

YPRES WHERE ONE GREAT BATTLE WAS FOUGHT AGAIN SCENE OF BIG STRUGGLE

Another Great Battle Begun In Flanders, but Reports of the Results Are Contradictory

Latest News of Activities on Land and Sea Indicate Allies Have Begun Spring Attack—Allies Land Troops at Turkish Port of Enos—French on Offensive in Woevre.

ITALY TO STAY OUT, AFTER ALL?

Bulletin—Rome, via London, April 24, (3.42 a. m.)—It is stated in high official quarters here that it is becoming increasingly improbable that Italy will participate in the war, at least for some time to come.

London, April 23—With a big battle developing near Ypres, in Flanders, and reports of a prospective naval engagement in the North Sea and of preparations advancing for the commencement of a combined naval and military attack on the Dardanelles or some other vital spot in Turkey, the people of Europe are highly expectant.

Of these three anticipated events only one has actually reached fulfillment—the battle near Ypres. That a severe engagement has taken place in this part of Flanders is confirmed by the official reports, but these are so contradictory in their claims that the actual result of the preliminary fighting is not known.

To those outside the war offices of the belligerent nations it would appear, however, that following their loss of Hill No. 60 and their failure after repeated attempts, to re-capture it, the Germans have commenced an offensive from the northeast against the Anglo-French line in front of Ypres, which was the scene of such bloody battles last autumn, and also against the Belgian line farther west.

The Germans claim that, with a rush, they drove the Allies back to the Ypres Canal, taking 1,600 British and French prisoners, and a number of guns. The French account admits that the Allies had to fall back, but it states that this was due to the use by the Germans of asphyxiating gas bombs. Paris asserts that its counter-attacks the Allies took many German prisoners and that the Belgians repulsed attacks launched against them. It is believed here that these operations are but the commencement of another battle of Ypres.

Another despatch received from Holland tonight gives a rumor that the Germans are about to fall back to the Liege line in order to have troops ready for possible use against Italy should Italy join the allies, it is considered more likely in military circles here that the Germans will give battle where they are, preferring to be the first to attack, having learned from recent experiences that it is difficult to hold the strongest positions when an extremely heavy cannonade is directed against them.

Fighting continues in the Woevre and here also, both the French and

Germans claim successes. The French in this region seemingly are still on the offensive and apparently determined to attempt further to squeeze the German wedge which has its apex at St. Mihiel.

Activities on Sea.

The prediction of a naval battle in the North Sea, which is based on reports from Scandinavia of activity by the warships, the prohibition of shipping between England and Holland by the British Admiralty and the announcement from the German admiralty that the German high seas fleet has several times lately been out in the North Sea without encountering British ships, are incidents of the war that are calling forth much discussion. The only news from the Aegean Sea comes from Athens and the Greek islands. It is to the effect that firing is heard at times in the vicinity of the Dardanelles and Smyrna and also in the Gulf of Saros, where it is declared the Allies have made a landing in the vicinity of the Turkish port of Enos.

There have been reports of Zeppelin airships making their appearance along the northeast coast of England, but these reports lack confirmation. No bombs have been dropped on the coast towns, and it is thought probable that if Zeppelins have again been along the North Sea coast, it was for the purpose of reconnoitering for the German fleet.

Not Convinced German Submarine Did It.

London, April 24.—The Christiana correspondent of Reuters Telegram Company says that the German government has replied to Norway that the evidence submitted by the Norwegian government fails to convince Germany that the steamer Belridge, the first Norwegian ship to be damaged in the war zone around the British Isles, was torpedoed by a German submarine. Germany states, however, that should further investigation prove that it was a German torpedo, the German government will be ready to express its regret, or if the two governments fail to agree on the subject, Germany is willing to submit the case to a commission of inquiry, under the rules of The Hague convention, as it has never been the intention of the German fleet to attack Norwegian merchantmen.

The last report received from the Orcoma was to the effect that she had arrived in Liverpool, February 16, from Valparaiso. It is possible that since then she has been armed and sent back to South American waters.

MAY REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH SWITZERLAND

Swiss Importers of Cotton Inconvenienced by Blockade Ask Washington to Try to Have Inconveniences Removed.

Washington, April 23.—An effort to relieve the importers of American cotton and other non-contraband commodities in Switzerland from the rigors of the blockade maintained by the Allies has been undertaken by the Washington government, Secretary Bryan announced today, in response to the recent note presented here by the Swiss minister.

The Swiss note, it is understood, has been forwarded to London and Rome, and the American ambassador there instructed to present to the British and Italian governments the situation in which the Swiss importers find themselves with non-contraband imports held up on all sides. The situation has been complicated by the Italian embargo on re-shipment of cotton and other commodities received in Italian ports. Cotton shipped to Switzerland through Italian ports has been stopped there, on the ground that the Italian government could not guarantee that such shipments, if allowed to leave its jurisdiction, might eventually reach Germany or Austria.

An arrangement is said already to have been discussed by the Allies with the Swiss government under which cotton shipments to that country could pass freely.

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British Ambassador here, talked over the situation with Counselor Lansing today at the State Department. Later he said the Allies had no desire to impede cotton shipments to Switzerland, provided they were assured it would not reach Germany or Austria. An agreement similar to that reached with Holland, under which a government-controlled agency would become consignee for the shipments and guarantee that they would not be re-exported, probably would be the solution of the difficulty, the Ambassador thought.

BRITISH STEAMER SINKS A GERMAN

Lima, Peru, April 23.—A despatch to La Prensa tonight states that the British steamer Orcoma has sunk a German merchant steamship near Bayovar. It is also stated that the British cruisers Kent and Orama have received coal from the British steamer Eggesford at the port of Bayovar.

MONTREAL BEGINNING TO EXPERIENCE JOYS OF MOVING TIME

Montreal, April 23.—Montreal is now in its annual throes of furniture moving, and thousands of house-renters are either fitting or preparing to fit next week, the usual May Day "orgy" of moving having already begun. The Bell Telephone Company furnishes some idea of the extent of the moving operations this coming May 1st, by stating that five thousand orders for change of telephone are already in, and fully nine thousand are expected by the end of this month. The orders now in are between 500 and 600 in excess of those for the corresponding period last year. It is the harvest time of the moving vans.

REFORM OR BE REFORMED



CANADA: "I'LL SEE THAT YOU DON'T MAKE ME APPEAR LIKE A CHEAP SKATE AGAIN, OLD FELLOW."

Field Marshal French Confirms Reports That Germans Are Using Asphyxiating Gas Against Allies

London, April 23 (M.15 p.m.)—Field Marshal Sir John French, commander-in-chief of the British forces in France and Belgium, communicated the following under today's date:

"Yesterday evening the enemy developed an attack on the French troops on our left in the neighborhood of Bixchoote and Langemarck, on the north of the Ypres salient.

"This attack was preceded by a heavy bombardment, the enemy at the same time making use of a large number of appliances for the production of asphyxiating gas. The quantity produced indicates long and deliberate preparation for the employment of devices, contrary to the terms of The Hague convention, to which the enemy subscribed.

"The false statement made by the Germans a week ago, to the effect that we were using such gases, is now explained. It obviously was an effort to diminish neutral criticism in advance.

"During the night the French had to retire from the gas zone, overwhelmed by the fumes. They have fallen back to the canal in the neighborhood of Beesinghe. Our front remains intact, except on the extreme left, where the troops have had to re-adjust their line in order to conform with the new French line.

"Two attacks, delivered during the night on our trenches east of Ypres, were repulsed. Fighting continues in the region north of Ypres.

"This morning one of our aviators, during a reconnaissance which he completed successfully, damaged a German aeroplane and forced it to descend. Our flying corps has brought down another German machine near Messines."

BARS OPEN LATER AND CLOSE EARLIER UNDER NEW LAW

Bill to Amend Liquor License Act Passed by Legislature—Bars Open at 8 a. m. Daily; Close at 8 p. m., Except on Saturday When 4 p. m. is Closing Hour—Most Advanced Temperance Legislation in Dominion.

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, April 23.—With amendments to the Liquor License Act all passed the legislature this afternoon adjourned until Tuesday evening when the members will return to Fredericton, put through the remaining legislation and reach prorogation by Thursday night or Friday, in the meantime all remaining legislation will be made ready and there will be a steady stream of work for the House to go along with so that there will be no delays. But on the other hand there will be no rushing of important legislation through the House.

The bill to consolidate and amend the general mining act will be withdrawn and stood over for another year. The amendments to the Liquor License act so far as they affect the curtailment of hours and prohibiting selling or supplying of liquor to soldiers during the war are exactly as forecasted in The Standard, and how they work out in preventing soldiers and officers from obtaining liquor in St. John for instance may give a pretty good idea of how effective prohibition would be.

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GR. BRITAIN INVITES AN INSPECTION

Of Camp Where German Submarine Crews are Held Prisoners, If Germany Will Submit to Similar Inspection.

Berlin, via London, April 23.—The Foreign Office has received through James W. Gerard, the American Ambassador, a note from Great Britain regarding the treatment of the members of German submarine crews held prisoners in Great Britain. The note offers to permit American officials to visit these prisoners, but only after a similar visit has been made to investigate the treatment of the British officers confined in Germany in retaliation for the imprisonment of the submarine crews by Great Britain.

GAVE ORDERS TO REFUSE STANDARD OIL MONEY FOR CAMPAIGN FUND

Roosevelt Tells Court Campaign Fund Should Not Go Beyond Certain Limit.

Syracuse, N. Y., April 23.—Theodore Roosevelt was further cross-examined today in the suit for libel brought against him by William Barnes, leader of the Republican party in New York. The cross-examination had not been completed at adjournment and will be continued on Monday, to which date the case went over.

The Colonel told about his dealings with the "Bosses," his personal relations with William Barnes, and his ideas about campaign funds of millions of dollars. He mentioned the famous half a million dollars Thomas Fortune Ryan contributed to the cause of Alton B. Parker, Democratic presidential candidate, and swore he never had seen a list of the names of the persons who helped to swell the fund of \$3,000,000 used in connection with his own campaign for the presidency.

In speaking of the Ryan contribution, the witness gave it as his opinion that a leader of big business who contributed a half million dollars to help elect a candidate for president of the United States is prompted by the same spirit which would cause him to donate a similar sum to a church, and that such a contributor has no more hope of reward in one case than he has in the other.

The Colonel mentioned the Standard Oil Company and campaign contributions, too. He said that if the report of the congressional committee which investigated his campaign contributions showed that "H. H. R." and "J. D. A."—which the witness thought stood for H. H. Rogers and John D. Archbold—had contributed to the Republican fund in 1904—he was astonished. He said he had given explicit instructions against receiving any Standard Oil contributions.

Should Limit Amount of Fund. Personally, he expressed the belief that there was a limit to the amount a campaign fund should total. Over a certain sum, he did not know how much he thought that there might be some danger.

Col. Roosevelt said he regarded William Barnes as a "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," who, like other politicians, had his "good and his bad sides." He said he had been persistent in his efforts to make politicians do what was right and that instead of endeavoring to sever the ligaments between these "Shameless Twins of Politics," his aim had always been to have the "Dr. Jekyll" in them absorb the "Mr. Hyde."

There will be no session of court tomorrow, but Col. Roosevelt will resume the stand Monday.

Halifax, N. S., April 23.—There are no new developments in the proposed strike of the employees of the Intercolonial Railway. A. R. Mosher, president of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees, is now in the city and tonight said that they were at present merely waiting. It is understood that Mr. Mosher has received a letter from the Minister of Labor relative to the matter, and will probably make a reply tomorrow.

NEW RULE IN CONNECTION WITH CANTEENS IN MILITARY CAMPS

Henceforth Canteen Privileges Will Not be Granted to Outsiders, but Regiments Will Run Canteens Themselves.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, April 23.—The old canteen system in connection with military camps in Canada has been abolished by General Hughes, but there will still be canteens.

What is meant by the change is that henceforward no outside persons will be allowed the privilege of running canteens for the convenience of the soldiers, but the regiments will establish and run their own canteens. Any profits that accrue therefore will not go to outside parties but will go to the regiments and undue charges will be eliminated.

In accordance with General Hughes' practice since he became Minister of Militia no intoxicating liquors will be allowed in the canteens or in fact in the camps at all.

The new order abolishing the old canteen system applies generally throughout Canada.

FOR PROHIBITION IN SASKATCHEWAN

Vanguard, Sask., April 23.—That the government of Saskatchewan would carry through its new temperance policy, or go down to defeat in the attempt, was the declaration made by Premier Scott at a public meeting held here tonight, at which the speakers were Hon. Mr. Scott, R. M. Moore, M. L. A., and Rev. Mr. Leitch, M. L. A.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR CANADIAN SOLDIERS

London, April 23, (Gazette Cable)—Mrs. Trumbull Warren and Mrs. Clifford Darling, both of Toronto, for whose husbands a joint memorial service was held today, call together to morrow with the remains of Captain Darling.