

# Austria Asks Peace

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FAIR AND COOL

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### WHAT COMMISSIONER FRIEL SAYS OF THE CONDUCT OF HON. WILLIAM CURRIE:

"I have to report that the Continental Lumber Company, through a dishonest scaler, defrauded the province of a substantial sum for stumpage for the season of 1916-17, and that Honorable Mr. Currie, a member of the House of Assembly, knew what was going on and his action, or rather, want of action in the premises, is to be regretted."—Extract from Commissioner Friel's report on the Currie case.

### THE CHEQUE WITH WHICH HON. WILLIAM CURRIE PAID THE FRAUDULENT STUMPAGE BILL



"Mr. Currie did not enquire whether the bill was right or wrong. He could not help knowing that the bill was fraudulent and their cut that year was greatly in excess of what they were billed with. Mr. Currie does not say that he did not know. He says that it was not his business. It surely was his business. He was elected to look after the interests of the province."—Extract from Commissioner Friel's report on the Currie case.

### COMMISSIONER FRIEL FINDS THAT CURRIE'S COMPANY DEFRAUDED THE PROVINCE WITH CURRIE'S KNOWLEDGE AND THAT SPEAKER OF LEGISLATURE MADE NO EFFORT TO STOP IT

**The "It Was Not My Job" Defence of Accused Man Completely Shattered in Able Judgment—Although Testimony of Murchie Was Not Credited By Commissioner Plenty of Evidence Was Found To Establish Wrongdoing and With Currie's Knowledge.**

**Exhaustive Decision That Thoroughly Covers Every Phase of Enquiry Into Charge of Evading Payment of Stumpage By Continental Lumber Company, of Which Hon. William Currie Is Manager—The End of An Interesting Case Which Attracted Much Attention Throughout the Province.**

Commissioner James Friel's report on the investigation conducted by him into charges preferred against Hon. William Currie, Speaker of the New Brunswick Legislature, was forwarded to the Provincial Government a few days ago and considered by them at their meeting in Fredericton this week.

The Commissioner finds that while the evidence of Archibald Murchie, the dishonest lumber scaler, is not to be believed, there is evidence to establish that the Continental Lumber Company, of which Mr. Currie is manager, paid stumpage upon a smaller amount of lumber than they cut in 1916-17 and therefore the province was defrauded. He also finds that Mr. Currie knew that this fraud was being perpetrated, yet made no attempt to stop it. This action, or lack of action, the Commissioner says is to be regretted.

The charges which formed the subject of the investigation were laid in the House of Assembly by Hon. J. B. M. Baxter during the last session. They were based upon an affidavit of Archibald Murchie. Mr. James R. Friel, K. C., of Moncton, was appointed a Royal Commissioner to investigate them and sessions were held during the summer at Campbellton, Fredericton and Moncton.

Hon. J. B. M. Baxter appeared in person in support of the charges, while Arthur T. LeBlanc, Mr. Currie's colleague in the representation of Westchester county, appeared for the defence. Mr. A. S. Copp, M. P., acted for the government of the province.

The full text of Commissioner Friel's report is as follows: (Continued on Page Three)

#### GUCHKOFF SLAIN

London, October 4.—Alexander J. Guchkoff, former Russian minister of war, and leader of the Octoberist Party, has been murdered by robbers. This information was received today by the Central News in a despatch from Amsterdam quoting Moscow news.

#### GREEKS TAKE CITY

Athens, Oct. 4.—Greek troops this morning occupied Seres on the evacuation by the Bulgarians. The population had been reduced from 25,000 to 5,000. The Bulgarians, in violation of their agreement, removed all grain and cattle.

### FIFTY DROWNED OFF N. S. COAST

**American Steamer Herman Frasch Sunk in Collision With Steamer George C. Henry—118 Lost on U. S. Naval Patrol Boat Tampa.**

The American steamer Herman Frasch, a cargo carrier of 2,381 tons and manned by a United States navy crew and in the overseas supply service, has been sunk in collision at sea with a loss of over fifty of her crew.

The vessel collided at night with the American tank steamer George C. Henry, about 150 miles southeast of the Nova Scotia coast and went down in seven minutes. She carried a crew of about nineteen officers and seventy-six men and survivors reported number only forty-one.

The Henry, with a hole stove in her bow above the waterline, picked up the survivors and stood by all night hunting for others. When daylight came she abandoned the search and resumed her voyage.

There were few details in a brief despatch upon which the United States navy department yesterday based an announcement of the disaster and the date was not given.

Total of 118 Lost. No Survivors.

Washington, Oct. 4.—Loss of the naval patrol boat Tampa, formerly the coast guard cutter Miami, with all on board—118 men—is announced by the Navy Department. The vessel was sunk on the night of September 26th in the British Channel, off the coast of England, and Vice-Admiral Sims' report indicated that she was torpedoed while escorting a convoy.

Greatest Naval Loss.

Through the sinking of the Tampa the navy suffered its greatest single blow of the war. Ten officers and 108 enlisted men, most of them taken over from the coast guard service when the Tampa was sent to the war zone, many months ago, were aboard and in addition it was reported that one British army officer and five civilian employees were on the vessel.

Incomplete List Cabled.

Captain Charles Satterlee, formerly of the Coast Guard Service, was the commander of the Tampa. His name and those of six other officers and 99 men have been cabled to the navy department by Admiral Sims as included among those missing from the Tampa. About twenty were from New England.

### HUNDRED DEAD IN EXPLOSION!

**Fearful Disaster in Great Shell Plant at Morgan, N. J., Where 6,000 Employees Employed.**

Perth Amboy, N. J., Oct. 4.—The great shell loading plant of T. A. Gillette at Morgan, N. J., one of the largest plants of its kind in the United States, is in flames following a series of terrific explosions. About six thousand persons, many of them women, are employed in the works, which covers several thousand acres. Doctors who have returned from Morgan with patients express the belief that at least 100 persons have been killed. Many injured are being brought here.

### MOURNED AS DEAD BUT HOME AGAIN

**Albert V. Haley Back in Chatham—Had Been on Little Vacation in Germany—Lost Leg at Hill 70.**

Special to The Standard.

Chatham, Oct. 4.—Albert V. Haley, several months ago reported wounded, then dead, and finally prisoner of war, has arrived home from eight months' confinement as German prisoner of war.

He is the first Chatham man to return from a German prison. He had been severely wounded at Hill 70 by which he lost the left leg from the knee. This is the second son of Mr. and Mrs. John V. Haley to return wounded, another brother, John having returned a year ago to a day from France. A sister is a nurse in the United States army.

### COL. CHAS. CAMERON KILLED IN ACTION

Halifax, Oct. 4.—Official word has reached Halifax that Col. Charles Stewart, officer commanding the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, was killed in action Sept. 28. Col. Stewart was a son of the late Col. C. J. Stewart, a well known resident of Halifax. Mrs. W. B. A. Ritchie of this city is a sister. Her husband and father died within the past year.

Charlottetown, Oct. 4.—Rev. W. M. Rochester, attending the Presbyterian synod here, received word that his son, Lieut. Harvey Rochester, had died of wounds in France. Serjt. Major Ernest Rochester, another son, was killed at Passchendaele. Another son, Herbert, is suffering from injuries sustained at an aviation camp.

Marysville, Oct. 4.—Private H. Wallace Cameron of Marysville has been killed in action. He was a son of John S. Cameron.

### ATTACK SOON ON CONSTANTINOPLE

Saloniki, Oct. 4.—"We will soon direct our blow at Constantinople and the vanquished Turk will be thrown once and for all into Asia," declared General Franchet D'Esperey, the Allied commander-in-chief on the Macedonian front, in replying to a demonstration today.

The Allied commander said that the beginning now made would be continued.

The carrying out of the clauses of the armistice between Bulgaria and the Allies began Wednesday.

Premier Venizelos said that the victory just completed by military convention and by which Bulgaria recognized complete defeat, would exercise great influence on the issues of the world war.

**PORTUGAL SHELLED**  
Lisbon, Oct. 4.—Two enemy submarines today shelled the port of Oporto, eighteen miles south of Lisbon. The shore guns immediately replied, whereupon the submarines fled.

### VIENNA DESIRES A PEACE CONFERENCE

**Austria-Hungary Requests Holland To Invite the Belligerents To Take Part in Peace Negotiations—Conference at Vienna.**

**German Government Now Sees the Future in Such a Light That It Realizes the Necessity For Peace.**

Amsterdam, Oct. 4.—Austria-Hungary has requested Holland to invite the belligerents to take part in peace negotiations, says the Vienna correspondent of the Berlin Tageblatt. The correspondent adds that Holland already has sent out the invitations.

A delegation of Hungarian statesmen, headed by Premier Wekerle, has arrived at Vienna in connection with a new peace move, according to the Cologne Gazette. The other members of the Wekerle party were Count Stephen Tisza and Count Julius and Rassy, former premiers of Hungary, and Count Albert Appony, the Hungarian minister of instruction.

A new and decisive step will be taken on the initiative of Baron Burian, the Hungarian foreign minister, the newspaper said.

Regarding the negotiations at Vienna, Premier Wekerle said to the representative of a Hungarian newspaper: "This much I can tell you—we are again laboring untiringly in the interests of peace, and we are already negotiating."

(Continued on page 2)

### CANADIANS SUFFER SEVERELY IN FIERCE CAMBRAI BATTLE

**Despite Most Superhuman Efforts of Canadians and English Germans Still Hold City—Haig Makes Good Progress Elsewhere.**

By Arthur S. Draper.

(Special Cable to the N. Y. Tribune, and the St. John Standard.)

London, Oct. 4.—The blows in Flanders and at Cambrai have borne quick results. The enemy is in the midst of a retirement from the Lille salient, Lens, La Bassée and Arras, with the wonderful defenses by which they were joined having already been evacuated. Where the Germans intend to make a stand it is difficult to say, but in any case, Haig's troops have won a very great success and only part of the reward has thus far been reported.

The enemy may hope to retain Lille and the positions directly north and west of it. The result is continuing, the enemy's rear guard being harassed by the British patrols. West of Lille, a city of 200,000, runs the Auber Ridge, and the Lille-Donal Canal, both of which lend themselves to defence, but the enemy's occupation of Lille now is certain to terminate soon.

Cost Many Lives.  
The coal fields of the Lens district are again in the hands of the French. The sector which the enemy was forced to quit was the strongest fortified stretch in Northern France, and the scene of some of the bitterest fighting of the war. Here the French and British in other years sacrificed thousands of lives in vain efforts to take Lille. Both Lord French and Haig tried unsuccessfully to breach the German defences, which now have been taken without a fight.

Cost Many Lives.

Strategically, Lille is of immense importance to the enemy. Besides being a railway centre, it is the junction of the highways running from Courtrai, Tournai, Valenciennes and Douai. It is the key to various defensive systems. However, Ludendorff's job consists now of saving his armies and not holding territory.

Canadians Hard Hit.  
The strain of the unprecedented battle at Cambrai has begun to tell. Despite the almost superhuman efforts of the Canadians and the English to their right, the Germans still hold the city. Buelow has concentrated a great force of men and guns around Cambrai, and much fierce fighting must follow before it falls. The Canadians suffered severely. They had been in their hardest battle and nothing more need be said, when Ypres, Courcellette and Vimy are recalled. But Haig always has another arrow and he is directing it north of St. Quentin. This drive is toward the Valley of the Oise.

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FARMERS BENEFIT

Ottawa, Oct. 4.—The stupendous total of over \$90,000,000 worth of meat and dairy products has been purchased in Canada by the British authorities in the twelve months just ended. All the commodities bought were produced on Canadian farms, and the returns got to the farmers.