

Ominous Lull In Fighting In Picardy; All Quiet On Banks of St. Lawrence

THOSE RESISTING THE MILITIA ACT TO BE DRAFTED

Sir Robert Borden Makes Important Announcement in House of Commons in Address Describing Quebec Outrages - Says Necessary Amendment to Service Act Will be Introduced—Dominion Government Will be Firm and Compel all to Obey Law of the Land—Outbreak Occurred in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Constituency Old Chief Says.

Ottawa, April 2.—Sir Robert Borden made a statement in the House of Commons this afternoon on the rioting in Quebec.

"The incidents," he said, "commenced on Thursday evening last. It appears that a young man named Mercier had been asked by the Dominion police, engaged in the enforcement of the military service act, for his certificate, which he did not have with him. He was taken into custody until the certificate could be produced.

"As a matter of fact, under the provisions of Section 18 of the Military

Service Act, it was his duty to produce the certificate when called upon to do so. The certificate was sent for and was produced, whereupon he was immediately discharged. I am speaking of all these matters upon this reserve: We have not yet received a full detailed statement of what took place. I hope that will be forthcoming tomorrow, when it will be presented to this house. In the meantime, with that reserve, I am giving the facts, so far as they have come to the attention of the government.

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Bravery of Canadians On Battle Line Told

Sir Robert Borden Reads Three Cables Telling of Grand Fight they Put Up—German Wounded Treated the Same as Allied Wounded.

Ottawa, April 2.—Sir Robert Borden read to the house today three cables from war correspondents' headquarters in France, dealing with the part taken by Canadian troops in the last great battle. The first, which told of the work of the Canadian railway troops, stated that a majority of the battalions were in the battle area and close to the British line. One railway battalion, the cable said, rescued three heavy howitzers, while the British infantry was holding back the Germans only a few hundred yards away. In Perronne sector another battalion, after getting all its equipment and rolling stock away, organized ambulance trains on what tracks were left, and carried out wounded. A great fight to save a big railway howitzer was carried on by a company of Canadian troops, which, after hauling it for a hundred and fifty yards towards safety were forced to destroy it.

In many places they were working with American engineers.

Another cable stated that Canadian officers who are acting as town majors in places like Ypres, Roybaucourt and Bus, had exciting experiences before they retired. Their duty was to see that all stores which could not be removed were destroyed, and they spent their last evening in their respective centres blowing up what little ammunition was left and burning up and obliterating canteens which might yield supplies to the Germans. They came out with the last of the British troops and gave a graphic story of how complete was the destruction of roads, bridges and railways which might have been of use to the enemy.

The third cable, dealing with the work of the Canadian medical services, described the situation at one of the largest Canadian hospitals behind the lines. The cable said that from front front between Arras and Ferona's contribution to fill wards. Wounded German prisoners were treated just as allied wounded. In the first days of the battle not a single ambulance conveyance was turned away. From Halifax to Victoria was represented in the little brigade of doctors and nurses which fought to rescue the wounded.

FOSTERITES BEAR HORSE MARKET

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 2.—If you want a cheap horse, sleigh, harness and outfit go to Carleton County and get on the right side of the Foster government. Then you can get your outfit at a price so ridiculously low as to be almost a free gift. This condition of affairs was developed tonight in reply to an enquiry by Mr. Sutton of Carleton County. Mr. Sutton asked if there was in the harness and robe, owned by the Agricultural Department and supposed to be for the use of officials; if the outfit is not there, where is it, and if it has been sold, who bought it and at what price?

Still Has the Robe.

The Minister of Agriculture, with a look of pained surprise that the junior member for Carleton should concern himself over such a paltry matter, rose and announced that the robe was still there but the horse, sleigh and harness were not. He further admitted

that they had been sold to one Charles Shaw of Hartland for \$30, but said in extension that the horse was 22 years old and the rest of the outfit not in good shape. He might also have said that Mr. Shaw is a good Fosterite which fact may explain why he was so fortunate as to secure a livestock bargain.

**STANDARD OIL CO.
WILL ADVANCE WAGES**

Annuitant and Sick Benefit Plans Adopted by Big Corporation.

New York, April 2.—The thousands of employees of the Standard Oil Co. in many states are to receive an advance in wages ranging from 5 to 10 per cent. A long service annuity plan and a sick benefit arrangement have also been decided upon.

FOSTER GOVERNMENT DEFICIT IS \$594,091

Every Department of Administration Runs Behind, Clearly Proving that Fosterites have been False to Their Every Pledge of Economy and they have Not Hesitated in the Face of Diminishing Revenues to Fritter Away Money of the People to which an Imperfect Return has Been Given.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 2.—According to the report of the Auditor-General and the public accounts for the year ending October 31st, 1917, tabled in the legislature tonight the Foster government shows an apparent deficit of ordinary expenditure over ordinary revenue of \$594,091.48. The total ordinary revenue is represented as \$1,572,813.75 and the ordinary expense as \$2,166,905.23.

There is a deficit in every department of the administration, a peculiar showing truly from the business government promised by Mr. Foster. Territorial revenue has already commenced to show a decline. The stumpage return for the year is shown to be \$352,087.31 and the total territorial revenue \$544,191.64, as compared with \$540,386.06 in 1916 and \$591,905.14 in 1915. The total ordinary revenue for the year is almost \$8,000 less than last year and more than \$61,000 less than in 1915.

Many Over Expenditures.

While the revenues have decreased, the expenses have mounted and in every department there is an over expenditure. Upon the administration of justice the report shows an expenditure of \$24,226.50 for the year compared with \$23,512.92 for last year. Agriculture, including the sum of more than \$30,000 for the purchase of seed, shows a total expenditure of \$23,253.50. On education the sum of \$295,370 was spent compared with \$290,341.30 last year and despite the fact that more than \$5,000 was expended in this department in excess of last year, the item of teachers' salaries, probably the most important in the department in point of value received, shows a decline of almost \$2,000. But it is in the expense of executive government that the Fosterites have revealed. In practically every department of the administration salary and travelling expenses are heavier than before. The attorney general's department, for instance, charges \$2,235 to salaries as compared with \$2,400 last year and \$2,432.50 in 1915. The increase in the provincial secretary's department is not so heavy. His salary list is \$63,102 compared with \$62,265 for last year and \$67,961.02 for 1915. The provincial treasurer's department is \$27.10 less than last year. The crown land departments show \$15,249.93 compared with \$13,893.33 for last year, and \$16,649.19 for 1915. Yet despite the increase in salary on this account the department under the former administration was so well administered as to draw from members of the present government commendation on the floors of the House during the present session.

Mr. Veniot Leads.

The Public Works Minister, Hon. Mr. Veniot, as befits the real leader of the administration, turns over the largest increase in expenditure. For the year he spent in salaries, under the head of executive government \$13,618.51 as compared with \$12,388.88 in 1915.

Executive council salaries in 1917 totalled \$8,134.55 as compared with \$5,450 in 1916 and \$5,671.93 in 1915. The executive of the Foster government evidently travelled in style if the item for travelling expenses of \$4,181.05 as compared with \$2,668.04 for 1915 is to be taken as a criterion from which to judge.

Altogether the executive government has cost the province for the year ending Oct. 31st last \$5,749.15, the largest sum in the history of the province. It is fair to ask whether the people have received value for the money spent. The report also shows that there was expended on capital account during the year the sum of \$883,696.63 of which the following are the items: permanent roads, \$334,466.65; permanent bridges, \$428,673.66; Jordan Memorial Sanatorium, \$4,600; crown land classification and forest survey, \$30,683.16; roads special improvements, \$82,787.15.

Altogether the report shows that the Foster government has already been false to its every pledge of economy and that in the fact of diminishing revenues it has not hesitated to fritter away the money of the people for which it has given but a most imperfect return.

The public accounts committee will

NEW GERMAN LONG RANGE GUNS BOMBARD DUNKIRK, PARIS AND SAINT POL

**MAYOR MARTIN
EASY WINNER
IN MONTREAL**

Re-Elected by Majority of 7,270 Over Mr. Joseph Ainey.

**HON. CHARLES MARCIL
CHOSEN ALDERMAN**

L. A. LaPointe, M. P., Meets Defeat in St. James Ward.

Montreal, April 2.—Mayor Mederic Martin was re-elected today in the municipal elections for Montreal over Joseph Ainey, member of the now defunct Board of Control, by a majority of 7,270. The total vote was: Martin, 42,857; Ainey, 35,587. This will be Mayor Martin's third term as chief magistrate of Montreal. His opponent, Mr. Ainey, like himself, is a French-Canadian, and has been a councillor eight years, having been re-elected as the representative of labor on the board of control. With the incoming city council will be a commission, named by Sir Lomer Gouin's government, instead of the board of control.

Among the new aldermen is Hon. Charles Marcil, ex-speaker of the House of Commons, who was elected today as representative of Notre Dame De Grace ward. One of the surprises was the election of J. A. Brodeur over L. A. LaPointe, M. P., in St. Anne's ward by a majority of one, Brodeur's vote being 1,616 and LaPointe's 1,615. Lieut.-Col. J. J. Creelman was elected alderman for St. Andrew's ward and Major H. LeRoy Shaw was elected for St. George's.

The aldermen elected: Hon. Charles Marcil—Notre Dame De Grace—Hon. Charles Marcil—Lieut. Col. J. J. Creelman—St. James—J. A. Brodeur—St. George—Major H. LeRoy Shaw—Mercier—Lévis Tremblay, ex-mayor of Malouneuve, now Mercier Ward. Hochelaga—A. A. DesRoches. St. Louis—L. Jacobs. Ahuntsic—Borduas—Orville Filion. Desborcier—J. E. Sansregret. St. Denis—Victor Carmel.

There are twenty aldermen in the new council, nine of whom were elected by acclamation. These are: St. Joseph—W. J. Hushon. St. Lawrence—Louis Rubenstein. St. Gabriel—J. Elle. LaPointe—Eudore Dubeau. England—Nap Turcot. St. Jean Baptiste—G. Vandela. St. Henry—J. H. Bedard. Papineau—J. A. Lamarre. St. Mary—A. H. Denis.

Lull in Fighting in Picardy Presages Another Gigantic Struggle—German Big Guns Have Been Caught Up with Infantry—Enemy Approaches to Within Four and One-Half Miles of Amiens—Paris Railway—Another Gigantic Struggle for Amiens Pending—Gen. Gough Succeeded by Rawlinson.

Special Cable to The New York Tribune and St. John Standard. (By Arthur S. Draper).

London, April 2.—The lull in the fighting in Picardy is ominous. It means that the rival armies are collecting their forces for another gigantic struggle before Amiens. Though there is a pause, a desperate struggle is being waged, but generals and peoples have now become so accustomed to viewing things on a big scale that the present fighting attracts little attention.

The battle of Picardy is not over although the first phase is ended. The German guns have caught up with the infantry, re-organized divisions over the plains along the Somme lines, and within a day or two the military expects a renewal of the enemy's effort on a gigantic scale.

The element of surprise has disappeared and the Allies view the future calmly and confidently. In the last forty-eight hours, during which considerable rain has fallen, there has been practically no change in the dangerous sector between Albert and Montdidier. The Germans have crept a little nearer to the Paris-Amiens railway in certain points, but in others they have been driven back.

The shelling of Dunkirk, St. Pol and Paris shows that the enemy has manufactured a considerable number of long range guns. The nearest point from which he could bombard St. Pol is about thirty miles. Another feature of the recent firing is the increased activity of the German fliers, who apparently are now ready to contest the air superiority with the British.

Plan Another Drive.

GERMAN WAR MACHINE HAD AN OFF DAY

Teutons Made No Attacks in North France Yesterday.

BOTH SIDES PREPARE FOR MORE FIGHTING

So Important Change in Battle Front Occurred Tuesday.

With the passing of the thirteenth day of the new battle of the Somme, there came increasing evidence that the great German machine with which it was intended to crush the allied line has almost utterly spent itself.

Where previously the Germans had thrown men into the fray, not counting the prodigious wastage in killed or wounded, Tuesday saw them decline anywhere to give battle. On the contrary in what little fighting occurred, the British and French troops took the initiative.

Thus it seems apparent, with the reserve forces of the Entente virtually intact and with the added weight of General Pershing's troops will give them, the turn in the tide of the battle is at hand.

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CAUCUS CALLED.

Ottawa, Ont., April 2.—The government has called a Unionist caucus for tomorrow morning, at which, it is understood, the situation in Quebec will be discussed.

QUEBEC QUIET LAST EVENING

No Crowds, No Shooting, No Stoning, No Smashing, No Disorder and No One Hurt.

Quebec, April 2.—For the first evening since last Thursday the citizens of Quebec witnessed no rioting tonight. The district in St. Roch where the battle took place last night was surrounded by soldiers but they were not molested.

The day produced a plentiful crop of sensational rumors, one of them being that the rioters' faction was going to try and cut off the electric light supply of the city. No such attempt was made.

The military authorities were much gratified at the suspension of hostilities here, but are not completely satisfied that the danger of another outbreak is safely past. Vigilance will not be relaxed until it is.

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ST. CROIX NAVIGATION WILL BE OPENED SOON

It is Many Years Since River Has Been Closed For Such a Long Time.

According to statements of those who have recorded the opening and closing dates of navigation on the St. Croix river, and who are familiar with conditions in general along the river, it is expected that navigation as far as the upper wharves will be possible within a fortnight. It is said that the ice is out of the river as far up as Devil's Head, and that another week of continued mild weather should see the lower wharf docking a vessel or two. The schooners Ernest Lee and Kennebec are still at Eastport, with cargoes of coal awaiting conditions favorable to going up the river.

There are very few if any who can recall when the river was closed for such a long time in years gone by. By this time the ice has generally pretty well cleared out of St. Croix valley and even the harbor.

DEMOCRAT LEADS.

Washington, April 2.—Near midnight returns to the democratic national committee from the Wisconsin senatorial election showed Davies, Democrat, leading by 3,896 over the state, including partial returns from Milwaukee city.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE LOBSTER FISHERMEN

United States Government Lifts Railroad Embargo on Crustaceans.

Halifax, N. S., April 2.—Secretary Saunders of the Board of Trade received word tonight that the United States government had lifted the embargo which forbade the transport by rail of live lobsters outside of New England points. This embargo threatened serious loss to Nova Scotia fishermen and shippers.

QUEBEC FLOODS.

Quebec, April 2.—The ice on the Chaudiere river started to move today. At Valley Junction, Beauce, there was a sudden rise in the water but so far only Beauport and St. Georges are under water.