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PROBS—SHOWERS

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EXPECTED AIR RAID ON LONDON DID NOT MATERIALIZE; BULGARIA SOON TO JOIN IN WAR?

TURKS DEFEATED BY INDIAN TROOPS IN MESSAPOTAMIA

ENEMY 15,000 STRONG ATTACKED BY INDIANS AND OVER 700 OF THEM KILLED—DRIVEN FROM THEIR TRENCHES AT BAYONET POINT.

London, April 16.—The British India troops have inflicted another defeat on the Turks in the vicinity of Shaiba, Mesopotamia, although at a considerable loss to themselves, their casualties being about 700. This announcement was made by the India Office in an official report issued to-night.

The report says that after clearing the Turks out of their positions north and west of Shaiba last Tuesday the British on Wednesday continued their offensive in the direction of Zobeir, four miles south of the Shaiba Fort. The Turks were driven out of the advanced position and the British attack was then directed against their main line near the Birjisaiyah woods.

"Here," says the report, "the enemy, whose strength is estimated at least 15,000 men, including six regular battalions, with six guns had occupied a series of well-concealed trenches from which they were able to direct a heavy rifle and machine gun fire on our advancing troops."

"Nevertheless, our attack drove the enemy out of his trenches at the point of the bayonet and the whole line of his position was finally captured, though not without heavy loss to our side."

"The casualties are believed to amount to about 700 men of all ranks. On the other hand the Turks were severely handed that they retired to Nakhaliah, 19 miles northwest of Zobeir."

FEATS OF INDIAN TROOPS ON HORSEBACK HOLD ONLOOKERS SPELLBOUND

In Mimic Charge Indian Cavalry Display Horsemanship and Prowess with Lance such as few of spectators had ever witnessed—Give Indian War Cry as they charge imaginary foe.

Northern France, April 16, via London.—On an elevated plateau of Northern France there was enacted today one of the strangest scenes which has ever been witnessed by French people. The actors were Indian cavalry brought hither from their native land, with their horses and equipment, for use in the British army at the time when the expected "big push" makes expedient their entrance into hostilities.

The spectators were khaki-clad officers from the four quarters of the globe a scattering of French peasants and a few newspaper correspondents. The Indian force was in fine trim, for the April sun shone brightly, and nothing so appeals to the Indians as the sun.

As yet denied an actual battle in the line, the Indian cavalry had foregathered for a demonstration of its horsemanship and its prowess with lance, rifle and sword. The first feat was a mimic charge, in which hundreds of dusky horsemen swept across the plain into lines of imaginary Germans, slashing right and left with their sabres, or piercing, with slender lances, straw-stuffed sacks which dotted the ground.

Their control of their horses was superb, and the spirit and agility which they displayed astonished the French onlookers. Formidable and terrifying was the yell of the Indians as they galloped across the field. It was different from anything occidental.

Remarkable Horsemanship.

After successive squadrons had made the charge, the horsemen repaired to the centre of the plain, where the Indians formed a wide lane down the middle of which was then given an exhibition of lance work and fancy riding, the equal of which is seen only among cowboys of the far west, or the Cossacks of Russia.

Pegs were driven into the ground and four horsemen, riding at full tilt, dashed toward them, each emulating a peg on the tip of his lance. Only rarely did a rider miss his mark.

Eight horsemen, four abreast, riding in opposite directions, then swept past, each bearing off a narrow peg on his lance.

French peasants were scattered among the Indians to watch the exhibition. They stood with mouths agape as the wonders were performed. Finally they joined in the applause enthusiastically.

In spite of the rigors of a cold and wet winter the Indians looked fit and they are chafing for the time when they can get to the battle line. Their small horses also are in excellent condition and every British officer readily expects that the mounted Indians will give as good an account of themselves as have their infantry brothers in the trenches.

Widespread Indignation In Netherlands Over The Sinking of Dutch Steamer

Even Papers Inclined to be Pro-German Strongly Protest—Believed German Submarine Torpedoed Every Vessel Sighted in Hope of Sinking Steamer Carrying Belgian Soldiers on Way to France.

The Hague, via London, April 16.—Further ministerial conferences were held today to consider the sinking of the Dutch steamer Katwyk, from Rotterdam, with a cargo of grain consigned to The Netherlands government, in the North Sea, Wednesday night. The sinking of the steamer, without warning, has aroused the most widespread public irritation, and has called forth stinging protests from all the newspapers, even those inclined toward the German side.

The papers say there appears no doubt but that a German submarine was guilty, and the question is asked generally whether the captain of the submarine was acting against specific

instructions to avoid sinking neutral ships, or whether the orders were received by Germany. One reason given for the submarine's action is the widespread report that five hundred Belgians were to cross to England Wednesday night, en route to join the forces fighting in Belgium under King Albert. Some of the papers assume that this report was communicated to the submarine, which usually is lurking in the vicinity of North Hinder Lightship, and that the commander of the submarine torpedoed every vessel possible in the hope of striking the ship carrying the Belgians. It is understood, however, that the Belgians crossed safely.

Fifty Bombs Drapped by Germans During Three Air Raids on English Towns, but Damage was Slight—Czar's Forces Take More Ranges in Carpathians—Quiet in Western War Theatre.

London, April 17 (3.14 a.m.)—Premier Radoslavoff, of Bulgaria, has admitted the possibility of Bulgaria's impending participation in the war in support of the Triple Entente powers, says the Daily Mail's Sofia correspondent.

This attitude was brought about by Germany's refusal to deliver munitions of war, which Bulgaria has paid for, or to make the April loan advance, as agreed upon.

The Times Sofia correspondent also takes the view that Bulgaria cannot long maintain her position of neutrality.

"It is realized," says this correspondent, "that time is on the side of the Entente powers, and the attack on the Dardanelles has caused all parties to recognize the fact that a change is at hand. It is believed a reconstruction of the cabinet is impending, which will facilitate this change."

The cabinets of Berlin and Vienna are becoming alarmed, and desperate efforts are being made to compromise Bulgaria in the eyes of the Entente powers, by provoking hostilities between Bulgaria and Serbia. But the Bulgarian government is firmly resolved not to allow its hand to be forced.

London, April 16.—England this afternoon experienced its third hostile air raid within forty-eight hours, but the last, like those immediately preceding it, resulted in no loss of life and no serious damage to property.

Taking advantage of fine flying weather, which enabled a Zeppelin airship to visit the vicinity of the Tyne Wednesday night and the coasts of Suffolk and Essex early this morning, a German aeroplane, having crossed the North Sea this afternoon, flew over the county of Kent dropping bombs. In all, four missiles were dropped—in the vicinity of the towns of Faversham and Sittingbourne, the latter just across the Bugle from the Isle of Sheppey, which is the birthplace of the British Royal Naval Flying Corps. All the bombs fell in fields.

From Sittingbourne the aeroplane flew over the Isle of Sheppey, and it is thought probable the raider mistook the towns attacked for Sheerness, the British naval base, which is on the other side of the island. On his way the airman passed over Canterbury and other towns in Kent, but did not drop any explosives upon or near them.

Zeppelins, for it is believed there were two of them which visited East Anstia during the early hours of this morning, dropped some twenty-five incendiary and explosive bombs on Lowestoft, Southwold, Malden, Burgh, on the Grouch, Heybridge and Tillingham, but, like the raid of the previous night on the Tynemouth district, only material damage was done, and little at that, although a number of persons had very narrow escapes.

In Lowestoft a bomb dropped in a garden, shattering a row of small houses, and people sleeping in them were cut by broken glass.

During the three raids at least fifty bombs have been sent down by the Germans. Either by error or purposely, the airman seem to have kept away from the larger towns, where there might have been discovered by searchlights and come under fire from the land. There is an inclination here to consider the raid only in the nature of reconnaissance, for, except in case of aeroplanes, points of military importance were avoided, although in each case air craft passed within a short distance of such places. In view of this belief extra precautions are being taken while the fine weather lasts. The allies already are making reprisals for all German attacks on the fighting zone, and it is considered here to be likely that the raids over England will receive their reply before very long.

The Land Fighting.

Meantime battles are proceeding on the continent. Although a thaw has set in on the Carpathian Mountains, and the roads have been turned into mud, and districts are inundated by swollen streams, the fighting continues. The Russians report that they have taken further heights in the mountain ranges and repulsed attacks in the vicinity of Rostok and also in the direction of the Stry, where the Austro-Germans were attempting an outflanking movement. The Austrians make similar claims and disclose the fact that the Russians have been attacking since in Southeast Poland and Western Galicia, apparently with a view to preventing the Austrians from sending any more reinforcements into the Carpathians.

In the west comparative calm prevails, following the reported French victory north of Arras, which would give them another point of vantage from which to launch an offensive when the chosen moment arrives.

The British India office reports that Indian troops have inflicted another defeat on the Turks, who had gathered a large force of regulars and irregulars to oppose them in Mesopotamia, while the Russians again have

SHELL MAKING GIVING WORK TO THOUSANDS

Eighty Million Dollars Worth Have Been Made in Canada Since War Began.

ALL KINDS ARE BEING MANUFACTURED.

Committee Making Inquiry as to Possibility of Filling Order for Russia for Rifles and Ammunition.

Ottawa, April 16.—A report of the shell committee, appointed by the Minister of Militia last fall to supervise the manufacture of shells and explosives used in war munitions, has been made to the government. The head of the committee is Col. A. Bertman, and the chief technical adviser is Mr. David Carnegie, who has had large experience of this kind in Great Britain.

The report reviews the committee's work in securing orders for the manufacture of shells in Canada, aggregating up to the present time, it is understood, some \$80,000,000, and embracing factories in all parts of Canada. At the present time arrangements are being made at a number of western points to start the manufacture of shells in factories there. The committee reports that all the material being used in manufacture of shells is, with the exception of copper, being mined and smelted in Canada. These materials include the shell cases, brass cartridge cases, primers, cordite, powder and fuses. Thousands of men, who would otherwise be out of work, are now employed in the various manufacturing processes. Nearly 200 examiners and district inspectors have been appointed under the direction of the chief inspector of arms and ammunition, to see that the work is being properly done in each factory. Uniform prices are paid, and arrangements have been made to supply the shell-assembling manufacturers with all the component parts of shells, free of charge. All kinds of shells, up to the 18-pounder shrapnel shells, are being manufactured.

The committee is now working on investigations in connection with the supply in Canada for the War Office of propellants and high explosives, and also the possibility of filling orders from the Russian government for rifle and ammunition. In addition to the manufacture of several tons of cordite and powder in connection with the present contracts for shells, the Minister of Militia has been instrumental in initiating a new industry in Canada, namely, the utilization of the by-products from the coke ovens of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company at Sydney, N. S., for the manufacture of the high explosive, tri-nitro-toluene. The revenue alone from the contract placed with this company will be nearly three million dollars.

The report concludes with the statement that the quality and finish of the shells made in the dominion are equal to, if not better than, the British shells.

GAS TOWN BOY WHO ENLISTED FOR SERVICE DIES IN HALIFAX

Harold Crawford, of Gasquetown, N. B., passed away in the hospital at Halifax on Wednesday. He was a member of the Cycle Corps and had been vaccinated when pneumonia developed and caused his death. He was a divinity student at King's College, Windsor when the war broke out. He enlisted and was only a soldier for a short time. He was eighteen years of age and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Crawford of Gasquetown, and has a sister and brother at home, to whom sincere sympathy is extended.

The body was brought to the city on Thursday and will be taken to Gasquetown today for burial.

ST. JOHN BILLS MAY BE TAKEN UP IN COMMITTEE TODAY

COMMISSION ON ASSESSMENT MAY BE RECOMMENDED—CHANGES IN PLEBISCITE BILL FORECASTED—REMAINING ITEMS OF SUPPLY PASSED BY HOUSE—FIRST SATURDAY SITTING—LEGISLATURE MAY PROROGUE NEXT WEEK.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 16.—The legislature will have its first Saturday sitting of the session tomorrow, it having been decided to make a drive to finish the work of the session and reach prorogation by the latter part of next week and this is believed to be possible.

A meeting of the municipalities committee is on for tomorrow morning and it is not unlikely that the St. John tax exemption bill and the bill to provide for a plebiscite on the question of returning to the ward system for civic government in St. John will be taken up at this meeting of the government.

It is stated semi-officially this evening that the tax exemption bill will be sent back by the committee with the recommendation that the commission on the assessment question for St. John be appointed while some changes are forecasted in the plebiscite bill although just what these changes will be does not seem to have been entirely determined.

The remaining items of supply were passed today. Mr. Swin concluded his speech, giving his expected list of complaints regarding the administration of the public works department in Northumberland county where the relations between himself and Hon. John Morrissey have been worse than strained for some time. There were some heated passages between the minister and the member for Northumberland and also between Premier Clarke and Commodore Stewart who also had a rather spirited argument with Hon. Dr. Landry. Everything considered, it was the liveliest day of the session.

Fredericton, N. B., April 16.—The House met at 3 o'clock.

Mr. Dugal gave notice of inquiry as to employment of J. Brown Maxwell in the province, as to nature of financial arrangements made by the secretary for agriculture with the Bank of Nova Scotia regarding the purchase of potatoes.

Mr. Pelletier gave notice of inquiry as to amount, if any, due to three

MEMBERS OF P. E. ISLAND GOVERNMENT TO FOLLOW KING GEORGE'S EXAMPLE

Charlottetown, P. E. I., April 16.—Legislation today unanimously passed most stringent prohibition amendments ever introduced and Premier Matheson announced a movement had been inaugurated with approval of the government by Rev. Dr. O'Leary, R. C. Bishop of Charlottetown; Rev. Dr. Fullerton, Presbyterian, Canon Simpson, Anglican; Rev. J. L. Dawson, Methodist, pledging all sections of the community to voluntary total abstinence during war. Official endorsement was received with great enthusiasm by the house and renewed cheers when Premier Matheson announced in behalf of himself and colleagues in the government that they individually and collectively would follow the example of King George while war lasted.

URGES LESS SECRECY.

London, April 17.—J. Austin Chamberlain, member of parliament for West Birmingham, has appealed to the government to take the people more into its confidence, and let them know a little more of what is happening. He says the secrecy of the government is being carried to an extent that is detrimental to the country's best interests.

COURT ORDERS THAW BACK TO MATTEAWAN.

New York, April 16.—Harry Kendall Thaw was today ordered back to the State Hospital for the Criminal Insane at Matteawan by the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court. Five days must elapse before the order becomes effective. Plans are now being formulated to take the case to the State Court of Appeals.

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E. WRY RE-ELECTED MAYOR OF SACKVILLE

Special to The Standard.

Sackville, N. B., April 16.—Nominations were received today for town elections to be held on Tuesday for election of a mayor and eight aldermen. Albert E. Wry was re-elected mayor by acclamation, as were two aldermen for South ward, W. H. Oulton and Hanford Palmer. There will be contests in the other three wards. North ward, F. B. Doncaster, Henry T. Knapp and T. Dwight Pickard. East ward, W. B. Fawcett, George F. Estabrooks and A. H. McCready. West ward, J. William Wheeler, Harris Miller, Thomas Anderson and J. Frank Phinney.

DOWNING ON STAND IN POISONING CASE

Hopewell Cape, April 16.—The Downing-Johnson poisoning case was continued today. The wife of the victim, Mrs. Johnson, concluded her evidence, after being on the stand 29 hours. The crown then rested its case, and George W. Fowler, K. C., opened for the defence, and called Downing to the stand. Direct examination of Downing was concluded at 3.45, and he was under cross examination by Daniel Mullin, K. C., when court adjourned. Downing denied categorically all Mrs. Johnson's allegations in so far as they related to his participation in the poisoning. He admitted having received 107 letters from Mrs. Johnson, and also admitted having immoral relations with her. He claimed she came to his house at first.