

FURIOUS HUN DRIVE ON!

THE ARMY OF GERMANY LAUNCHES THE MOST POWERFUL ATTACK MADE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD WAR, ON BRITISH LINES

Following Five Hour Hurricane of Shot, Shell and Gas Bombs Teutonic Infantry Falls on Field Marshal Haig's Army Along Front of Fifty Miles, Beginning What May Be the Greatest Battle of the War, a Struggle Which May Lead to Results Which Will Shape the Destinies of Millions of People Over Coming Centuries—Lightly Held Portions of British Line Withdrawn, But There is No Cause for Alarm.

Some of British Positions Penetrated, Marshal Haig Announces, But German Losses Declared to Have Been Exceptionally Heavy—On No Part of the Long Front Did Enemy Obtain His Objective—Line of Attack Extends from River Oise in Neighborhood of Lafere to the Sensez River, About Croisilles—Assaults Also Made on French Line.

Exactly twenty-five months after the Germans began the historic battle of Verdun the thunder of their guns deepened into a tempest of fire along the British front in Northern France and they began what may be the greatest battle of the war, a struggle which may lead to results which will shape the destinies of millions of people over coming centuries. The attacks were made on a scale hitherto unknown during this war of major offensives. It was over a front of fifty miles. Official reports are very brief, but correspondents at the scene tell of the terrific storms of artillery fire, which burst over the lines held by Field Marshal Haig's men.

The bombardment began at five o'clock Thursday morning, just before the early spring dawn was breaking over Eastern France. Shells of large and small calibres were rained upon the lines held by the British for about five hours. The German infantry stormed out to make the first great assault. The Germans, favored by the wind, moved forward under cover of a pall of smoke which hid the assaulting columns from the eyes of the British holding the front lines.

Describing the battle Andrew Bonar Law informed the House of Commons that lightly held portions of the British line had been withdrawn but said that there was no need for alarm on the part of the country.

The Associated Press correspondent at the British front reports that an attack there had been expected and that great preparations had been made to meet it. The Berlin report says that the Germans have penetrated some British positions.

Attacks Also on the French Line.

Nor were the German efforts concentrated upon the front held by the British. Early Thursday morning the Germans assaulted the French lines near the village of Ornes, to the northeast of Verdun, and claim to have penetrated a considerable distance. Near Rheims, too, the French were subjected to an assault, but here the artillery bore the burden of the fighting.

The attacks at Verdun and Rheims, however, may be considered for the time being as mere diversions to the principal attack, which has been loosed against the British. They would serve to keep French forces at Verdun and Rheims from being transferred to the British sector, if that part of the battle line should show any signs of bending back.

Nothing has been reported as to attacks on the lines held by the Americans. It had been expected that the Germans would make an assault on the American-held trenches in the Lorraine and Toul sectors, acting on the theory that troops which had not had experience in engagements of the first degree, might be found to yield easier than veterans. The Germans have called upon the Austrian army for assistance in their effort to carry the battle to the Entente Allies, for the official reports from Berlin say that Austro-Hungarian artillery is engaged along the western front. It is probable that the great Austrian howitzers or Skodas, have been used against the strongest sectors of the British lines.

The French official reports state that the Germans have been sanguinarily repulsed in a number of engagements, notably on the Verdun and Lorraine fronts.

G. H. BOVIN IS DEPUTY SPEAKER

Ottawa, Mar. 21.—George H. Bovin, Liberal member for Shefford, was elected deputy Speaker of the House of Commons tonight. Col. Currie, Unionist, objected. Mr. Ekins, Liberal Unionist, St. John, made his first remarks in the House

today. He had practical suggestions to offer which were well received.

Sir Robert Borden made a reference to the absence of the Minister of Finance. He said: "It is my duty, but with great regret, to inform the House that the health of Sir Thomas White has been seriously impaired by the responsibilities and the severe and unremitting labors which have been imposed upon him in the performance of his duties since the outbreak of the war. No burdens of anything like the same magnitude have ever been imposed upon a minister of finance in Canada for a like period. Sir Thomas White's keen sense of duty impelled him to throw into the task his utmost strength and energy. His wide business activity and his great ability enabled him to render to Canada a service for which the whole country should be grateful. After my return to Ottawa, about the middle of January, I became convinced that he required immediate and prolonged rest, and I

strongly urged him to put aside his work for such a period as would bring about a thorough rest. He finally agreed to do so. There is not the slightest doubt that Sir Thomas White would greatly desire to be relieved from his present responsibilities, but finds himself confronted with the duty of remaining at his present post, if at all possible, until the conclusion of the war."

WOMAN ARRESTED

Halifax, Mar. 21.—The Halifax relief commission caused the arrest today of Mrs. Ellen Covey, on a charge of making a false claim for damage to her property. Mrs. Covey put in a claim for \$200. An investigation was made by detectives and the result was her arrest. She confessed that her real damage was only \$20. The woman was held and will be arraigned before magistrate tomorrow morning.

MORE PEACE TALK HEARD IN GERMANY

Report of Semi-Official Negotiations Between Germany and the Entente.

HOLLAND NEWSPAPER HEARS MUCH NEWS

London, March 21.—Semi-official negotiations are on foot between Germany and the Entente in which Germany is displaying a strong inclination for peace. The Catholic newspaper Nieuwblad van Rotterdam says it has learned, the Central News correspondent at Amsterdam reports.

This Amsterdam newspaper is quoted as adding that its information is that if no basis for official negotiations was reached by March 27, the German offensive in the west would be begun. According to reports from Petrograd dated Wednesday, a rumor is current at Moscow that Germany has offered concessions to the allies, conditioned upon the recognition of the Brest-Litovsk treaty of peace.

"No Soft Peace"—Kaiser. Amsterdam, Wednesday, March 20.—"The price of victory must not and will not fall us—no soft peace—but one which corresponds with Germany's interests," Emperor William telegraphed the Schleswig-Holstein provincial council, according to a Kiel despatch. The emperor's telegram was sent in reply to a congratulatory message. Field Marshal von Hindenburg has telegraphed to the Fosen Provincial council as follows:—"God willing, we will also overcome the enemy in the west and clear the way to a general peace."

Canadian Quotes Kaiser.

Chicago, March 21.—"Keep the world afraid, and if it thinks you are afraid, rattle your sword and devastate the lands of those who oppose you"—that was the policy of the German Kaiser, as told by the Emperor himself to Prof. William H. Schofield, of Harvard University, Professor Schofield said in an address here last night. He was an exchange professor at Berlin several years and became intimately acquainted with the Kaiser. He is a native of Brockville, Ont. "Ten years ago he told me of his plans to manipulate the Jews and Catholics and his dreams of a world empire. At that time he even predicted that the United States would sometime be caught unawares and have to resort to conscription, but he did not seem to think that we would be fighting him when this happened."

SHARP LOSES HIS DEPOSIT

Gen. McLean Has Majority of 3,125 in Total Vote of 8,793 in Royal.

Special to The Standard. Sussex, Mar. 21.—Sheriff McLeod of Kings county has received the official returns from Ottawa under part 4 of the Military Voters Bill and the total vote in Royal is as follows:

	McLean	Sharp
Under part 3	4,976	2,775
Under part 4		
Within North America	119	14
Within U. Kingdom	548	15
Con. of Europe	316	30
	5,959	2,834

This makes the majority for McLean 3,125 and Sharp loses his deposit.

HON. J. A. MURRAY'S VOTES FOR WOMEN RESOLUTION ENDORSED UNANIMOUSLY

THE DECISIVE CONTEST OF ENTIRE WAR?

General Impression on British Front is in Agreement with the Germans in This Regard.

British Army Headquarters in France, March 21.—(By The Associated Press)—It is too early to predict the outcome of the first few hours of the struggle, in which vast forces and every conceivable engine probably was employed. On general principles, however, it may be stated that the great concentration of attacking force will probably result in the defensive line being pushed back in places. This would merely be history repeating itself.

Troops Confident. This much is certain. At no period has the British war machine been in such perfect condition. Never before has there been higher morale or optimism among the British troops. The general impression on the front is in agreement with that of the Germans—that this is the decisive contest of the war. But on the British side there is no doubt that the decision will eventually be in the Allies' favor. Germany is staking everything on this plan, and if the great attack fails to break clear through it is believed that the Germans will be finished, for they have nothing further to offer, except a gradually weakening defence.

Intense Bombardment. The bombardment today was one of the most intense seen along this front. As had been generally expected, the Germans depended on short, heavy artillery work to carry their troops forward. Large quantities of gas were used at various places and extraordinarily high velocity shells have been whining across the back areas since daybreak. The Germans made a great concentration of guns for this attack and every one of them was brought into play at the outset. It is reported that one German tank was seen in action, but this is not verified, although it would cause no surprise if true. The sky was heavily overcast all day, rendering aerial observation difficult.

OSTEND BOMBARDED BY BRITISH BOATS; HELIGOLAND HIT

London, Mar. 21.—Ostend was bombarded by British monitors today and Heligoland was attacked by Seaplanes, according to the official announcement tonight.

The Admiralty statement says: Ostend was bombarded this afternoon by British monitors with successful results. Prior to the bombardment four enemy aircraft were destroyed by our naval air squadron. Enemy aircraft attacked the British machines while spotting for the bombardment with the result that another enemy machine was destroyed. "The British seaplanes engaged in reconnaissance in Heligoland Bight, attacked enemy mine-sweepers with machine gunfire. There were no casualties on the British side. All our machines returned safely."

BRITISH ADVANCE IN PALESTINE

London, Mar. 21.—The British have made another advance in Palestine, capturing three towns, it is announced officially. A counter-attack by the Turks was repulsed. The Statement follows: "We occupied Beit, Rima and Ketrut, both east-southeast of Deir Ballut, unopposed. We drove off a counter-attack at Deir Ballut and secured Elowalilbeh and the high ground to the westward. "Airmen dropped 470 bombs on establishments in the vicinity of Elkurat station. Direct hits were observed on the objectives."

Not a Single Vote Cast Against Woman Suffrage Sentiment—Addresses Made Before Large Gallery by Opposition Leader, Mr. Tilley, Premier Foster, Hon. Mr. Veniot and Hon. Dr. Roberts.

Cause Gains Pronounced Step in Advance in This Province, and Measure Giving Effect to Yesterday's Action Will Probably Be Introduced Shortly—Minister of Public Works and Mr. Tilley Have a Tilt.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, Mar. 21.—"Resolved, that in the opinion of this house the provincial franchise should be extended to women." This resolution, on motion of Hon. J. A. Murray, leader of the opposition, and seconded by Mr. L. P. D. Tilley of St. John, passed the legislature this afternoon without a dissenting voice. Thus, through Hon. Mr. Murray's advocacy does the cause of woman suffrage in New Brunswick gain a pronounced step in advance, for the passage of the resolution commits the house to its principle, and the natural sequence of today's action is to introduce and press for passage a measure to give effect to the principle contained in the resolution. That this will be done is regarded as certain. In fact the premier in his address on the resolution intimated that the government might be prepared to consider such a measure, although he contended there was no necessity to hurry about it and gave expression to the view that it would be wise to wait until the Dominion legislation, conferring the boon of franchise in federal elections, had been passed.

The debate was brief but interesting. The speakers on the opposition side were Hon. Mr. Murray, who introduced the motion, and Mr. Tilley, who seconded it. On the government side the speakers were Hon. P. J. Veniot, Hon. Dr. Roberts and Premier Foster, all of whom announced their intention of voting for the resolution. (Continued on page 3).

Premier Foster Wants To Tax Victory Bonds

Oppose St. John Bill Asking for Authority to Exempt Bonds Purchased in Last Loan Campaign—Hon. Mr. Byrne Introduces Monstrosity in 190 Sections Termed an Act Respecting Incorporation of Villages.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, March 21.—Aside from the brief debate on the woman suffrage resolution, the most interesting feature of the day's session of the legislature came late in the evening. After the supper recess the House went into committee to consider bills. The first measure of interest came in a bill from St. John asking for authority to exempt from taxation the Victory bonds purchased during the recent campaign in that city. It will be recalled that in the campaign for these bonds the canvass was very generally used that they would not be subject to taxation, and tonight the legislation necessary to obtain that concession was brought before the House. The measure was introduced by Hon. Dr. Roberts, who then stood from under and took no part in urging its passage. What Dr. Roberts might have done had Mr. Foster not privately communicated with him is not known, but it is the fact that after a whispered conversation with the premier, St. John's representative in the provincial cabinet, subsided and was left to Messrs. Tilley and Potts to state the case for the constituency they represent.

Premier Opposes Bill.

Mr. Foster opposed the bill on general principles. Mr. Tilley said in effect that when the bond campaign was carried on it was understood that the bonds would be exempt from taxation. The mayor and council of the city of St. John had recommended the measure and he thought their wishes should be respected. Mr. Potts took similar grounds. Mr. Foster said he was opposed to

the principle of the measure, as the removing of such bonds from taxation might affect the sale of provincial debentures. Hon. Mr. Robinson said the House should not be governed by legislation sent here from St. John, and if any provision was made for the exemption of such bonds it should be general throughout the province. Mr. Tilley said the government might well bring in a measure to that effect. The bill stands for the present.

Village Incorporation. The committee then passed to consideration of an act respecting the incorporation of villages. This bill which was introduced in the House the other day by Attorney-General Byrne is a most voluminous document consisting of 190 sections, most of which are held by members of the House to be unnecessary. So sound an authority as Hon. J. B. M. Baxter, ex-attorney-general, is of the opinion that the measure is a most needless length many of the provisions of the legislation already in force.

The consideration of the bill occupied the greater part of the evening and its principal effect was to draw from the Attorney-General the rather peevish declaration that he would not be intimidated by members of the opposition side of the House, and other members of the government felt the same way about it. (Continued on page 2)