

The French Succeed In Expelling The Enemy To The Northward of Kemmel

GOVERNMENT MAY ACQUIRE GRAND TRUNK

Sir Robert Borden Announces that Negotiations have Been in Progress.

ITS CANADIAN LINES NEEDED WITH G. T. P.

Main Difficulty is that Grand Trunk Owns Roads in the U. S.

QUESTION LIKELY TO BE ARBITRATED

Without Grand Trunk, Grand Trunk Pacific Would have Poor Connections.

Ottawa, May 15.—Premier Borden, in outlining the present railroad situation in Canada announced that the government had been negotiating with the Grand Trunk regarding the proposed acquisition of that system Canadian lines. He pointed out the difficulties which beset such an undertaking as part of the system in the United States.

Speaking of the Grand Trunk Pacific, Sir Robert said that he regarded it as inevitable that, for many reasons the road should be taken over by the federal government. "It is a national enterprise, to which the credit of the Canadian people has been committed and, in my judgement, it is expedient to maintain it, and not permit it to go into liquidation," he said. "It is intimately connected with the Grand Trunk system in the east. The Canadian Northern branch lines in the west can, in many instances, be informed, be made available as feeders for the Grand Trunk Pacific as well as the Canadian Northern lines and this without any great expenditure."

Inability of G. T. R.

Sir Robert stated that the road paid more than operating expenses, although in the past eight or twelve months it had rather exceeded anticipations in the returns which it has made. He said that it was utterly impossible for the Grand Trunk Railway to meet the obligations which it had undertaken in respect of the Grand Trunk Pacific.

"I think, therefore, it is absolutely inevitable that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway must be acquired," Sir Robert continued. "As to the terms of its acquisition, I can only say that the Grand Trunk would not doubt be willing to hand it over to us today if we would relieve the Grand Trunk Railway from all its obligations in respect of the Grand Trunk Pacific."

"Now it seems" Sir Robert went on, "that, if we take over the Grand Trunk Pacific, that practically involves the taking over of the Grand Trunk Railway as well and I am of others, that the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern, both in the west, if acquired by the government, would lack eastern connections and the Canadian Pacific Railway would dominate the whole situation."

G. T. Not Prosperous.

Sir Robert said that the present condition of the Grand Trunk was not prosperous, for many reasons, but he believed that it would have reasonable prospects for the future if amalgamated with the C. N. R. and the G. T. P.

"It is very easy to say that the country ought to acquire the Grand Trunk Railway," said Sir Robert, "but when it comes down to the practical proposal of how you are going to acquire it, the problem is not so easy. Of course, we may take advantage of a situation which, to some extent, has developed out of the disturbed conditions of the world, and say to the management of the Grand Trunk Railway: 'We have you in our power in certain respects, and you must do precisely what we insist on,' but on the other hand, we must remember, not only in this connection but in many other connections that Canada is a country, which for years to come, will require to borrow large amounts of capital from other countries, and, if the federal"

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STEAMER ETHIE IS ASHORE AT MISTAKEN PT.

Halifax, May 15.—The steamer Ethie, owned by the Reid Newfoundland Steamship Company, ran ashore at Mistaken Point, Nfld., in a thick fog last evening, according to a message from Cape Race received by the marine and fisheries department here today. Mistaken Point is on the Newfoundland coast between Cape Race and St. John's.

The Ethie is a passenger boat, but no particulars are available, whether she had any passengers when she stranded.

The Ethie, a steel vessel of 441 tons gross, conducts a passenger, mail and freight service between St. John's and ports in Placentia Bay, Nfld. It is not known here in which direction the steamer was proceeding when she went ashore.

HEAVY BATTLE NOW BREWING IN FINLAND

Frontier is Reported to be Blocked with Masses of Soldiers.

GERMANS SAY BRITISH ACTIVE IN KOLA BAY

Teutons Frame up Scheme to Bolster their Campaign in Finland.

Stockholm, May 15.—According to the Tidningen, further fighting between the Russians and Finns is in prospect. It reports that the frontier is blocked with masses of troops, and predicts a heavy battle.

The German newspapers recently have been publishing accounts of alleged British activities in Kola Bay, on the northern coast of Kola Peninsula, which projects into the Arctic Ocean and the White Sea. According to these reports considerable numbers of soldiers had been landed or were ready to land there and that a number of warships were lying in the harbor.

A German Scheme.

Suspicion that these reports formed part of a pre-arranged plan for accelerating German opinion in favor of extending Germany's campaign to Finland into Russian Karelia appears to be strengthened by an article in the German military publication Deutsches Offiziersblatt, which endeavors to show that the British policy is the natural consequence of what the newspaper terms Great Britain's failure to obtain a footing in the Baltic Sea.

The newspaper declares that the British had hoped to get control of all Russian commerce in the Baltic, but that the plan was shattered by the German occupation of the Aland Islands and of Finnish ports.

"If Kola Bay passes into the possession of the English," says the Offiziersblatt, "England can quickly establish fortifications and a strong naval base. It is important for Germany, Finland and Sweden that the English plans be brought to naught."

ST. JOHN JUNK BUYER WINS CHATHAM CASE

Was Charged with Purchasing Stolen Brass—L. P. D. Tiley and George McDade for Defendant.

Special to The Standard. Chatham, May 15.—L. Jacobson, a St. John junk buyer, who has been under \$500 bail for purchasing brass from E. Rubin and which was supposed to have been stolen from the Dominion Pulp Co., was today found guilty in the police court. L. P. D. Tiley of St. John and George M. McDade appeared for the defendant.

TRACTORS AT COST

Ottawa, May 15.—The Canada Food Board has completed arrangements with the Henry Ford and Sons Co., Inc., to continue to furnish tractors at cost for the use of Canadian farmers. Farmers who wish to secure tractors should place their order with their provincial department of agriculture and until further notice such orders will be handled in the same way as formerly.

ARMY STOPS TO VIEW AN AIR BATTLE

Most Spirited Fighting by Birdmen Seen Yesterday Near Montdidier

SAUSAGE BALLOONS SHELL EACH OTHER

French and German Planes Fight Continuously, Army Watching.

THRILLING BATTLE BECOMES GENERAL

Two Machines Fight Duel, Both Bursting Into Horrible but Glorious Flame.

(Special Cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard.)

With American Forces in Picardy, May 15.—All the interest of this front today is centered in the air. From the moment the sun rose into an almost cloudless sky, the artillery, infantry and every other fighting unit suspended operations to watch the most spirited air battles ever seen in the Montdidier sector. At daybreak two long lines of sausage balloons ascended slowly and then hung lazily in the air. One line was plainly distinct behind the curve of the Montdidier salient.

Far off in the distance hung another line of the ever watchful enemy bags, describing the same general curve. These two hostile lines of balloons were watching every move on the road, every wisp of smoke from the big guns. The result was that there was little traffic and practically no shelling.

Real Air War.

What took place above, over, under, between and around the sausage balloons was air war as it was prophesied long ago. French and German planes were fighting continuously. The usual rattle of guns and shells on the ground where all was now quiet, was replaced by the almost continuous dull boom made by the anti-aircraft shells, which exploded around the machines of both nations. The white puffs from the French Archies and the black ones that came from the German planes made it possible for those on the ground to identify the nationality of the machines far above them. Occasionally could be heard the tat, tat, tat of the machine guns in the heavens which was the signal that a battle was on. As the sun rose this battling between the machines became general.

At one time I saw over fifty aeroplanes circling, manoeuvring, and twisting in a melee. Machine guns would pop as a single gun as groups of planes on one side and the other would pick out a single enemy and dive in his direction. The Archies coughed continuously, their white and black smoke balls hanging against the blue background for several minutes before dissipating in thin air. Suddenly out of the general battle royal two machines separated and fought it out alone. The enemy machine was the first to plunge earthward, leaving a trail of smoke as it fell. As it burst into horrible but glorious flames, the French machine following close behind was also seen to be in flames.

Incendiary Bullets.

They fell together, first as two flaming torches and then as two black smoke streaks, marking the sky like two crayons, from the heavens to the earth. Up above the big battle continued, it was plain to be seen from the earth that the Germans were using incendiary bullets. In breathless silence those on the ground watched one after another of the planes first on one side and then on the other, suddenly point straight towards the earth and dive for the tail of another machine. As the battle raged on above an almost uncanny silence reigned below, the correspondent hurried from the vicinity of the first line from which Cantin, a mass of ruins from allied gunfire, is in plain view, to the Courrier Station in the rear where messages are filed for America.

TWENTY-FIVE YEAR ALLIANCE BETWEEN AUSTRIA-GERMANY

Teutons Have Grand Dream of New Empire in Europe and Lay Plans to Merge Military, Political and Economic Interests.

Washington, May 15.—According to a despatch from Switzerland the Berlin newspaper indicates the basis of a new treaty of alliance agreed upon at the recent conference between the German and Austrian empires contemplates fixing twenty-five years as the period for the duration of the alliance, the imposition of stricter military obligations upon each nation and the regulation of economic relations so as to realize the mittel europa plan. The same message says advice from Vienna are to the effect that no formal treaty was signed because the moment did not seem opportune, but that nevertheless, the direction and basis of the new treaty were definitely fixed and that the Daily remains to frame the different clauses.

Berlin Statement.

Amsterdam, May 15.—An official despatch from Berlin today says that the political and military arrangements of the alliance between Germany and Austria have been fixed, the political, military and economic negotiations will doubtless begin shortly. It is obvious, adds the despatch, that the political and military arrangements can be carried through faster than the economic, which will probably take several months to complete.

North of Kemmel, where the Germans on Tuesday gained a footing on Hill 44, one of the bloodiest sectors on the western front, the last vantage points have been taken through the persistent counter-attacks of the French who succeeded in expelling the enemy from the shell holes along the slopes to which he had been tenaciously holding. Not alone were the Germans forced to recede, but the French advanced their line and also took prisoners.

French Take Bite.

Likewise south of Hailles, in the Amlens region, the French have taken another bite into the German line and successfully warded off a German counter-attack launched in an endeavor to recapture the lost ground. The Germans in these manoeuvres suffered heavy casualties and also lost men and prisoners. Throughout Wednesday, the British were left severely alone by the German infantry.

Although the enemy is keeping his infantry to their trenches, he continues to use his artillery vigorously against salient positions held by the British and French all along the front, especially against Field Marshal Haig's forces south of Albert and against the French north of Kemmel. The French curbs in the battlefront between Montdidier and Noyon also have been under an intensive fire from the German guns.

Teutons Make Up.

The meeting between the German and Austrian empires at German grand headquarters, seemingly has been productive of a strengthening of the relations between Germany and the Dual Monarchy which it had been reported unofficially, were somewhat strained. After parting, Emperor William and Emperor Charles exchanged messages of fellowship over the accord arrived at in their discussions and expressive of deep mutual friendship. It is asserted that the emperors not only reached an agreement on the solution of the question of eastern border states but that they also selected monarchs for Lithuania, Courland, Estonia, and Poland.

PECULIAR COINCIDENCE IN CASUALTY LIST

Moncton Men Worked Together, Enlisted Together on Same Day, Fought Together and Hit by Boches About the Same Time.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, May 15.—A peculiar coincidence occurs in connection with reports received by friends here today of Pte. Charles L. Best, son of James Best, being killed in action and Corp. Hale Weldon, son of John C. Weldon, wounded. Both soldiers worked together and enlisted the same day in Col. Fowler's 104th, with which they went overseas. In England they were both transferred to the same unit, went to France together and they were reported casualties on the same day.

GERMANS DO NOT RENEW OFFENSIVE

Nowhere Have the Infantry Operations on Any Front Been Important.

FRENCH DO GOOD WORK AT HILL 44

They Also Take Another Bite in German Line in Amlens Sector.

THE ENEMY SUFFERS SOME HEAVY LOSSES

Heavy German Artillery Fire Directed on the Canadian Lines.

Still another day has passed without the Germans renewing their offensive in Flanders or Picardy. Nowhere have the infantry operations on either side on these battlefronts, or for that matter, in any of the numerous theatres of the war, risen in importance above patrol engagements.

North of Kemmel, where the Germans on Tuesday gained a footing on Hill 44, one of the bloodiest sectors on the western front, the last vantage points have been taken through the persistent counter-attacks of the French who succeeded in expelling the enemy from the shell holes along the slopes to which he had been tenaciously holding. Not alone were the Germans forced to recede, but the French advanced their line and also took prisoners.

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GERMANS PLANNED REVOLT AGAINST U. S. A. IN 1916

New York, May 15.—Testimony that in 1916, Germans in the United States were planning to revolt against this country, was given today at the investigation of reports of hidden munitions.

Ivan Norodny, vice-president of the Russian-American Asiatic Corporation, testified that Baron Von Gersdorff, a friend of the German Crown Prince, told him that German societies in the United States would be equipped with arms from Germany to combine with I. W. W. and Socialists against the government.

Norodny described a trip to a New Jersey storehouse with Capt. Tauscher and other Germans. He said they inspected rifles which the Germans were trying to sell him to enable Russian revolutionists to overthrow the autocracy and make a separate peace.

VAST NUMBER OF PRISONERS TO BE FREED

Britain Likely to Make an Important Agreement with Germany.

FRANCE MAKES PACT EXCHANGING 430,000

Agreement at this Time Will Not be Bad Bargain for Britain.

London, May 15. (Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—In the House of Lords today, Lord Burnham asked that steps should be taken for the exchange of British non-commissioned officers and men captured in 1914-15, especially in view of the fact that France and Germany had agreed to the exchange of war prisoners of over 18 months' standing.

Lord Newton replying said that the government's deliberate policy hitherto had been to refuse to exchange able-bodied combatants because the more they exchanged prisoners, the more they prolonged the war. The government thought that if such an exchange were agreed upon it would lead to the other allied governments doing the same, with the result that there would be an enormous exchange, as exemplified between Russia and Germany.

British Surprised.

As the French government had adopted the British policy it was a surprise to find that a Franco-German agreement of very far-reaching character had been ratified. He believed that the agreement involved civilian and military prisoners, numbering altogether 430,000 on both sides. The whole situation was thereby altered and he therefore was authorized to state that the government was prepared to reconsider the question of exchange. If an Anglo-German agreement was reached, for the exchange of all combatants and civilians taken into captivity during the first three years of the war it would not be a bad bargain for us, because the numbers were approximately equal.

GREAT FOREST FIRE IN HANTS CO., N. S.

Fifty Soldiers Leave Windsor to Save West Gore Village—Fox Farm Burned.

Windsor, N. S., May 15.—A forest fire is raging on the Midland Railway between West Gore and Clarksville. Fifty soldiers from the depot here have gone to help save West Gore, a prosperous village surrounding the antimony mine. A black fox farm has been destroyed.

SIR THOMAS HOME

Ottawa, May 15.—Having concluded his work at Washington for the present, Sir Thomas White left New York this evening for Toronto. It is understood that the minister expects to be in Ottawa early next week.

DID NOT WORK BUT PAID BY GOVERNMENT

Foster Administration Friends Earn Money Easily in Gloucester County.

INVESTIGATION AT SHIPPEGAN BEGINS

Charges were Preferred by Hon. B. Frank Smith, M. L. A. of Carleton.

NUMBER OF BOYS ON THE PAY ROLL

Government Pays Some Men for Harvesting Supervisor's Hay and Grain.

Special to The Standard.

Shippegan, May 15.—The investigation into allegations of misappropriation of money in connection with Gloucester County road work opened here today before Hon. P. J. Veniot, Minister of Public Works, who held his own enquiry.

A large number of witnesses were examined and it was established that a number of men whose names appear on the payroll on the Shippegan Barron road never worked at all. Among these was Louis Degraze who, it was shown by the evidence, had been fishing all summer. Louis Jules Robichaud, when placed on the stand frankly admitted that he had done no work, yet he received a cheque for \$69.75 for twenty-three and one-quarter days in August, a cheque for \$60 for 20 days in September, and \$16.50 for 5 and one-half days in October. In the case of Louis Degraze it was shown that he drew \$63 for 21 days in July, and in August \$78 and never was on the work.

Boys on Payroll.

A number of boys whose names appear on the payroll were in court and were interrogated as to their ages. They were good looking children and ranged from seven to 11 years of age. It was also shown that two of the men on the payroll harvested the supervisor's hay and grain and were paid out of the province fund for their time. An interesting point was that the cheques which came in payment for gasoline to Alphonse Robichaud were transferred to his brother, John G. Robichaud, M. L. A., who had supplied the gasoline. Trunks working on the highway were used to haul earth from the highway into the yard of John G. Robichaud, M. L. A., and of Pat Robichaud, his brother. The investigation is revealing all and more than was expected and is creating quite a sensation in Gloucester County.

The allegations upon which the investigation is based were submitted by Hon. B. F. Smith before the Public Accounts Committee at the last session of the legislature. As they affected the department of Hon. P. J. Veniot that gentleman promised an enquiry under oath.

Hon. B. F. Smith is in attendance with E. B. Hanson, Mayor of Fredericton as counsel. Miss McCarthy of Fredericton is here as stenographer.

MONTREAL LIKE FRANCE IN THE 17TH CENTURY

Striking Example of National Idiosyncrasies Can be Found in French Canada, Says Lord Reay.

London, May 15. (Via Reuter's Agency)—Presiding at the annual meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society in London, Lord Reay said British culture had not sought to impose itself upon other people but to further the national ideals and aspirations of peoples with whom it came into contact. No more striking example of British respect for national idiosyncrasies could be found than in French Canada. The Frenchman who wished to study his past history had to go to Canada to find out what France was like in the seventeenth century. He could find it in Montreal.