

FRENCH STRIKE STRONG BLOW GERMANY SEES NO PEACE YET

HON. PETER J. VENIOT SWINGS THE POLITICAL WHITEWASH BRUSH OVER GLOUCESTER COUNTY ROAD CHARGES

Although He Is Obligated To Report That There Was Evidence To Support Hon. B. Frank Smith's Allegations, the Self-Appointed Investigator Finds "There Was No Intent" To Do Wrong—Passengers "Not Purposely" Carried on Government Road Truck.

John G. Robichaud, M. L. A.'s Explanation As To How He Happened To Get Pay Cheques Belonging To Departmental Employees—The Happy Haymakers and the Merry Berry Pickers Who Ranged the Green Fields in the Government's Time—A Most Remarkable Document Submitted To Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Practically two months after the opening of the investigation into the allegations of irregularities in connection with road work in Gloucester county, Hon. P. J. Veniot submitted his finding to the Lieut. Governor in Council on Thursday and it was given out for publication yesterday afternoon.

It is published herewith and will strike most fair-minded people as the crudest sort of an attempt at a political whitewash. The allegations concerned the Department of Public Works, over which Mr. Veniot himself presides, and Mr. Veniot himself was the investigator. This, in itself, is sufficient to indicate the character of the verdict.

While evidence was submitted in support of most of the instances where irregularities were charged, and in some cases the investigator found such irregularities existed, yet a strong disposition toward leniency runs through the whole report. This is most pronounced in the instance where Alphonse G. Robichaud used a government truck to carry six passengers from Shippegan to Bathurst and charged them \$1.50 each for the accommodation. Mr. Veniot admits that this "cannot be justified," but adds as an afterthought that "there does not appear to have been any attempt to improperly use government property."

(Continued on page 3)

ORANGEMEN OF LORNEVILLE HAVE SUCCESSFUL DAY

Most Successful Celebration Ever Held in That Place—Over Two Hundred Men in Procession—Many St. John Men Attend and Others Go To Crystal Beach For Day.

Typical 12th of July weather greeted the Orangemen of Lorneville yesterday and the celebration was the most successful ever held under the auspices of St. John and Coronation Lodges. Over two hundred men were in line when the procession formed up and the public meeting in the afternoon and the ball in the evening were attended by exceptionally large crowds. An especially noteworthy feature was the dinner served by R. W. Dean of Sea View House, of which Lorneville salmon was the pièce de résistance.

Early in the morning the brethren began to gather at the hall and when the procession formed with Wallace Galbraith, in the traditional scarlet robes and seated on the white horse, moved off he was followed by over 200 men. When the bridges were reached a halt was called and cheers were given for "The King" King William of

Orange and for the boys at the front. The procession then continued to Sea View House where R. W. Dean served a splendid salmon dinner to 150 guests. A number of the young ladies of Lorneville had volunteered to act as waitresses for the occasion and under the leadership of Miss Annie Dean performed their duties in a most capable manner. The young ladies who acted in this capacity were Miss Nellie Maguire, Miss Jennie Maguire, Miss Myrtle McAfee and Mrs. Leo Maguire.

Procession Reformers. After spending a very pleasant hour on the beautiful grounds of the Sea View House the procession returned and marched back to Mt. Purple Lodge hall where a number of addresses were delivered. During the parade the participants were greeted with a fusillade from mus-

ST. JOHN DRY DOCK TO BE IMMENSE ONE

Will Accommodate Greatest Ship of Any Navy in the Entire World.

Steel Shipbuilding Expected To Form Important Part of Enterprise.

Ottawa, July 12—More particulars of the contract which the St. John Drydock and Shipbuilding Company has secured from the department of public works, for the construction of a drydock and ship repairing plant at Courtenay Bay, St. John, are today available. The contract calls for the construction of a drydock which will be of the first class and the largest on this side of the Atlantic. It will, when completed, be capable of accommodating the greatest ships of any navy in the world or the largest mercantile vessels now built or contemplated. The length of the new dock will be 1,150 feet and its width at the bottom 125 feet with forty feet of water over the sill.

The control of the enterprise is in the hands of the Canadian Dredging Company, Ltd., of Midland, Ontario, a strong and wealthy corporation which has acquired control of the stock of the St. John Drydock and Shipbuilding Company. It is expected that steel shipbuilding will form an important part of the enterprise, provided the arrangements now in contemplation are consummated, and that keels for two 10,000 ton vessels will be laid within the next year and a half. The work on the new drydock and certain dredging operations in the harbor of St. John which the company has contracted for, will, it is expected, be started within sixty days, and both should be completed within three years. The contracts call for an expenditure of close upon ten million dollars.

The men who are associated in the new company are, among others: James Playfair, Midland, president and general manager of the Great Lakes Transportation Company, Ltd., and president of the Midland Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.; Hon. W. H. Richardson, Kingston; D. L. White, Jr., Midland; W. J. Sheppard, Waubesa; W. E. Phipps, Hamilton; D. S. Pratt, Midland; George Y. Chown, Kingston; R. Hobson, Hamilton; Col. Thomas A. Duff, Toronto; J. A. Paisley, Cleveland; and J. B. Craven, New York. The general manager of the company will probably be D. S. Pratt of Midland, Ont., who occupies a similar position at present with the Canadian Dredging Company, Limited.

It was stated by one of the men interested, who has been active in connection with the assignment of the contract that much of the credit for the outcome of the negotiations was due to the federal members for St. John, who had been indefatigable in their efforts to have the matter brought to a successful conclusion.

Meets and rifles by a party under the leadership of J. Allan LeBlanc.

On the arrival at the hall the chair was taken by Wallace Galbraith, Worshipful Master of the lodge, who called on Hon. J. B. M. Baxter to present to Brother George O'Dell of Mount Purple Lodge, who has enlisted, a handsome wrist watch. In the course of his remarks the speaker referred to the need at the present crisis in the history of the Empire for unity among all classes and creeds. He also paid tribute to the splendid response which the men of Lorneville had made to the call of Empire and thus shown their loyalty in the hour of need.

Addresses were also delivered by A. E. McGinley, excellent companion of St. John County Royal Scarlet Chapter; R. W. Anderson, deputy master of St. John County Lodge, and members of the local lodges.

In the evening a ball was held and this proved most successful. Taken all through it was the best and biggest

VILLAGE OF CASTEL IS CAPTURED BY FRENCH

Latter Attack on Front of Three Miles Between Castel and Maily-Raineval on Picardy Front, Southeast of Amiens, Breaking Through Strong Enemy Defences.

Between the Marne and the Aisne the French Continue Their Offensive Operations—Spirited Fighting on British Front—Advance in Albania.

(Undated war lead by The Associated Press)

Striking the Germans on a front that has been quiet for the past six weeks, the French have once more broken through the enemy defences and advanced their lines. This new blow at the enemy was launched between Castel and Maily-Raineval, on the Picardy front, southeast of Amiens, where there has been but little fighting since the French, by a local attack, pushed the Germans out of Seneca Wood, late in May.

The attack was along a front of approximately three miles. It swept the Germans back out of the village of Castel and the Anchin Farm, about a mile to the south and cleared out a number of strong enemy positions. The French penetrated the German lines to a depth of more than a mile.

The American attack on Cantigny, some time ago, advanced the line materially at that point, while the Australians and Americans on July 4 and 6 cut deeply into the German lines at Hamel and Villers-Bretonneux, south of the Somme. The French attack was launched at a point between positions of the Americans, at Cantigny, and the Australians, further north.

Dominate Villages

The French lines south of Castel have been parallel to and westward of the Aisne River. The success gained there carries the French up to the hills to the west of the river and into positions which appear to dominate the villages of Morisel, on the west bank, and Moreuil, on the east bank of the river. If the attack should continue successfully the French may be able to press the foe back across the Aisne and thus have an admirable position to the southeast of Amiens.

Between the Marne and the Aisne, the French have continued their offensive operations. It was reported that the village of Long Point, south of Corcy, the capture of which was reported on Thursday, has been taken by General Petain's men, who have also made progress north of Corcy, at the Chavigny Farm.

East of Favorelles according to the French official statement, the allied lines have been advanced, this marking a southerly extension of the fighting line, which has heretofore not been unusually active further south than Lon Point.

British Front

On the British front there has been spirited fighting, according to the German official communication, which indicates that from Ypres around the Lys salient and down in the Picardy sector as far as Albert there have been scattered attacks made by the British.

Local engagements have been fought in the region of Rheims, but they have not been of great importance. The French and Italians fighting in Albania carried their lines steadily northward. The town of Berat, the most important point in southern Albania, has fallen into allied hands. It is reported that large quantities of Austrian supplies stored at Berat were destroyed by the retreating Austrians.

Official reports would appear to show that the advance of the French and Italians is reaching further and further east in the mountains and toward the

celebration ever held by the Lorneville lodges. At Crystal Beach. The picnic held yesterday by Dominion Lodge L. O. L. No. 141, was attended by a large crowd, the fine weather tempting many to spend the afternoon in the country. During the afternoon a good programme of sports was carried out and the crowd returned to the city last evening, tired but happy.

German Chancellor Can See No Peace, And War To Go On

Von Hertling Declares British and American Chiefs Demand Destruction of Germany and Can Find No Hope That They Sincerely Desire Peace.

If Entente Decides To Open Negotiations At Any Time Germany Will Listen—No Open, Decisive Action in Russia—Entente Allies Blamed For Assassination.

London, July 12—Debate on the general political situation was opened in the Reichstag on Thursday by Imperial Chancellor Von Hertling, who discussed the retirement of Dr. Richard Von Kuehlmann, the German foreign secretary, the foreign policy of the government and the economic problems which had arisen because of recent developments in the east. According to a German official wireless message received here the imperial chancellor said:

"I maintain the standpoint of the imperial reply to the peace note of Pope Benedict. The pacific spirit which inspired this reply has also inspired me. At the time, however, I added, that this spirit must not give our enemies free conduct for an interminable continuation of the war.

Sees Little Hope.

"What have we lived to see, home ever. While for years there can have been no doubt whatever of our willingness to hold out our hand toward an honorable peace, we have heard until these last few days inciting speeches delivered by enemy statesmen. President Wilson wants war until we are destroyed, and what Mr. Balfour, the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has said must really drive the flush of anger to the cheeks of every German.

"We feel for the honor of our fatherland, and we cannot allow ourselves to be constantly and openly insulted in this manner, and behind these insults is the desire for our destruction. As long as this desire for our destruction exists, we must endure together with our faithful nation.

"I am also convinced—I know it—that in the widest circles of our nation the same serious feeling exists everywhere. As long as this desire for our destruction exists we must hold out and we will hold out, with confidence in our troops, in our army administration and our magnificent nation, which bears so wonderfully these difficult times with their great privations and continuous sacrifices.

Nothing to Be Changed.

"In the direction of our policy nothing will be changed. If, in spite of these hostile statements by these statesmen any serious efforts or a paving of the way to peace were to show themselves anywhere, then quite certainly, we would not adopt a negative attitude from the very beginning, but we would examine these seriously

ment—I say expressly serious—efforts immediately with scrupulous care.

"Naturally it is not sufficient when some agent or other approaches us and asks us, 'I can bring about peace negotiations, then and there.' But it is necessary for the appointed representatives of the enemy powers, duly authorized by their government, to give us to understand that discussions are possible, discussions which for the time being naturally will be within a limited circle.

"I also can tell you that this standpoint is not merely my own standpoint, but that it is shared emphatically by the chief of the army administration. The chief of the administration also does not conduct war for the sake of war, but has said to me that as soon as a serious desire for peace manifest itself on the other side we must follow it up.

Blames Entente.

"Regarding the East, we stand on the basis of the peace of Brest-Litovsk and we wish to see this peace carried out in a loyal manner.

"They are still under the depressing influence of a terrible crime in Moscow. The murder of our ambassador there was an act in violation of international law that which a worse could never cry to Heaven.

"All indications point to the fact that the accused deed was instigated by the Entente Allies in order to involve us in a fresh war with the present Russian government—a state of things which we are most anxious to avoid.

"We will not commit ourselves to any political counter current, but are giving careful attention to the course Russia is steering."

MAN IS KILLED AT BUCTOUCHE

Stewart McNair Fatally Hurt in J. D. Irving's Mill.

Special to The Standard.

Buctouche, July 12—Stewart McNair was the victim of a fatal accident while at work in J. D. Irving's mill here on Monday. He was hit by a piece of broken saw and died from his injuries five hours later. Deceased was 27 years old and is survived by a wife and one child. He was a son of James McNair of Mill Creek.

PRINCE ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT COMING

He Is Expected To Spend Some Time in Canada.

Ottawa, July 12—H. R. H. Prince Arthur of Connaught on his way home from Japan toward the end of the present month, is expected to spend some time in Canada and will, while here, visit a number of Canadian hospitals and training camps.

TURKISH MUTINY

Athens, July 12—According to a private letter a regiment in the Turkish Vilayet of Aidin mutinied and murdered its German officers.

AN AMERICAN NAVAL LAUNCH IS SUNK

Two Men Lost and Two Others Taken Prisoners By Germans.

Washington, July 12—An American naval launch, aiding a French destroyer in towing a disabled American seaplane to safety was sunk by German shore batteries, losing two of her crew, probably drowned, and two taken prisoners by the enemy, the navy department today announced.

AUSTRIA APPEARS ABOUT TO CRUMBE

Allies Perfect Single Front From Adriatic Sea To Saloniki.

Rome, Thursday, July 11. (By The Associated Press.) "Austria is about to crumble away," is the opinion of political and military observers here after the publication of the latest reports from Albania and the Balkans where the Entente Allies have succeeded in perfecting a single front, extending from the Adriatic Sea to Saloniki on the Aegean Sea, a distance of some 200 miles.