TO FIRST CANADIAN CONTINGENT BAD

Second Issue Made in England Shortly After Overseas Men Arrived.

BELGIAN BOYS MUTILATED

Sergt. Wyse Invalided Home Through Injuries—Kitchen's Plans Discussed.

One of the two first of the London men among the First Canadian Contingent to be invalided home is Sergt. J. Wyse, 55 Tecumseh avenue, who arrived in the city two days ago. He went to England with the Nova Scotia Highlanders, while at Salisbury Plain had his knee severely injured by a rifle shot which fell on it. For fifteen weeks he was in the hospital, and now has been sent back as incapacitated for further service. Nevertheless he is determined that if his leg gets well he will enlist again.

Wyse says that half of the former types had to be given out. These latter, he states, proved of splendid quality and a great contrast to those issued in Canada, which he says were out in a very few weeks.

Recruiting Good.

The returned soldier says that recruiting in England is by no means backward, and that at Salisbury Plain alone a million and a half men are training now. He declares that practically all the men of the country who are present, fit and of military age have joined the colors, and that the older men are recruiting for a home guard. In the town where he was born men found two of his former companions, and they had both been declared unfit for service.

Wyse states that the men who are sent back from the front are suffering in most cases from shrapnel injuries. He says many injured are being brought in to the hospitals every day, and that the hospitals are being brought in the war very vividly to the minds of the hearers. They describe most of the fighting as being at close quarters, the trenches often being not more than 25 yards distant from each other. They say a 60-yard gain daily is a very big gain indeed under present conditions.

More Relief for Men.

The sergeant states that Earl Kitchener is arranging to give more relief to the men in the trenches who, up to the present, have been in the trenches for three days and out for 48 hours. He declares it became an absolute necessity to change the condition, as the men came back from the firing line in a state of practical collapse and partially deaf from the continual noise to which they had been subjected.

Referring to the published stories of German atrocities wreaked on Belgian children Wyse says he saw a number of young Belgians, boys between the ages of 14 and 18, with their hands cut off. In a Belgian hospital he was in a bed next to one in which was a Belgian boy between 15 and 17 years of age who had his right hand off.

He suggests that gifts of magazines, etc., sent to the Canadian headquarters staff for distribution to the various hospitals, would be much appreciated.

Conditions Bad.

Conditions at Salisbury are described as very bad, and states that no less than 1,300 dead took place among the men of the first contingent. However, he states that the men were all in the best of spirits when they left for the front, and the London boys (Continued on Page Three.)

Low Record For Gold Exchange

[Canadian Press.]

New York, March 23.—Another break in foreign exchange quotations today brought the gold price down to the lowest within the memory of the oldest brokers. The decline was followed by the announcement of the engagement for shipment here of \$8,200,000 from the gold holdings of the Bank of England to Ottawa, the largest amount in one day since the return movement to this country began, and bringing the total up to \$24,800,000. This represents nearly one-third of the gold sent from the United States to Ottawa in the early months of the war. This disturbed condition of the exchange market is attributed chiefly to the enormous pressure of war supplies in this country by the governments of the Allies. Exchange on Paris moved today to its highest record, which actually means the lowest as regards the purchasing power of French money here.

Went to Their Death Standing at Salute

Shouting "Vive la France!" Officers and Crew of the Battleship Bouvet Went Down With Their Ship In Dardanelles—New Story of Disaster.

[Canadian Press.]

Paris, March 23.—Standing at salute and shouting "Vive la France," the officers and crew of the French battleship Bouvet, sunk in the Dardanelles on March 18, went down with their ship, according to the Tennessean correspondent of the Athens Patria, who thus describes the action in which the Bouvet and the Gaulois were engaged:

"The captain of the Bouvet had been ordered to cross a dangerous zone, and for a passage to Chanak Kalesi, thus making the Allies masters of the straits as far as Nagara. At 1:20 p.m. the Bouvet was five miles from Chanak, and was firing at Fort Dardanelles. She had crossed two mine zones. The Gaulois followed, firing all her guns. The commander of the Bouvet, by a skilful

manoeuvre, avoided two mines which were exploded by a destroyer, but a third struck her in the region of her magazines, and she sank by the bow.

"Seven survivors of the Bouvet climbed into a boat and spent the night in a bay on the European side of the straits. They were taken off the next day by a British destroyer.

"When the captain of the Gaulois saw the Bouvet was sinking he ordered 'fall steam ahead,' without an instant's hesitation, but his ship had been struck seven times, and he was obliged to put back, anchoring off Mavrais Island."

A dispatch from Mytilene says a division of the allied fleet is still keeping watch on the Gulf of Smyrna.

A Greek ship picked up a floating mine near Imbros Island and another was found by fishermen near Lemnos.

"PRZEMYSŁ" NEARLY CHOKED THE NEWSIES

Place, City Hall Park. Time: Monday noon. Huge stacks of "De lates" wuxtree "Przemysl" newsies are piled up.

"Przemysl" newsies are the long-expected crisis has arrived. Conspicuous, profanity, blue streaks of it. Expiration from the mob. Papers held out without a shriek.

Then all along the line with varying degrees of "Here, yeh wuxtree. Big forties' talent."

"Y extraw. Big lates. Just out. (Looks despairingly at head.) Mob waits for it. Per-Ren-Ess falls. Yeh, Jimmie. I got it. Per-Ren-Ess. De l is ain't it."

More of the unusual silence. "Wop. Speshul. Final just out. Wemiss, big fort captured."

"Haw. Haw listen. Wemiss. Hey. Ahie. wuxtree Swedish uncle. He'll know."

"Y uxtre. Waddaya read dere? Austrian shimees fall. 50,000 capote of a wrong impression abroad. The country suffers inconvenience from the war, he admitted, but the Government is doing everything possible to provide work for the unemployed."

NO HORSE SHOW.

Montreal, March 23.—The directors of the Montreal Horse Show, after a meeting yesterday evening, announced that there would be no horse show this year.

"GOOD-NIGHT, GERMANY" DECLARES DRUMMER NOW IN DEUTSCHLAND

London Wholesale Firm Which Once Did a Good Business With German Firms, Indirectly Receives Copy of Letter Sent From Berlin by Traveller

By a roundabout method, a London wholesale firm, which did a large trade with Germany before the war, but which has banned German goods ever since, has received a letter from a German traveller who formerly called on them, but is now in Berlin.

"The letter was entrusted to an American who made copies of it and forwarded it to some of the German's old customers."

The traveller declares, in American slang, that it is "good night, Germany" since the British got in, and that many people realize that the best thing that can happen to the country is to have it thoroughly beaten.

Was Cheery, But Now— "I was just as cheery as the rest of them when I was writing, but it was the confidence of vanity, but at heart I am Socialist, and I think

ANTWERP TO BE EVACUATED

Germans To Entrench For Last Stand From Yser To the Meuse.

ALLIES ARE TOO STRONG

Troops Instructed Not To Destroy If Necessary To Retreat From Belgium.

[Canadian Press.]

London, March 23.—The correspondent of the Daily Express telegraphs from Amsterdam that he hears from a most authoritative quarter that the Germans intend to evacuate Antwerp by May 1. They will entrench directly from the Yser to the Meuse, where they expect to make their final stand in Belgium.

"The German intelligence bureau recently has been exceptionally active in Belgium and France, and has sent to main headquarters exhaustive reports about the strength of the Allies all along the line, with the view to making it understood in Germany it is futile to resist their advance."

"Plans for an elaborate defence of Antwerp recently were given up because it has become obvious, I am told, that Antwerp will be of use to the Germans unless they violate Holland's neutrality, and the violation of Belgium's had resulted calculated to cause the Germans to leave their posts 20 minutes ago."

"The German troops have received instructions not to destroy anything on their retreat if the Belgians are willing to let them retreat unhurt. I am informed."

CANADIAN LIEUT. TELLS OF TRENCHES

Down With Concussion of the Brain From Bursting German Shells.

A QUEER EXPERIENCE

Says German Wounded Are Convinced London Is in the Hands of Kaiser's Men.

[Special Cable to The Advertiser.]

London, March 23.—A Canadian lieutenant in a hospital here furnishes a striking personal proof of how men may be laid aside, although perfectly untouched by the enemy's missiles. He was in the trenches when a shell burst in the neighborhood. Although not struck, he was incapacitated by concussion of the brain. "It is utterly impossible," he said, "to give any adequate idea of the conditions at the front. The atmosphere, to begin with, is permanent, a thick fog of chlorine gas, which hangs over everything. When the artillery is not active you have a perfectly peaceful countryside, but you feel as if you were in a prison. The earth for miles and miles is thousands of men. It is perfectly ghastly at night, and every now and then a great blue burst in the sky. I got lost out of the trenches one night. I had gone forward to reconnoitre, when a German star burst. I fell flat at once, and when I was back again, I was able to get up. I was utterly unable to remember in which direction our trench lay. I moved along cautiously for some time, and then I saw a man named Steele and another man, ran close to the boy. The machine was half way past when the lad's wheel swerved, throwing him against the side of the automobile. Moore was knocked unconscious. He was picked up and rushed to Victoria Hospital in the automobile."

At the hospital the authorities found that the boy was suffering from a number of cuts and bruises on his head and face. He had one bad cut under his chin. His left arm was crushed, but no bones were broken. House surgeons dressed the boy's injuries, but on account of his being unconscious, they were unable to secure any information as to what he was doing in London.

To all questions the injured boy mumbled something about Milverton. His identity was established by a note he had in one of his pockets.

THE WEATHER

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night: Highest, 33; lowest, 27.

The lowest temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 39; lowest, 30.

TOMORROW—FINE AND MILD.

Toronto, March 23.—3 a.m. Forecast: High, 40; low, 30.

Stations. High. Low. Weather.

Victoria 41 46 Cloudy

Calgary 40 46 Cloudy

Winnipeg 44 32 Cloudy

Port Arthur 34 36 Cloudy

Perry Sound 46 42 Clear

Toronto 34 36 Cloudy

Ottawa 28 36 Cloudy

Montreal 29 36 Cloudy

Quebec 24 32 Cloudy

Father Point 29 36 Cloudy

GOVT. REFUSED TO BUY DRUGS UNLESS TORY MEMBER'S CLERK WAS APPOINTED AS MIDDLEMAN

What Italy Wants--Why She May Fight



Advertiser Illustration.

The black spots show why Italy may go to war against Austria and Germany. The Austrian Province of Istria, in which is the historic city of Trieste, and the Province of Tyrol, in which is Trent, have been battle grounds before and the bone of contention between Austria and Italy for centuries.

RIDES NINE MILES TO FIND COMRADES

In Modest Letter, Capt. Ware Tells of Struggle To Reach "Lost Battalions," Which Were Blindly Heading For German Lines in Darkness.

In a letter to relatives in the city, which they did not choose to make public until it had come through other sources, Capt. Frank Ware, staff captain of the 1st Infantry Brigade in France, relates in modest style how he rode for nine hours in the saddle in order to find the Ammunition Column and Machine Gun Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force when they lost their way.

It appears that through an error, the two corps took the wrong route and travelled for hours in a direction that brought them within range of German rifles. Only the night saved them, though at the same time the night was responsible for their being lost.

Searched and Found.

There appears to have been no question in the mind of Capt. Ware as to what should be done when the corps were not in their places. He immediately stated that he would find them, and for hours on end he searched for them. He rode through mud which almost engulfed him and his horse, and at times the quest seemed to be next to hopeless. He found no trace of the corps until it was almost dawn. A short time more and the enemy would have discovered the proximity of the Canadians.

Covered With Mud.

Capt. Ware states that he was covered with mud from head to heels, when he found them, but that his order immediately stopped them, and the officers brought them to the right road. He thanks the compass given him by Major Little for his success in finding "the lost battalions." Without it he could not have kept his bearings in the long search over miles.

Expected That Prorogation Will Be Reached Next Week—Seed Bill Passed.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, March 23.—The first morning sitting of the session was held this morning, and it is expected that prorogation will be reached next week. There was no formality at the opening of sitting this morning. The Government at once put the House on the bill under the authority of which the Government proposes to make advances of seed grain to the farmers of the West who find themselves without seed for planting this summer. The bill is one of some financial importance, as the movement proposes to take authority to advance several million dollars in this way. There was considerable discussion over the proposal before it was finally allowed to pass.

CORPORAL OF THE "PATS" IS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

Casualty List Includes Men of 5th, 13th and Patriotic.

[Canadian Press.]

Ottawa, March 23.—The following Canadian casualties are announced today:

Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry.

Wounded—No. 1875, Private H. P. Lester, admitted to No. 4 Eastern Hospital, Cambridge, gunshot wound in abdomen. Next of kin, Mrs. B. P. Lester, 201 First 15th street, Calgary, Alta.

13th Battalion.

Died of Wounds—March 7, No. 2453, Private J. Fowler. Next of kin, Mr. James Fowler, 413 Beaumont street, Montreal, Que.

Princess Patricia Light Infantry.

Wounded—No. 1757, Private H. P. Lester, admitted to No. 4 Eastern Hospital, Cambridge, gunshot wound in abdomen. Next of kin, Mrs. B. P. Lester, 201 First 15th street, Calgary, Alta.

Bauer & Black Sold Direct To Russians, French and British.

CANADIAN GOT RAKE-OFF

Young Powell Charged Government \$9,000 More Than He Paid.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, March 23.—A new view of the famous military drug transaction was given the public accounts committee this morning. To the present it has been insisted that the emergency surgical order could only have been filled by Bauer & Black, of Chicago, that they would not sell to the Government, except through a local agent, and therefore W. F. Garland, Conservative member for Carleton, appointed his drug clerk Powell agent, and Powell made \$9,000 as a consequence.

The Middleman.

This morning P. J. Shaver, the Canadian representative of Bauer & Black, testified that he came to Ottawa to do business with the Government, but was told by Government officials that the Government would have been saved by the necessity of doing business with his firm, but that there had to be a local middleman. On the suggestion of Mr. Garland, therefore, he appointed Mr. Powell, Mr. Shaver said that Bauer & Black sold direct to the Russian, French, British and United States Governments. They sold these governments at the prices charged Powell. They would have sold the Canadian Government direct at the price they sold to Powell. In this way the profits of the middleman would have been saved to the Government. Mr. Shaver appeared to be a typical first-class, up-right business man.

He said he heard through customers that the Canadian Government wanted surgical supplies for the first contingent. He came to Ottawa to do Government business, called on Col. Jones, head of the militia medical branch, and Col. Jones told him in the presence of Major Drummond that the Government would not do business with his firm direct, but that there must be a local agent. That afternoon Mr. Garland suggested the appointment of an agent, and as a result Mr. Powell was appointed. He was not the only agent of Bauer & Black in Ottawa. There was a local druggist, and Harrison, a local druggist, handled these goods. There would have been no objection to any of them selling to the Government, but the middleman Powell, who worked for a Conservative member, was the only man who had done so. Mr. Shaver said that he had asked Mr. Garland to have the Carleton Drug Company should handle the contract. Garland replied: "No chance; you must get an outside man."

It was after this that Garland had introduced Powell, and Mr. Shaver had appointed him as an Ottawa agent of the firm. This gave him a local support, and he was able to sell to the militia stores at Ottawa, freight and duty paid.

To the Hon. Dr. Reid, Mr. Shaver said, that he had seen no objection to anyone the statement made to him by Col. Jones that Bauer & Black could not deal direct with the Government, but that there must be a middleman.

He did not tell Director of Contracts Brown what Col. Jones had told him, but that the necessity of doing business with this Government through a middleman only.

Powell's Profits.

Mr. Shaver said that the profit of 25 per cent made by Powell from the Government was not an excessive profit for a jobber to make in selling his goods. "But there was no need for Powell to have been in the transaction at all."

"Not as far as we were concerned, you would have sold direct to the Government."

"Certainly. We sell direct to the Russian, the French, the British, and the United States governments. We would have sold direct to the Canadian Government, but we were given to understand that they would not buy direct from us."

"What prices would you have charged the Canadian Government for these goods?"

"The price at which we charged Mr. Powell the same prices we charged other governments."

"Did you decline to give Mr. Brown prices on field dressings?"

"Well, Mr. Brown, the director of contracts, showed me a British field dressing, which was a design we didn't make, and would have to put up especially. I told him that I could not quote him the exact price until I had consulted with my firm. However, after looking at the dressing, I said I thought that it would cost about eighteen cents."

"What did you sell it to Powell for?"

"Sixteen cents."

"It was for this that he charged the Government 25 cents in the first place, and afterward reduced the price to 21 cents?"

"I believe so."

"What quantity of them did you sell?"

"Thirty thousand."

WELL-KNOWN FORMER LONDONER IS DEAD

James Costello Succumbs in Baltimore—Sister Here.

Word was received here today of the death in Baltimore of James Costello, one of the best known lithographers who ever left London, and a man who was exceptionally well known in this city during his residence here. For some time he was a member of the London separate school board, of his sisters is Sister Sally, St. Joseph's Hospital. They brought here for intern