

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph

The News

VOL. LIV.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1915

NO. 65.

OVERWHELMED BY GERMAN HORDES, CANADIANS MADE ONE OF THE BRAVEST STANDS IN HISTORY OF WARFARE

WILL CONNAUGHT BALK AT ELECTION?

Ottawa Hears His Royal Highness is Averse to a Dissolution of Parliament, But Tories Claim a Threat of Borden's Resignation Would Force Him to Yield—Date for Contest Fixed for June 28 and Announcement is Likely Any Day Now, Despite Avalanche of Protests Sent to Premier.

(Special to The Telegraph.)
Ottawa, May 3.—With all preparations made for a dissolution of parliament this week, and the election date fixed for June 28, the government tonight is still apparently unable to shove itself over the brink. The royal highness is still showing and the whole fabric is shivering and will probably plunge over tomorrow or Wednesday. All that is now keeping it back is a last minute change of heart on the part of the Duke of Connaught and the fear caused by reports in from prominent Conservatives in all parts of Canada, who put patriotism ahead of mere political expediency of the Rogers' type.
The premier was to have given his consent today, but in authoritative circles it is stated tonight that he has deferred his final word until Robert Rogers is all showing and the whole fabric is shivering and will probably plunge over tomorrow or Wednesday. All that is now keeping it back is a last minute change of heart on the part of the Duke of Connaught and the fear caused by reports in from prominent Conservatives in all parts of Canada, who put patriotism ahead of mere political expediency of the Rogers' type.
The premier was to have given his consent today, but in authoritative circles it is stated tonight that he has deferred his final word until Robert Rogers is all showing and the whole fabric is shivering and will probably plunge over tomorrow or Wednesday. All that is now keeping it back is a last minute change of heart on the part of the Duke of Connaught and the fear caused by reports in from prominent Conservatives in all parts of Canada, who put patriotism ahead of mere political expediency of the Rogers' type.

Tells of American Captain's Death After Germans Had Blown Up His Steamer

Plymouth, Eng., May 4, 1915.—The steamer Lynx was last night brought from the Sicily Islands to Penzance. Three members of the crew and the body of Captain Alfred Gunther of the American steamer Guilfright, which was torpedoed off the Sicily Islands last Saturday. The chief officer and chief engineer remain with the vessel, which is anchored in Crow Sound, to look after the interests of the steamer's owners.
In an interview at Penzance, second officer, Paul Bower, of the Guilfright, whose home is Chicago, said:
"When the Guilfright left Port Arthur we were followed by a warship of definite description, which kept out of sight, but in touch by wireless and warned us not to disclose our position to any one.
At noon Saturday we were 28 miles west of Sicily. The weather was heavy, but not thick. About two and a half miles ahead I saw a submarine. I was on watch and notified the captain and chief officer, who also saw the submarine. It remained on the surface for three minutes and then disappeared.
Twenty-five minutes later we were struck by a torpedo on the starboard side and there was a tremendous shock. The submarine had not reappeared on the surface before discharging the torpedo.
"Previous to this we had been met by two patrol boats, which accompanied us on either side.
The boat on our starboard side was so badly shaken by the explosion that her crew imagined that she had also been torpedoed.
"We immediately lowered the boats and left our ship and were quickly taken on board the patrol boats. But the boat increased and we drifted about all night and did not land at Sicily until 10:30 o'clock Sunday morning.
The Captain's Death.
"At midnight of Saturday, while still on board the patrol boat, Captain Gunther summoned me. I found him in bed and he said he wanted some one to tell his relatives for him, as they were very ill and he was faint. From then until the time of his death, which occurred about 3:30 o'clock Sunday morning, he remained unconscious.
"Captain Gunther's speech was thick and indistinct, but he could distinguish that he wished some one to take care of his wife. The crew had always regarded Captain Gunther as a healthy man, and had never heard him complain."
Second assistant engineer, Crist, of the Guilfright said:
"I was one watch in the engine room when we were torpedoed, and so terrible was the blow that the Guilfright seemed to be lifted high in the air and then to descend rapidly. I told the boys to 'beat it' as quickly as possible and shut the engines down."

THREE BRIGADES OF CANADIAN HEROES HELD FORCE OF 100,000 HUNS

Lacking Reinforcements, and Poisoned by Deadly Gases, They Beat Back Attack After Attack—Two Regiments May Have Been Annihilated—6,000 Fell or Are Missing is Word to Militia Department—Canadians Held Hardest Part of Line and Fought While "Cartridge Remained."

Ottawa, May 3.—How the Canadian forces lacking reinforcements and overwhelmed by German hordes, made one of the bravest stands in history is detailed in a statement this afternoon by the department of militia. It was issued in the light of information from the front, and goes further than the report issued by the official eye-witness. The report that the Canadian casualties aggregate 6,000 is officially confirmed.
Attacked by German forces, which are estimated at least 100,000, and which kept an unceasing fire whose effect was intensified by the deadly fumes of poisonous gases, a plucky band of Canadian heroes, three brigades, bravely stuck to their posts.
Lacking reinforcements for hours, the ranks thinned by the fire of machine guns, they beat back attack after attack. In the terrific fight about 6,000 fell or are missing. Included in the number and exposed to a particularly dangerous fire were the Thirteenth and Fourteenth regiments of Montreal.
Whether they were completely annihilated or only detachments taken, remains to be seen. On that point there is no detailed information.

A STORY OF WONDROUS BRAVERY.

The statement follows:
"Memorandum regarding what may be termed the battle of Langemark, near Ypres, Belgium.
"From a cablegram received, the following is an extract:
"Other units, 2nd to 3rd, 705, wounded, 2,162; missing, 2,536."
"This makes a total of 5,403 and is exclusive of the officers already reported.
"In short, our casualties from the 22nd to the 30th amount to up to 6,000.
"From authentic data, it appears that, on the 22nd, the Canadians held 5,000 yards of trenches near Ypres. They were the extreme left of the British line. Next them were the French troops, and next them, the Belgians. This has always been regarded as being a very hot country—the weakest part of the British line, that is, the most difficult to hold.
"The Canadian position was held by two of the three brigades.
"On the 21st was the 22nd, under Brig-General Currie, made up of the 5th Battalion, Colonel Leckie, from the Plains; the 7th, Colonel Hart Mac-Harg, of Vancouver (B. C.); the 8th, Colonel Lipsett, of Winnipeg; and the 10th, Colonel Bert, of Calgary and Manitoba.
"On their left were the Highlanders Brigade, made up of the 13th (5th Royal) Highlanders of Montreal, Colonel Loomis; the 14th (the Montreal Regiment, made up from the Victoria Rifles, the Grenadier Guards, the 65th and other corps in that city under Colonel Frank Melghan, with Colonel Burland as senior major, the 34th (made up of the 4th Highlanders, of Toronto and the 91st, of Hamilton, including large numbers from the region of Sudbury, North Bay and Halleyburg, under Colonel John Currie, M. P.), and the 16th Canadian Highlanders (made up of the 50th Gordon Highlanders of Victoria (B. C.), the 2nd Seaforth of Vancouver (B. C.), and the 79th Cameron Highlanders of Winnipeg, under command of Colonel Leckie, of Vancouver).
"The 2nd Brigade was under command of Brig-General A. W. Currie, of Victoria (B. C.), and Major Hubert Kemmis-Berry, of the Headquarters Staff, Ottawa, as Brigade-Major. The 3rd of the Highland Brigade was under the command of General R. E. V. Turner, V. C., D. S. O., of Quebec, with Colonel Garnet Hughes, son of the Minister of Militia, as Brigade-Major.
"The 1st Brigade was in reserve some miles to the rear. It was commanded by General Malcolm Mercer, of the Queen's Own Rifles, of Toronto, with Major Ross Hayter, of Halifax, as Brigade-Major. It included the 1st Battalion (made up of Western Ontario, under command of Colonel Hill, of Niagara Falls, with Major Berthier, of London, and Major Welsh, assisting him); the 2nd Battalion (made up of Eastern Ontario, under command of Colonel D. Watson, of the 6th Royal Rifles, of Quebec, with Colonel C. H. Rogers, of Northumberland county, and Colonel Frank A. Howard, of Brantford, assistant); the 3rd Battalion, (under command of Colonel Renne, of Toronto), and the 4th Battalion, (made up of Central Ontario, North Northwest of Toronto, formerly of the Lower Niagara river to the Carpathian Mountains, under command of Colonel Labatt, of Hamilton and Colonel W. S. Boell, of Brooklyn). Owing to Colonel Labatt's illness, Colonel Bicknell, of the permanent staff, was placed in command."

THE SITUATION AT IT WAS.

"The situation on the 22nd therefore appears to have been that the Canadians held the extreme left of the British line, covering a front of 5,000 yards, or about three miles. To their left were the French, and again to the left of the French were the Belgians. It is understood there was a main line of trenches, with a supporting line a short distance to the rear.
"The 1st Brigade, as stated, was some miles to the rear, in reserve. The two other brigades were in the front. Four heavy Canadian guns, it seems, were some two or three miles to the rear of the French lines.
"In the afternoon of the 22nd, following a prolonged and terrific artillery fire, the enemy's trenches being on an average of about 200 yards from the allied lines, and the wind being from the enemy's direction towards the allied line, dense volumes of heavy gas were projected towards the allied line evidently by compression through tubing, and upon reaching the allied trenches were found to be asphyxiating.
"It is generally supposed chlorine was principally used. The fumes seemed to have enveloped all the French front, and part of the Highland Brigade, and in many instances proved immediately deadly, in other cases completely disabling the soldiers, while in others the effect was only temporary. Immediately thereafter the whole German force made up, it is estimated, of upwards of ten divisions, advanced.
"The French and Belgians, over a front of 9,000 yards, or upwards of five miles, gave way—indeed, many of them were completely prostrated and incapable of action. This portion of the line fell back beyond the canal, in some cases a distance of 10,000 yards, or about six miles.
"By the sudden retirement of the French, the heavy Canadian guns in their rear had not time to get away and consequently, for the time being, fell into the hands of the enemy. Meantime, the Highlanders being left without any protection on their flank, General Turner extended his force for about 2,500 yards, at right angles to his original front, to prevent, as far as possible, the German divisions, which were pouring in to overwhelming numbers, from completely cutting the Canadians off by enveloping them from the rear. Thus the Highlanders had to cover a rectangular of about 5,000 yards, the latter part of which was in the open.
"FIGHT LASTED ALL NIGHT.
"It appears this fight lasted through the afternoon and night. On Friday morning the Tenth Battalion, under the gallant Col. Boyle and Major Mc-

LABORERS STRIKE

London, May 3, 8:35 p.m.—Two thousand laborers who were engaged in constructing houses to accommodate the workers at the Woolwich arsenal, the largest in Great Britain, went on strike today. The men demand higher wages.

MAJOR MERSERAU RECOVERING.

Sackville, May 3.—A cable received here today by Mrs. Ould Weldon, mother of Mrs. Merserau, states that Major Merserau, who was seriously wounded in recent action near Ypres, is recovering from his wounds.

BEAT WARMED UP.

One very satisfactory way to warm up a joint of beef is to fry it in thickly ground paper and keep it covered while in the oven. By having it covered the steam will prevent the meat from coming hard and dry.

RUSSIAN CHECK IN GALICIA IS CLAIM OF TEUTONS, NO ALLIED GAINS IN THE WEST

If Austro-German Version of Operations Against Russian Centre is Correct Carpathian Campaign Will Be Considerably Delayed—British Repulse Attack on Hill 60 and French Hold Ground at Le Pretre—Berlin Celebrating Alleged Victory Over Russians.

London, May 3, 10:35 p.m.—According to the official statements, both of Berlin and Vienna, the German and Austrian arms have achieved a notable victory in West Galicia, smashing the entire Russian centre along a front of many miles, or, as Berlin roughly puts it, across the whole western tip of Galicia, from near the Hungarian border to the point where the River Donajec joins the Vistula, which is right at the frontier of Poland.
Through the 8,000 prisoners the Teutonic Allies say they have taken does not compare with the number some Field Marshal Von Hindenburg's rushes netted him in the north, the achievement, if subsequent reports bear it out, will mean at least a temporary check to the Russian forces which have been hammering their way westward since the fall of Przemyśl.
Berlin is celebrating the victory tonight, as is the custom there, though it is admitted that the flags have been flown before full details are to hand.

England and France make no claim to any gains in the west, the British contenting themselves with saying that the German attacks on the scarred Hill 60 in Flanders have been beaten back; the French confirm this.
The Germans maintain that they are pushing forward to the northwest of Ypres and toward St. Julien, villages which they captured after the attack following their first extensive use of gas, but which they were forced to yield under counter attacks.
In the fighting in the Baltic provinces also, Berlin finds cause to rejoice. Rejecting the Russian contention that it is only a sporadic cavalry raid, Berlin's less contented report tonight says it seriously threatens the Russian right, and the fact that troops could be moved so far northeast before they encountered resistance is considered a reflection on the Russian intelligence system.
Neutral Vessels Suffer.
A number of vessels, neutral and otherwise, fell victim to German submarines, Norway being a particularly heavy loser.
If the Austro-German contentions relative to the Galician situation are correct, in the opinion of some of the English military writers, it will mean that the whole Russian campaign in the Carpathians is seriously affected, making extremely precarious the position of the Russian troops pressing down the southern slopes towards the plains of Hungary.
The line between the Vistula and the Hungarian frontier was about forty miles east of Cracow. The Austro-Germans have been defending it stubbornly ever since the beginning of the Carpathian fighting.
The general British comment is somewhat reserved, pending the Petrograd official communication that a desperate battle has been engaged in since last Saturday night on the front from the Lower Niemen river to the Carpathian Mountains, no further news has come through concerning the fighting in which both Berlin and Vienna claim a victory.
The reference to the Russian official communication, though it may indicate that the battle is still unfinished, is considered in military circles here to give consistent color to the Teutonic claims at least to the claim of Vienna, which does not place the victory so high as does the German communication. If the Austro-German claims are correct, according to the military observers, the Russian right flank is in danger of envelopment; the Russian left flank is threatened by strong Austro-German forces and on the Stry-Munkacs line the position is so dangerous as to be likely to involve a general retreat.
The Russian Statement.
Petrograd, May 3, via London, May 4, 2:38 a.m.—The following official communication was issued this evening:

SWEDISH SCHOONER SUNK BY THE GERMANS

Leith, Scotland, May 4, 3:05 a.m.—The crew of five men of the Swedish schooner *Elis* have been landed here. Their vessel, they say, was destroyed by the German submarine U-29 on Sunday morning.
The *Elis*, with a cargo of lumber, was bound from Holstad to Granton and was overtaken by the submarine 100 miles west of May Island. The crew say they were given five minutes to quit the vessel, which the Germans then set on fire.
The crew was picked up by the steamer *Sernebo*.

"West of the Niemen, on May 2, the engagement continued along the upper reaches of the River Szesupa. On the evening of May 1 a battalion of the enemy attacked the village of Sosnia, near Drowieska, but was dispersed by the fire from the fortress.
"Since the evening of May 1 from the Lower Niema to the Carpathians, an action of the greatest intensity developed. On the left bank of the Vistula the night of the 2nd we repulsed strong enemy attacks.
"In the region of Tarnow, and further southward, the artillery fire attained great violence, and hence isolated combats took place.
"In the direction of Stry and southeast of Gelouetako we captured Mount Mankivka and took 300 prisoners, including two officers.
"On the 1st our Black Sea fleet bombarded the forts of the Bosphorus. The fire was very effective and caused great explosions and set fire to Fort Elmas. The Turkish batteries replied vigorously but without result. We also destroyed a steamer with a cargo of coal and sank two large sailing boats."
The German Claims.
Berlin, via London, 6 p.m.—The text of the official statement today follows:
"In the western theatre of war:
"Yesterday we successfully attacked in Flanders, in the northeast of the Poelcappelle-Ypres road, and took the farms of Fortuin, southeast of St. Julien.
"In the Champagne district we inflicted considerable damage on the enemy's position at Ourchen, Souain and Perthes by successful mine explosions.
"Between the Meuse and the Moselle there were only artillery duels.
"Last night the French made an unsuccessful attempt to attack our position on the summit of Hartmann-Wellerkopf.
"A French flying machine landed yesterday at Hurlingen, to the west of Saargemund in Lorraine. Both occupants were taken prisoners.
"A German alpine squadron attacked the alpine hangar and railway station at Epinal yesterday, apparently with good results.
"In the eastern theatre:
"During further pursuit of the Russians who were fleeing in the direction of Riga, we yesterday captured four caissons and four machine guns. We also took 3,700 prisoners south of Mitau, so that the total number of prisoners was increased to 5,325.
"The Russian attacks south of Kalvarya failed with heavy losses to the enemy. The Russians were driven back across the Skensinga. They left 800 prisoners in our hands.
"Northeast of Skiermiewice the Russians also suffered a heavy defeat in which they lost a great number in killed and wounded.
"In the southeastern theatre:
"In the presence of the Austrian commander-in-chief, Field Marshal Archduke Frederick, and under the leadership of General Von Mackensen, the allied communication was issued this evening:

Col. D. S. Watson, of Quebec, whose regiment suffered heavily in the great fight on the Yser Canal.

LEADERS OF CANADIANS



Brigadier-General R. E. Turner, V.C., commanding the Highland Brigade, of the Canadian division, practically wiped out after a gallant fight in the Ypres battle.



St. Horace Smith-Dorrien, commanding the great British army on the left of the Canadian division formed a part.



Col. D. S. Watson, of Quebec, whose regiment suffered heavily in the great fight on the Yser Canal.