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British Victory At Neuve Chapelle

LOSS OF GREAT NUMBER OF GALLANT OFFICERS IS SAD FEATURE OF VICTORY

Reckless Bravery Leads Them To Expose Themselves Needlessly

Britain Now Has Million Men in France—Germans Lose Ground in Two Places—Shelling Nieuport, While Allies' Warships Are Bombarding Westende

Paris, March 17.—Heavy casualties among British officers was a distinguishing feature of the terrific four-day fight at Neuve Chapelle. Where the Germans were defeated and forced to retreat four miles, it is estimated that the British lost nearly 10,000 men in killed, wounded and missing, and of these about 200 were officers.

It has been reported that the German soldiers were under special orders to pick off British and French officers, but a more likely cause for the heavy losses among the men of rank is their reckless bravery in battle, which leads them to expose themselves needlessly.

Britain now has in France the largest army that has ever been put upon foreign soil. It is estimated that more than 1,000,000 British soldiers are on French soil, but not all of them are on the firing line yet.

The Germans have evacuated some of the territory they held between Ypres and Dixmude in Belgium.

HOWITZERS AT NIEUPOORT  
Paris, March 17.—The enemy is again furiously bombarding Nieuport, this time with 16-inch howitzers, sayan undated message from the Petit Parisien's war correspondent. He adds:

"Thirty shells have fallen in the town making enormous holes and demolishing several buildings, but no one was hurt."

"Belgian troops, profiting by a slight recession of the waters in the district they occupy, carried two German advanced positions near Stuwakenkerke and on the road from Perwez to Schoorbeek."

"Warships and monitors of the Allies vigorously bombarded Westende. The Germans replied feebly, but none of their shells took effect. Torpedo boat destroyers protected the bombarding ships, shelling a German submarine which attempted to approach. The fire against the shore positions was directed by aeroplanes."

American Senator's View  
Washington, March 17.—Senator Walsh of Montana, who discussed the British reprisals with President Wilson last night, strongly favors a vigorous protest. He said that senators generally regretted that congress had not empowered the president to place an embargo on American exports to the belligerents, although he did not believe that the president would call an extra session for that purpose.

HIGH SCORES MADE BY LADIES AT RANGE  
Two Just a Point Short of Possible This Morning

The range was crowded with ladies and girls again this morning and the results averaged better than ever. Miss Quinn and Mrs. Frank Peters both put on 99 out of a possible 100 and Mrs. R. P. Conway scored 98 with several others ranking almost as high. Not satisfied with the amateurish standing rest position more of the ladies are devoting themselves to prone shooting and are getting good scores. Several young ladies tried the pistol this morning and made very satisfactory scores.

Commenting on the scores this morning the range officer remarked that the ladies were averaging better scores than the men and attributed it largely to their willingness to accept suggestions while many of the men seemed unwilling to admit that they did not know all there was to be known.

The signaling and gun sections of the 26th Battalion, which both shot at the range yesterday are arranging for a competition between the two sections. The best average scores yesterday were: Boys, D. Masie, 88; men, W. A. Tweedley, 88; best individual score, Pte. Murray, 97.

General Lemay, Belgium defender of Liege, who is a prisoner of Germany, has refused his liberty under parole.

Phelix and Phaedran WEATHER BULLETIN  
Issued by authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Star, part, director of meteorological service.

Synopsis—The weather is quite mild in the western provinces and cold from Ontario eastward. The southern disturbance has passed off the Atlantic coast.

Cold  
Maritime—Moderate winds fair and cold today. Thursday increasing north-east winds and cold.  
New England Forecasts—Generally fair tonight and Thursday, fresh north winds.

ELECTION PREDICTION

Toronto, Ont., March 17.—The Toronto World, of which W. F. Maclean, M.P., is proprietor, this morning contains the following from its "staff reporter" at Ottawa:

"There will be a federal election before the hay is cut in Ontario. Parliament today was full of the electricity of the coming conflict."

ERIN'S SONS OBSERVE DAY OF PATRON SAINT

Shamrock More in Evidence in City Than Ever

SPECIAL DAY IN CHURCH

Father Howland Preacher at High Mass in Cathedral—Some Entertainments For Orphans Last Night

The shamrock was probably more in evidence about the streets of St. John today than has ever been the case, not only in honor of the festive day of Ireland and her patron St. Patrick but in recognition of the gallant achievements of her sons under the flag of Britain in the broad arena of the war in France.

Flags were flown from different buildings, public and private, and the harp on the green was displayed side by side with the Union Jack. Locally there was nothing of a special nature in the celebration because of the great national conflict, but the usual entertainments in aid of the orphans are being given.

Large congregations attended the special services in the Catholic churches. Sermons were delivered in the Cathedral and St. Patrick's. In Holy Trinity Rev. J. W. Walsh, V. G., officiated, Rev. J. J. O'Donovan in the Church of the Assumption, Rev. C. Collins in St. John the Baptist, in the Cathedral solemn high mass was celebrated by Rev. Wm. Deane, Lordship Bishop LeBlanc was on his throne, with Rev. H. Belliveau and Rev. M. P. Howland in attendance.

The Sermon  
Rev. Father Howland was the speaker taking as his text, "God is a great priest who in his day pleased God, and was found just," he delivered an able discourse. He referred to the career of St. Patrick and his planting the faith in the emerald isle. He praised the people for their rigid adherence to the doctrine taught them by their pioneer priest. Fitting regard was paid the national and educational phase of Irish life in addition to the emphasis upon the religious aspect. A glowing tribute was accorded many great statesmen who were wedged by the future was bright. Emmet, Parnell, Wolfe Tone, Curran, O'Connell, and coming to our own time, John Edward O'Leary was on his throne, in the presence seemed to prevail that it was only Catholics who were seeking Irish home rule but the speaker pointed out many of those to whom he had referred were not of that faith, but had made remarkable sacrifices in the Irish cause—Emmet, indeed the greatest of all, in that he laid down his life for the cause of Ireland.

Irish Soldiers  
The speaker referred to the fighting qualities of the Irish soldier demonstrated on many a battlefield from the days of Brian Boru, to Fontenoy, from Fontenoy to South African fields and to day on the fields of Europe. Ireland had responded nobly to the call to the colors, having given 120,000 men of 400,000 who were eligible for service, a greater percentage than any other land. No matter where the eye was cast in the pages of history the Gael was always in the vanguard doing his share of the work of the nation. Today the future was bright. Ireland so long down-trodden was at length to enjoy the liberties of home rule; racial bitterness would cease and give place to better and more agreeable feeling in the thought of Ireland, a Nation and the prophetic predictions of Thomas Moore and others of her great poets fulfilled.

(Continued on page 2, fourth column)

EVIDENCE IN CHARGE AGAINST JEFFREY

Chinese Give Version of Occurrences in Mill Street Shop

The preliminary hearing in the case of ex-Policeman Joseph Jeffrey, charged with stealing \$9 from Hum Moon Hon, was taken up in the police court this morning. Daniel Mullin, K.C., appeared for the plaintiff and J. A. Barry for the defendant.

The plaintiff said he went into Barry Lee's store in Mill street about 10 o'clock on last Saturday night. In a room in the rear he said he saw Jeffrey holding Hum Lee by the throat and pointing a revolver at him. Jeffrey dropped Hum Lee on top of a trunk and then caught him by the coat, pointed the revolver at him, opened his coat and

Will Government Investigate Charges Made By St. John Globe?

P. J. Veniot in Fredericton Ready to Lay Matters Before Royal Commissioner Chandler Tomorrow

Fredericton, N. B., March 17.—Peter J. Veniot, Liberal organizer for Northern New Brunswick, arrived here last evening prepared to go before Royal Commissioner Chandler and ask for investigation into expenditure upon public works and other matters. Mr. Chandler will reopen his court tomorrow morning, and both E. S. Carter and Mr. Veniot will make their request for investigation into many matters.

So far no intimation has been given that the insurgents against the management of the public works department by Hon. John Morrissey and his staff are prepared to back up their assertions with any proof. They face the effects of charges. What finder may go, now that he has nothing to lose, may be a question. He and his friends have been saying that the Fredericton bridge was repaired under the eye of the departmental officials, and that it cost much more than it should have. To ask Mr. Chandler to inquire into their assertions is another matter.

The outside work of the public works department is done by men recommended and in most cases under the eyes of the members. They swear to the account, the public works officials check their figures and rates of pay and issue checks, but have no means of knowing whether the pay lists are padded or the sworn information false. Mr. Veniot has been most persistent in his inquiry into bridge and road accounts, and his evidence, it is said, will be of a most startling nature.

Attention will be drawn by Mr. Dugal today to a most startling charge made by the St. John Globe last September. The appointment of Mr. Chandler gives the government and the Globe a chance to further the interests of the province by setting this matter to the bottom. Mr. Dugal will ask the government if it proposes to take any action toward investigating the very serious allegations made by the St. John Globe editorially in its issue of September 10, 1914, when commenting on the investigation then in progress under the heading "Other Crown Land Frauds," the following statements were made:

"Information given the Globe by men whose sources of information are beyond question, forced a conviction that the horrible disclosures were but a small part of what could and should have been told."

In the meantime there are other phases of crown land administration that require consideration and investigation. The public hearing of the methods larger operators followed in securing their privileges has led to whisperings that smaller operators also use methods that are inimical to the public interests. As a result of these many acres of valuable timber lands are said to have been secured practically without cost. Information given the Globe suggests that it is a common practice in some sections for lumber operators to acquire lands under the labor or homestead act. The connivance of a crown officer is necessary but if there is truth in the stories told the Globe and in these sections lumber lands have been secured unlawfully and if the Globe is rightly informed the frauds in this way have reached large proportions."

TO SHORTEN SESSION  
The administration desires to escape criticism of its failings. In the boot committee soldiers testified that when their boots wore out after twelve days' wear men had to tie shingles upon their feet to keep them from being out by the ground. In the house, the British preference was practically destroyed with shipping conditions as they are today. Therefore the session is to be closed with speed. Notice is given that to shorten the session the house, beginning with next week, will sit in the mornings and on Saturdays.

Task Too Great For Von Hindenburg's New Army

More Russian Successes Reported—Fall of Przemysl is Near; Rumor Says it Has Already Been Taken

London, March 17.—The Daily News correspondent telegraphs from Petrograd—

The rear guard of General Von Eichen's army has been beaten repeatedly in the last few days in attempting to protect its transports as it withdraws from Sorawki province across the frontier into East Prussia. General Von Bulow's troops also are being punished by raiding expeditions from Osowitz, where the garrison has crushed the enemy's siege artillery and now uses the fortress as a base for aggressive tactics.

"All letters from the front confirm the impression that the new army is not equal to the task that Field Marshal Von Hindenburg has imposed upon it. He is now trying to protect his weakness in the north by the introduction of new batteries on the Beusa in Central Poland, but even there he fears to test his infantry against the Russians."

FALL OF PRZEMYSL NEAR  
Petrograd, March 17.—Three sorties within the last two days by the garrison at Przemysl an Austrian fortress in Galicia, all were repulsed. The Russians are pressing closer and the War Office officials expect news of the fall within a short time.

There were unconfirmed reports last night that Przemysl had fallen, but at the War Office announced this as "slightly premature."

Handicapped by the inferiority of the artillery as compared with that of the Austrians, the Russians have conducted the siege of Przemysl with a patience and care unsurpassed in history.

The fall of Przemysl would have an important effect upon the whole campaign in Galicia as it would release at least 75,000 Russian soldiers who have been held there to make the investment effective.

When Przemysl is taken a campaign will begin immediately against Cracow. Other forces of Grand Duke Nicholas are gaining some slight successes about Przasnysz.

put his left hand in one of his pockets and took \$9; one \$5 bill and two \$2 bills. He said he was so badly frightened that he did not remember if he went through all of his pockets. He said he had received the \$9 from Jeffrey, Hum Oak. He said Jeffrey took the money and went out.

Cross questioned by Mr. Barry he said Jeffrey followed him and tried to catch him. At this point a lively tiff took place between the counsel and the magistrate regarding a question under discussion. With reference to addressing the bench Magistrate Ritchie said he would commit him if he did not cease, but Mr. Barry said he was within his rights.

The witness said he had gone to the shop to purchase groceries for Hum Oak. Hop Lee said Jeffrey entered his store on Saturday night and demanded \$900 and \$500. He could not understand anything else, he said. The prisoner then seized him by the throat and pointed a revolver at him, after which he played with him like a child would a little doll. He said he saw Jeffrey then took \$2.25 and three car tickets from his pocket, and threw him on top of a trunk, then picked him up and threw him on a table.

The prisoner, he said, remained in his store for more than two hours, and would not let him out. A woman came in to buy some tea and when she saw Jeffrey holding him, she said, she ran away. Jeffrey then took handcuffs out of his pocket and said if he, Hop Lee, had no \$600 he would lock him up. The witness said that Jeffrey pointed the revolver at another Chinese, Hum Gaw, and fired a shot. The policeman, he said, would not allow anyone to move. Later another Chinese ran out to get another policeman. The case will be resumed this afternoon.

BROKE INTO COTTAGE  
Two "hoboes" made themselves at home last night at Ingleside, in the summer cottage of Dawson McKendrick, chief clerk in the railway mail department of the post office. They pried off a shutter and thus secured entrance, remaining until early this morning, when people living nearby saw them leaving the house. It is said that they took some clothing which had been there.

In the Boston Marathon race on April 19 the winner will be allowed all traveling expenses to enable him to participate in the marathon race at the Pan-American game at San Francisco. The man finishing second will be given \$100 for the same purpose.

OPPOSITION OFFER IS REFUSED; PREFERENCE TO BRITAIN CUT DOWN

Liberals Ready to Withdraw Laurier Amendment if British Preference Saved

Straight Offer by Hon. Mr. Graham Declined by Government Silence and Conservatives Have Their Way by 45 Majority—Planning to Shorten the Session

(Special to The Times.)

Ottawa, March 16.—"Could there be a worse time for it to be announced to the world that Canada, the greatest of the daughter nations, was raising a barrier against the mother country when the motherland was struggling with the greatest war in history?" asked Hon. George P. Graham at the close of the budget debate in parliament this morning.

"I have an offer to make the finance minister which should prevent this undesirable announcement going to the world," he said. "Here and now, etc it is too late, I offer, on behalf of the opposition, that if you will drop that portion of the budget which cuts five points away from the British preference we will agree to withdraw our amendment which the government has so strenuously objected to. This will be a considerable sacrifice on our part, but we are willing to make it in order that the announcement may not go to the world that Canada has at this time been guilty of an unfriendly act toward the motherland."

To this offer there was no response from the government. By silence it insisted that the British preference must be hamstringed and the vote was called.

The government majority was obedient. A hundred and four French and English Canadians behind Sir Robert Borden voted against Sir Wilfrid Laurier's amendment which depreciated the increase of protection and the curtailment of the preference. Fifty-nine opposition votes were recorded, so the speaker declared that the government had its way by a majority of forty-five.

Touching on the British preference Mr. Graham declared that, even supposing the increased taxes did not have the effect of keeping out imports as the opposition maintained, the most the finance minister could expect to raise, by taxes five to six millions. This would about equal the interest on what the government was now borrowing from Great Britain for the whole of the war expenditure. In other words the government proposed to let Canada borrow the whole of the war expenditure from Great Britain and then proceed to pay the interest by taxing British trade.

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INTERNED GERMAN STEAMER ESCAPES, LONDON PAPERS WARN THE UNITED STATES

London, March 17.—The newspapers today prominently display a despatch stating that the German liner Macedonia, interned at Las Palmas, Canary Islands, has escaped and put to sea with supplies for German raiders. The papers say:

"The United States may look for the same thing. German ships interned at Las Palmas are likely to make a dash at any time."

LETTER FROM GUNNER BARBOUR  
Theodore Pitre, of 92 Princess street, received an interesting letter from Gunner Jas. Barbour, one of the boys who left St. John with the first contingent. He enclosed a picture of himself and several English soldiers which he had taken outside the house where he was billeted, near Salisbury Plain. He said he expected any moment to be sent to the firing line. He spoke highly of the hospitality of the French people and said he hoped it would not be long before he would have a good crack at the Germans. Mr. Barbour was one of the first to enlist at the time of the South African war.

Other Letters  
Mrs. T. A. Nash of 800 Brunel street has received a letter from her husband, Driver Nash, dated Reserve Park, Tidworth, Feb. 19, and another letter dated Feb. 28. Driver Nash said that they were in fine quarters, but that most of the contingent had gone to the front, and he expected to go at short notice, as when the last letter was written there was great activity, apparently getting ready to move. Driver Nash wrote that he had received a box from his wife and he was particularly pleased to get the tobacco which it contained.

Mrs. D. Cummings, 22 Forest street, has received a letter dated in France on Feb. 18, from her son, William, stating that he is well and wishing to be remembered to all his friends. He does not say at what point he is in France further than to say that he is with the First Canadian Division, British Expeditionary Force. He is with the Divisional Ammunition Column. The letter was censored.

Loque Gonzalez Garza is reported to have returned to Mexico City and to have assured protection for the public in the capital. It was said that martial law would be declared.

FAIRVILLE NEWS  
Rev. Mr. Haughton Addresses Jea Meeting—Some War Verse at Socias Gathering

The Fairville Brotherhood were visited last evening by the Althea Brotherhood of the city. Rev. R. J. Haughton was the principal speaker. He spoke on the church for the kingdom and handled the subject from a very practical standpoint, urging a federation of brotherhoods setting aside all political, denominational, racial and other differences. He said that the liquor traffic and vice in St. John were never so rampant as today. Society would never be cleansed until the individuals were first attended to as individuals. The church in St. John today wanted a revival within herself. For the suppression of these growing evils the churches should unite in mutual effort. What affected St. John must sooner or later touch Fairville, and he urged the men to think over these vital problems. Half a dozen or so from the audience spoke briefly of shocking experiences they had seen or known of in the city and there was some discussion as to the best means to cope with the circumstances. A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Haughton and refreshments were served.

Last evening about thirty young ladies, friends of Miss Edith Syme, who will soon leave for Boston to resume her duties as nurse in one of the hospitals, tendered her a handkerchief shower at the home of Benjamin Godson. A delightful time was spent. One of the most popular diversions was a contest in original poetry within a limited time, the subject dealing with the war. One of the guests, a mere male, contributed the following which has been deemed worthy of publication, in the interests of choice literature:

A dreadnought named Audacious Sailed the Atlantic spacious, She struck a great rock, Her nerves got a shock, And the man who escaped said "My gracious!"

The other prize poem follows: Oh, Kaiser Bill, You pesky Pili, If you'd keep still, This war would end in jig time. But talk your fill Illusions will For by one skill We'll put you out in due time.

Dainty refreshments brought the evening to a close and everyone seemed to enjoy the affair to the utmost.

The proposal of Dutch women to hold a women's international congress at the Hague-Antwerp has the support of the non-militant suffragists in London.