

London, Mar. 25.—(Official)—The statement follows:

"The battle continues with great violence on the whole front. Powerful attacks delivered by the enemy yesterday afternoon and evening north of Bapaume were heavily repulsed. Only at one point did the German infantry reach our trenches, whence they were immediately thrown out. Elsewhere the enemy's attacks were stopped by rifle, machine gun and artillery fire in front of our positions, and his troops were driven back with great losses.

"During the night and this morning fresh hostile attacks have again developed in this neighborhood and also to the south of Bapaume.

"South of Peronne, bodies of German troops who had crossed the river between Licourt and Brie were driven back to the east bank by our counter-attacks."

So far as one can judge, the Germans are undoubtedly throwing absolutely their full force into this attack. It seems to have been met with as great success as was anticipated from the first. It is beyond question that very much depends upon the issue; and I know the hearts of the people of the whole country will be lifted up in intercession that the right may prevail.

Sir SAM HUGHES: Intercession is very proper, but with the view, in a slight degree possibly of helping on the cause, I desire to ask the Prime Minister the following questions. Possibly he might be in a position to answer them to-day, but it will do no harm to ask them in connection with this matter. My questions are:

1. Inasmuch as Canadians are engaged in the titanic struggle now going on for the preservation of human liberty, is the Government taking necessary steps to maintain to the highest degree the pride, the courage, the resolution, the steadfastness and the confidence of the splendid and gallant soldiers of Canada, as well as of the Empire at large, in this struggle?

2. Have the Government taken precautions in the management of the forces, the appointment and the promotion of officers therein and the granting of honours, awards and decorations thereto, that favour from female, society, creed or other undue influences, shall not prevail; but that all shall be awarded on the one basis of merit and fitness alone?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the hon. gentleman's preliminary remark would alone be ample evidence that these questions are not of sufficient urgency to permit them being asked on the Orders of the Day, and that they should be placed on the Order Paper in the ordinary course.

Sir SAM HUGHES: But my next two questions may be of sufficient importance.

[Sir Robert Borden.]

Mr. SPEAKER: Inasmuch as the replies cannot be obtained to-day, and it is desirable to adhere to the proper procedure, I would ask the hon. gentleman to adopt the ordinary course.

Sir SAM HUGHES: The other two questions are of great importance. They read:

3. Does the Government purpose doing anything to prevent panicky and sensational despatches, which merely cause nervous excitement among soldiers and population in Canada and overseas, from being issued by a few mentally epileptic newspaper reporters from overseas?

4. Has the Government any explanation of why the Allied forces, splendidly armed and equipped, and in chosen positions of their own, made up of the best men in the world, and numbering from seven to ten men per yard of front, recently gave way before an enemy not their equal in manhood nor superior in armament, even though they numbered thirty men to a yard of front in attack?

I think some action should at once be taken to prevent these panicky and sensational despatches.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think these questions might much more properly be asked in the ordinary way. Hon. members would assist much in the proper conduct of the proceedings if they would use sparingly the privilege of asking questions on the Orders of the Day.

Sir SAM HUGHES: I do not want to intrude in the slightest degree on your duties in this House, Mr. Speaker, but I think this is an occasion when nothing should intervene in the way of having the proper appreciation of these things placed before the country.

#### QUESTIONS.

(Questions marked with asterisks are answered orally.)

#### MILITARY SERVICE ACT IN QUEBEC.

Mr. POWER.:

1. How many men have been employed up to March 15th in the registrar's office at Quebec under the Military Service Act?

2. How many public representatives have appeared before the Courts of Appeal in the district of Quebec?

3. How much money have they been paid?

Hon. Mr. DOHERTY:

1. 43.

2. 20.

3. No payments have yet been made to these representatives.