

## CANADIANS STAND UP WELL UNDER ENEMY'S FIRE; QUEEN'S OWN RIFLES WIN SOME TRENCHES

Several Regiments Received Baptism of Fire and Behaved Splendidly—British Soldiers Proud of Their Comrades From Across the Sea—Will Take Place Regularly—Casualties Generally Were Light—Several of Queen's Own Rifles Wounded By Shrapnel and Snipers.

Toronto, Feb. 26.—The Mail and Empire prints the following despatch this morning:

"Northern France, Tuesday, via London, Feb. 25. 'I am able to state definitely that the Canadian troops have been in action. They conducted themselves with the utmost gallantry and steadiness, and were under heavy shell and rifle fire for hours.

"The infantry brigades were first in action. Its casualties were not heavy. The regiment repulsed a determined attack. The machine gun section is doing good work, but has had a number wounded.

"The rifles distinguished themselves, but are reported to have lost a number of men. They captured a German trench. Only twenty-five men are reported unhurt out of a full company.

"The Canadians entered the trenches under cover of darkness, marching in single file over a road shattered by bursting shells. Their behavior was a credit to Canada, and the British soldiers are proud to fight beside them. From now on the Canadians will regularly take their share of the fighting."

The Mail and Empire adds the following footnote: "The Ontario Infantry Brigade, the Toronto regiment and machine gun sections, and the Queen's Own Rifles apparently are the units referred to in the foregoing despatch."

Queen's Own Capture Trenches from Germans.

Toronto, Feb. 26.—The Globe prints the following despatch today:

"London, Feb. 26.—According to a report here, the 'Little Black Devils' (the 90th Regiment, Winnipeg, or the Queen's Own Rifles, Toronto), in a brilliant charge, won some German trenches, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. It is said that one company (of the Canadians) had several men killed.

"The Infantrymen of the Canadian Expeditionary Force have had their baptism of fire. They were sent forward to relieve imperial troops in the trenches.

"Letters from Toronto officers state that the men behaved splendidly under a fierce shelling. Lieut. Col. Rennie, of the Queen's Own Rifles, reports that several men have been wounded by shrapnel and snipers. The casualties all around have been especially light.

"The censor prohibits the sending of unofficial casualties."

Four Dardanelles Forts Destroyed

Paris, Feb. 26.—An official communication issued by the French Minister of Marine today confirms the demolition of the forts guarding the entrance to the Dardanelles and says that mine-dragging operations are now proceeding in the Straits. The communication follows:

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## BATTLEGROUND NEAR YPRES A VAST CEMETERY

Eye-Witness Writes of Gruesome Sights in Western War Theatre.

BRITISH TROOPS DO SPLENDID WORK

Writer Says Letters Found on German Dead Show Earlier Optimism is Fast Disappearing.

London, Feb. 26 (10.15 p.m.)—"All the ground near the front line is plowed up with shells and furrowed with the remains of old trenches and graves. The whole place is a vast cemetery, in which our trenches and those of the enemy wind in every direction. This statement is made by the British official 'eye-witness' at the front, in a despatch describing the recent battles southeast of Ypres, and of the country in which the armies are fighting.

"In a sheltered spot," he continues, "there is a little graveyard where some of our own have been buried. Their graves have been carefully marked and a rough square of bricks has been placed around them. In front of the trenches German bodies still lie thick.

"At one point of the brick fields recently some thirty men tried to rush our line. At their head was a young German officer who came on gallantly, waving his sword. He almost reached the barbed wire and then fell dead, and he lies there yet with his sword in his hand and all his thirty men about him.

As if Swept By a Withering Blast

"It is the same all along the front in this quarter. Everywhere still, gray figures can be seen lying, sometimes several rows together and sometimes singly or in twos or threes.

"This description might serve with a few minor alterations for many of the localities along our front where the fighting has centered around some wood, a village or line of trenches. It is as if each had been swept by a withering blast before which every object, whether a work of nature or become twisted and damaged, and even the very ground itself looks as if it had been shaken by a violent convulsion of nature."

(Continued on page 2)

ONTARIO GOV'T

WILL CABLE ITS CONGRATULATIONS

To Ontario Brigade of First Contingent for Good Work on Firing Line.

Toronto, Feb. 26.—In view of the fact that the Ontario Brigade of the First Canadian Contingent has been under fire for the first time, and according to the despatches, has behaved with great gallantry, the Ontario Legislature decided unanimously today to send the following cablegram of congratulation to the commanding officer:

The Legislature of Ontario congratulates the men of the Ontario Brigade on their steadiness and valor under fire, for the first time in the present war, and gratefully recognizes the sacrifices they are making for our liberties, as well as for the liberties of the world, and this Legislature is assured that they will always maintain the honor of Canada and of the Empire."

Washington

IS HOPEFUL

Encouraged by Reports from London and Berlin Concerning the American Proposals.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Encouraging reports from both Ambassadors Page and Gerard, at London and Berlin, were received by President Wilson and his cabinet today concerning the attitude of Great Britain and Germany toward the latest American proposals for the safeguarding of neutral

commerce from the dangers of submarines and mines, and the unrestricted shipment of foodstuffs to the civilian population of belligerent countries. Complete replies are not expected for several days because the subject is still under consideration by England and her allies.

WASHINGTON

WANT TO BUY SHIPS FROM BELLIGERENTS

London, Feb. 26.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Copenhagen says the Scandinavian Shipping Congress has issued a report in which it urges the commencement of diplomatic negotiations with the purpose of securing an agreement under which the Scandinavian countries will be permitted to purchase ships from belligerent countries.

## GOOD NEWS FROM BOTH THE THEATRES OF WAR

Germans Rushing Troops to Belgium in Preparation for Another Attack—Allies Confident of Their Power to Stop Any Offensive Enemy May Try—British Strengthen their Positions at La Basse and French Gain Ground in Argonne and Near Perthes.

London, Feb. 26.—The continued progress which the French are said to be making in the Champagne district, and the pressure which the Allies, without attempting any great offensive, are declared to be bringing to bear on the German line in the west, have, according to news received from Holland, induced the Germans to make another effort in the west before the allied forces reach their maximum strength.

By day and by night, say the Dutch newspapers, big motor cars, loaded with German soldiers, are hurrying through Belgium to the western front, and the troops which had been sent to northern Belgium are going back to the trenches. The fact that some of the troops now passing through Belgium come from the eastern front suggests to the military observers that the Germans have decided that they are able to hold the Russians in their present positions, while the Germans are carrying out their new offensive in the west.

Allies Not Worrying.

The silence of the German general staff, which today simply said that there had been no change on either front, is taken in London as confirmation that some big movement, such as that suggested in our way, it is declared that the allies are displaying their confidence. They believe that the success of the ground must prove a great disadvantage to the Germans, and although all their troops are not yet ready that they will be able to repel any new attack.

Progress in Argonne.

During the last couple of days the British have slightly improved their positions in the region of La Basse, while the French report further progress by their troops in the vicinity of Perthes, and in the Argonne, and repeated successes by their artillery

in destroying German guns and trenches.

In the east a big battle along the Russian fortress line, which follows the river almost the whole way from the Baltic to the Carpathians, is still undecided. The same is true also of the battles in the Carpathians and in Bukovina. Petrograd despatches, however, claim that the Russians are more than holding their own in North and Central Poland, and that in the Carpathians they are making a steady advance that not only the Hunzarian, but the Austrian armies fighting in Bukovina, are threatened.

No further news has reached London of the bombardment of the Dardanelles forts by the allied fleet, but it is believed here the warships will now continue their attacks until the Straits are forced. Having destroyed the outer fortifications the entrance to the waterway is being cleared of mines, preparatory to an attack on the inner forts. One effect of the preliminary success of the allies in the Dardanelles was the dropping today of the price of wheat, which went down several points on the Liverpool Exchange.

A serious invasion of German Southwest Africa by the Union of South Africa forces is now under way. The troops which landed in Walvisch and Luderitz Bay are advancing along the railroads from these ports to the main line, which runs north and south through virtually the whole length of the colony, while another force is concentrating in Northern Cape Colony to advance from the south.

No further losses as a result of the German submarine and mine blockade have been reported.

Premier Asquith is expected to make a statement in the House of Commons Monday, outlining the steps which the allies have decided upon in retaliation against Germany's sea war zone.

STEGLER SAYS NAVAL ATTACHE WANTED HIM TO GO TO ENGLAND AS SPY

German Reservist Arrested in New York Few Days Ago Persists in Original Story—Had Instructions to Spy on English Fleet in St. George's Channel and Inform Authorities in Germany.

New York, Feb. 26.—Charles H. Griffiths, attorney for Richard P. Stegler, the German naval reservist arrested here Wednesday on the charge of fraudulently obtaining an American passport, announced tonight that he would place in the hands of the Federal authorities an anonymous type-written letter received by Mrs. Stegler which would be compared with letters alleged to have been written to Stegler by Captain K. Boy-Ed, naval attaché of the German embassy at Washington. Stegler, according to Griffiths, has told Federal authorities that Captain Boy-Ed wanted him to go to England as a spy.

Captain Boy-Ed today denied having written or knowing anything about the letter.

Dr. K. A. Fuhr, who Stegler says told him that Captain Boy-Ed was responsible for sending to England Carl Hans Lody, the German spy who was shot in the Tower of London, denied today that he had ever made any such statement to Stegler, or knew anything whatever of the matter.

Told to Watch All Shipping in the Mersey

Stegler today reiterated, Mr. Griffiths said, his declaration that Captain Boy-Ed had wanted him to go to England as a spy. As told by the attorney, Stegler was instructed by the naval attaché that the British Admiralty was fitting out, at Belfast, a number of merchantmen which were to be sent, disguised as German boats, to the mouths of the Elbe and Weser rivers, and sunk there in order to blockade Cuxhaven, Bremerhaven and other German ports.

"I was to get all the information I could about the matter," Stegler was quoted by Griffiths as saying. "I was also to watch all shipping movements in the Mersey. I was to try to locate the strength of the English fleet supposed to be in St. George's Channel. I was to make absolutely no notes, but to depend entirely on my memory. I was then to go to Rotterdam and then to the German border, where I was to meet German officers and give a secret password. I was told to be very careful in regard to meeting these officers, as Captain Boy-Ed said there were English spies in the German lines who wore the uniforms of German officers, and even the Iron Cross. I was to go to Berlin and deliver my information to Herr Isendahl, head of the German Intelligence Bureau."

London, Feb. 26.—Viscount James Bryce, in an article which is to be published in the Daily Chronicle tomorrow, on "the position of the United States in the war," says it is "a complete error to assume that those who bear a German name, or who own to German blood, belong to the pro-German party."

"The children of Europeans who are born in America," Viscount Bryce continues, "grow up normal American citizens for all practical purposes. The loyalty is to the Stars and Stripes and their feeling for the land of their parents is comparatively weak. What is called the German vote is, in some few cities, a force to be reckoned with. But when those who lead it try to use it as a means for applying political pressure in such cases as this, the native Americans resent such an attempt for with them it is a fundamental principle that citizens must have no loyalty, save to the United States, and the great bulk even of hyphenated German-Americans would refuse to respond."

As to the neutrality of the American government, Viscount Bryce adds both sides have blamed it, and the government points to this as the best proof of its impartiality. One party, he says, moved by the tragic fate of Belgium, ensures the government for having failed to protest "against the violation of Belgian territory, and the flagrant breaches of the rules of warfare prescribed by The Hague Convention."

"But," says Viscount Bryce, "it is right that neither side of the case should be put to the United States, the greatest of the neutral powers. The administration might conserve that many questions will arise during the war in which the rights of all the neutrals will be involved, and it might think that the authority with which the United States can speak would be weakened if, at the outset, its government takes up a position adverse to either side."

(Continued on page 2)

ROME, Feb. 26.—The Italian government has decided to prohibit in the future, meetings called for the purpose of arousing sentiment for or against war. This step was taken owing to the serious disorders which have resulted from such meetings, in which a number of persons have been killed or wounded.

## PUGSLEY READY TO BETRAY THIS PORT FOR PARTY GAIN

Ex-Minister of Public Works Advocates Reduction in Public Works and Slowing Down Wheels of Progress at St. John—Hansard's Report of His Remarks.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 26.—If the Hon. Wm. Pugsley has his way the amount which the government proposes to spend on St. John Harbor this year will be cut in half. Instead of spending \$1,500,000 on the harbor works Mr. Pugsley wants the government to spend only \$750,000. He wants the appropriation for Halifax to be reduced from \$3,000,000 to \$1,500,000. He also does not relish the idea of going on with the breakwater to Partridge Island. If this is not done on with Mr. Pugsley will be to blame. Twice this week the Liberal member for St. John has taken this attitude of antagonism towards his constituency. When he was advocating the cutting of the estimates in half last Tuesday, Hon. Robert Rogers challenged him to say if he would apply the same policy towards the St. John works. He was cornered by the ready-witted western minister, and could not get out of it, so he was perforce obliged to admit that he would adopt the same policy towards St. John.

Mr. Rogers has other views regarding times of trial and stress. He goes on the broad principle, that when work is scarce, when women and children are near the point of starvation, then is the time to have no cheese-paring, but rather to keep the works going, to make "Business as usual."

PUGSLEY NO FRIEND OF THE WORKINGMAN.

His policy at the emergency session last summer he announced to be that of keeping the works undertaken going, but not to enter upon new works unless these were absolutely necessary. He refused to put thousands of men all over the country out of employment and to increase to an enormous degree the misery and distress which prevailed.

But Mr. Pugsley has other views. He would stop public works and take away from the employees their work. The question of the starvation of the wives and families does not enter into his calculations.

Not content with his attack upon St. John earlier in the week he has again returned to the subject today.

"I say," he replied to Mr. Rogers, "that in these times of stress and trouble the amount proposed for St. John Harbor of \$1,500,000 might very well be cut down during this year to \$750,000."

Mr. Bradbury: "The time to spend money is when times are hard so as to provide work for the people."

Mr. Pugsley criticized Mr. Rogers for having in the estimates \$100,000 to extend the breakwater to Partridge Island and said the minister had announced publicly he was not going to commence that work this year.

Mr. Rogers—"I do not remember having stated that I do not intend to go on with the breakwater to Partridge Island."

Mr. Pugsley—"Let me ask then if the minister intends to go on with it."

Mr. Rogers—"We have called for tenders and I am hopeful that we shall be able to go on, because that is one of the most important works in the Dominion."

Mr. Pugsley—"The statement has been made publicly that the new works will not be gone on with during the present year."

Mr. Rogers—"That is not a new work."

Mr. Pugsley—"Entirely new."

Mr. Rogers—"It is part of the harbor."

The object of Mr. Pugsley seems to be to create the impression that the breakwater is not a part of the scheme of improvement of St. John harbor and thus being a new work prevent anything being done.

Later Mr. Pugsley attacked the appropriation of \$112,000 to build the spur line to Courtenay Bay and suggested that the reason for several works was political urgency.

Mr. Rogers—"There is no political urgency at all. There may have been urgency in my hon. friend's day, but there is none in mine."

Mr. Pugsley—"I am sure that my hon. friend is not altogether unaware of the fact that constituencies are to a certain extent influenced by the consideration as to whether or not they are to get public buildings."

Mr. Rogers—"Not those represented on this side of the House."

BRUCE, ON UNITED STATES STAND IN CRISIS

DEGREES FOR DALHOUSIE'S SOLDIERS

Unique Ceremony Yesterday—Seven Students Going to War Receive Degrees.

Halifax, Feb. 26.—A ceremony unique in the history of Dalhousie University was that which was held in the Munro room of the college building today when the degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred upon 12 students of Dalhousie who are now serving the King. The university's record of its sons who are now in military service is a long and interesting one, and today's ceremony was a fitting recognition on the part of Dalhousie of these students of this year's senior class who have joined the forces. These men are released from further examination and now have their degrees. Seven students were capped by Dr. A. S. MacKenzie, president of the college, and five were given degrees in

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