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FAIR AND COLD

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GALLANT AUSTRALIAN AND ENGLISH TROOPS RETAKE THE VILLAGE OF VILLERS-BRETTONNEUX; THE GERMANS CAPTURE HANGARD-EN-SANTERRE

TERRIFIC FIGHTING SOUTH OF SOMME AND AT ARMENTIERES

All Through Wednesday and Thursday Armies Before City of Amiens Swayed Back and Forth with Anglo-French Forces Contesting Every Inch of Ground Between the Somme and the Oise—Villers-Brettonneux, Scene of Most Bitter Carnage, Re-captured by Australians and English—Germans in Second Great Simultaneous Drive Repulsed in North at Mount Kemmel.

Special Cable to N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard.
(By Arthur S. Draper.)

London, April 25.—On both the Somme and the Armentieres fronts fierce battles are being waged. All through Wednesday and Thursday until night the armies on the front before Amiens swayed back and forth with the Anglo-French contesting every inch of the ground between the Rivers Somme and Aisne.

Villers-Brettonneux was the scene of the most intense fighting, the British finally succeeding in gaining definite possession of it. Hangard-En-Santerre is now in possession of the enemy.

In the north the Germans attacked Mount Kemmel last night but were repulsed. This morning they resumed their attacks, widening the battle front until it runs north to the Ypres sector.

A violent bombardment preceded the drive. This is the first time since the opening of the spring campaign that two major thrusts have been made by the enemy simultaneously. In neither case has the battle reached a point where it is possible to estimate the success of the operation, but apparently the British and French troops are offering a more stubborn resistance on the front of Amiens than the Germans have encountered hitherto.

Regain Ground.

Though the Guards and a division of Bavarian troops were thrown in after the terrain had been shelled with explosive gas shells and some tanks were employed, the Allies were able to counter-attack during a pause and regain some of the ground lost in the first rush, which carried the Germans into the woods beyond.

This is highly encouraging, showing that the Anglo-French army still has punch after the long and bitter punishment it has suffered. Though the thrust has the appearance of a local attack, it is likely it is preliminary and part of a more ambitious attempt to reach Amiens.

Meanwhile the northern battle has developed a second phase there. London is trying the break through to Ypres by concentrating his attacks on Kemmel. The French are co-operating with the British in goodly numbers on this front. During the last week the enemy brought up many heavy guns in the neighborhood of Wytchaete, which is still being shelled from three sides, but the British and French hold a distinct advantage as their positions overlook the whole countryside and Kemmel lends itself to defence.

Midway between Kemmel and Wytchaete the ground is less than half the height of Kemmel, but unless Kemmel is stormed it would be impossible for the enemy to debouch to the Ypres plains. The situation is too obscure to give any details, but it is apparent that the Germans are making a desperate attempt not merely a diversion.

117,000 Allied Prisoners.

Last night's blow at the French from southwest of Kemmel met with a sharp reverse, though the Germans used gas shells lavishly before going into action. This morning's attack was also preceded by a gas barrage, while the troops went over a couple of hours later.

Aside from the two great battles there was some minor activity around Festubert and Rebecq. Though on Tuesday night this portion of the Armentieres front was violently bombarded, infantry actions did not develop.

According to the latest German fig-

CARS DEMOLISHED IN BAD WRECK AT KENT JUNCTION

Fast Freight Running From Montreal to Halifax is Thrown from Rails.

NINE CARS IN A MASS OF WRECKAGE

Two Plunge Down Embankment—Road Blocked 9 Hours—No One Hurt

Special to The Standard.
Moncton, April 25.—Traffic on the northern division of the C. G. R. was tied up eight or nine hours this afternoon and evening by a freight smash-up near Kent Junction. A section of east-bound fast freight, Montreal to Halifax, was wrecked about 2:30 this afternoon, considerable damage resulting to the rolling stock and freight, but no one injured. Nine freight cars left the rails, being thrown in all directions. One or two cars turned completely over rolling down an embankment. Several cars were probably smashed beyond repair.

The freight was scattered in all directions and there will be considerable loss. Auxiliary crews at scene of wreck had the line clear about eleven tonight.

The Ocean Limited from Halifax was held at Harcourt until the wreck was cleared up, while the Ocean from Montreal was detained west of the wreck. The spreading of a rail or a broken truck is believed to have caused the wreck.

HOW THE GALLANT BROCK WAS KILLED

Dover, Eng., April 25.—(By the Associated Press)—It was while charging along the Zebrugge Mole at the head of a party of fifteen seamen that acting Wing Commander Frank A. Brock, who developed the smoke screen for the attack on Zebrugge and Ostend, was killed, according to an account given today aboard the cruiser Vindictive by one of the Brock party.

"Commander Brock," said the seaman, "was among the first to leave the Vindictive. Armed with a Winchester and a truncheon, he led us across the narrow gangway to the Mole and then with a shout beckoned us to follow him toward the outer end with the object of storming a German battery of eleven-inch guns. He had not gone many yards before he was hit with a machine gun bullet. I do not know whether he fell into the water or not."

DOMINION PULP CO. RAISES PAY OF 200

Increase to be Granted in Chatham Next Pay Day Will be Voluntary.

Special to The Standard.
Chatham, April 25.—The Dominion Pulp Co. has voluntarily increased the wages of its employees 2½ cents per hour. The new rate will come into effect next pay day. About 200 men are affected by the new scale.

DOMVILLE WANTS PEACE N. F. CONSCRIPTION

Ottawa, April 25.—In the Senate today, when the bilingual question among Quebec train hands was discussed, Senator Domville declared that it was time the wolf and the lamb reached an agreement on this matter.

"It does not help toward peace, harmony and good feeling to have this question brought forward on every opportunity."

The British Make Some Progress East of Amiens, Announces Marshal Haig

London, April 25.—Australian and English troops have recaptured Villers-Brettonneux and taken more than six hundred prisoners in that region, Field Marshal Haig reports from headquarters tonight.

Further to the north on a line from Bailleul to Wytchaete there has been very heavy fighting and the allied troops were obliged to withdraw from their positions.

The statement says: "The French and British positions north of Bailleul to east of Wytchaete have been heavily attacked all day. There was fighting of great severity on the whole of this front, particularly in the neighborhood of Dranoutre, Kemmel and Vierstraet.

"In the course of repeated attacks and counter-attacks the allied troops have been compelled to withdraw from the positions they held this morning and the fighting continues.

"South of the Somme several counter-attacks launched by Australian and English troops last night against the positions gained by the enemy yesterday in and around Villers-Brettonneux carried our line forward to within a short distance of our former front and resulted in the capture of over six hundred prisoners. The village is now in our hands."

Dr. J. Roy Campbell Is Praised By Ministers

Premier Foster and Ex-Premier Clifford W. Robinson and Hon. Mr. Baxter Take Occasion to Eulogize St. John City Member for His Work on St. John Assessment Bill.

Special to The Standard.
Fredericton, April 25.—When the St. John assessment bill was before the House tonight it almost made a record for speedy passage. The bill is a lengthy and particularly comprehensive one, but so well was it drawn and so clear were its provisions that with the exception of a few sections which were allowed to stand over the House assented to it very quickly. An unusual but absolutely warranted feature of the consideration of the bill was that Hon. Mr. Baxter from the Opposition, Premier Foster and Hon. C. W. Robinson from the Government took occasion to eulogize Dr. J. Roy Campbell, M. P. P. of St. John for the splendid work he had done in connection with the measure and the clear concise manner in which its provisions had been explained both to the House and in committee.

Acknowledges Tribute.

Dr. Campbell acknowledges the tribute, disclaimed any special credit calling attention rather to the work of professor Kierstead and the other gentlemen who had been associated with him in the framing of the bill. Professor Kierstead was in the gallery to see the measure passed. It may be truthfully said that Dr. Campbell is generally recognized as one of the most useful members of the legislature. He is an indefatigable worker and most faithful in attention to his duties. More over his broad knowledge and legal training combine to give him the qualities of an able and excellent representative. Although a comparative novice in political life there is no man in the house more highly esteemed or whose advice is more frequently sought.

LORD ROTHERMERE RESIGNS AIR POST

Secretary of State for Air Forces, Brother of Lord Northcliffe, is Broken in Health — Sir William Weir May Succeed.

By Arthur S. Draper.
(Special to New York Tribune and St. John Standard.)

London, April 25.—After five months as British air minister, Lord Rothermere, brother of Lord Northcliffe, and financial genius of the Harmsworth family, has resigned, giving poor health as the reason for his action. For the last fortnight he has been severely attacked by the political friends of General Trenchard, his chief of staff, who resigned because of a difference of opinion on a question of policy.

Wier May Succeed.
The general opinion prevails that Sir William Wier, a member of the air council, will succeed Lord Rothermere. Following his return from America, the ministry was offered to Lord Northcliffe who declined it in a sharp letter to Lloyd George, which some interpreted as an indication of a break with the premier.

In a letter accepting Rothermere's resignation, the premier pays a high tribute to the work which has been done in co-ordinating the air services. When Lord Rothermere became a

CLERGYMAN KILLED

Springfield, Mass., April 25.—Word has been received here that Rev. Walter Handley, formerly curate of Christa Episcopal Church, has been killed in action in France.

ROYAL COMMISSION FOR CURRIE CASE

Despite Declaration of Mr. LeBlanc, Restigouche, that Government Had No Right to Investigate Charges of Defrauding the Crown Brought by Hon. Mr. Baxter Against Speaker of Legislature, it was Decided to Probe the Accusations—Bill to that Effect is Given Second Reading—will be Serious for Somebody, Says Premier Foster.

Special to The Standard.
Fredericton, April 25.—Despite a rather passionate declaration from Mr. A. T. LeBlanc of Restigouche, Mr. Currie's colleague in the Legislature, that Hon. J. B. M. Baxter, who formally presented the Currie charges to the House should resign his seat if those charges were not proven, and an emphatic expression of belief that the charges were based on rumors and consequently the government had no right to investigate them, the government this morning decided to refer the charges to a royal commission and before the day's session had been concluded a bill authorizing the appointment of such commission had been introduced and received its second reading.

When the matter came before the House shortly after the opening of the morning session Mr. Baxter moved his formal resolutions for a committee of the House. Mr. Foster proposed an amendment to refer the charges to a royal commission. It was approaching the end of the session, he said, and with members desirous of getting away to their homes he did not want to keep the House sitting until the committee had completed its investigations. He said if the charges were proven it would be serious not only for Mr. Currie but for others. If they were not established the men who made the charges would at least stand in an unenviable light. He would have a special act prepared at once to authorize the commission.

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ROBERTS' HEALTH BILL IS PASSED

In Its Accepted Form Some of More Ridiculous Features are Eliminated, but it Will Still Stand on Statute Books of Province as Monstrosity of Legislation, Particularly Drastic in Some of its Provisions and Foolish in Most of them—Government Majority Three.

Special to The Standard.
Fredericton, April 25.—The Roberts' health bill passed the legislature tonight after practically the whole day being spent in its discussion. In its accepted form the bill has some of its more ridiculous features eliminated, but it will still stand on the statute books of the province as a monstrosity of legislation, particularly drastic in some of its provisions and foolish in most of them. The fight in the legislature for it was a fight waged by the Opposition with some measure of success to prevent the people of this province from being saddled with a department far too expensive and elaborate for the work it has to do resulting in some changes in the legislation. One of these was the elimination of the salary to be paid to the minister of health, by insisting on which the Opposition saved at least \$1,200 per year to the people.

Another Foolish Section.
Another was the removal of a particularly foolish section which sought to make the parents or "curators of children or imbecile persons" responsible for violations of the law by those minors or imbeciles. Drastic penalties provided for comparatively unimportant infractions of the legislation were also considerably modified, but in the main the bill went through just as it left the hands of the gentleman who promoted it, a "fearful and wonderful" product of legislative genius. The morning session was largely taken up in discussion of an amendment proposed by Dr. Roberts by which it was planned to place the administration of the public health in the hands of a minister to be designated by the lieutenant-governor in council who shall serve without salary or remuneration. By this means the government hope to evade the necessity of appealing to the people for ratification of the measure by the election of the minister entrusted with its administration and despite the heroic protests of the Opposition to the effect that the innovation meant an absolute

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