

# The Winnipeg Times Star

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## Drocourt-Queant Line Now Appears Doomed

### German's Tremendous Sacrifices on West in Vain—French Inflict More Losses—Panic in Trieste as Italians Advance

Bullecourt is at last in British hands, and the Drocourt-Queant line appears doomed. The tremendous sacrifices made by the Germans have proved in vain and the flames of burning towers behind their lines give color to reports that the Field Marshal Von Hindenburg is contemplating another strategic retreat.

The capture of Bullecourt has brought the British to within two miles of Queant on the northern side of the famous switch line. Their guns have already encircled it at an equal distance to the south and east and only a narrow gateway to the northwest lies open to the German garrison. Bullecourt itself, over which such torrents of blood have flowed, stands on a height overlooking a broad valley which runs directly to Queant. It will presumably take some time for the British to establish their heavy guns on this height, but the fate of Queant seems sealed.

#### BRITISH REPORT

London, May 18.—Two hostile raiding parties were beaten off with loss last night northeast of Arrmentiers," says today's official statement. "There is nothing further of interest."

#### FRENCH BEAT THEM BACK

Paris, May 18.—Several attacks were launched by the Germans last night in the vicinity of Craonne. Today's official statement says they were repulsed. French reconnoitering parties penetrated the German lines in Lorraine.

#### PANIC IN TRIESTE REPORTED

New York, May 18.—A News Agency despatch from Rome today says Austria has ordered all civilians to evacuate the Insozo section in which Italian troops are steadily forging ahead today. Trieste is panic stricken at the approach of the Italians, according to word received here. All banks there have been closed and the government offices and the principal business houses have hurriedly shipped all records to Vienna.

Most of the Austrian prisoners taken so far by the Italians were from divisions recently detached from the Russian front. This was announced today. General Von Falkenhayn is still at the Austrian front, attached to the Austrian general staff.

#### Austrian Report

London, May 18.—The official statement issued by the Austrian war office last night reads: "In the eastern and southeastern theatres, the situation is unchanged."

#### "Italian theater—After a comparatively calm night in the Insozo sector, fighting broke out again on Wednesday morning. The main attack of the Italian masses, which were continuously reinforced, was directed against a chain of heights east of the Fava-Salcano Valley and our lines before the gates of Gortina, with great ferocity, the attacking and defending forces changing roles from hour to hour. French reserves brought up again and again by the repulsed enemy for new attacks suffered great losses."

"Further south, in the sector of Montebelluna, after repeated unsuccessful attacks on our positions, the enemy ceased his assaults in the afternoon. "Equally successful for us as the fighting on the road east of Gortina, where there was a struggle throughout the day for possession of our first lines. By evening all our trenches except some small nests were thoroughly cleared of the enemy. We captured 400 prisoners. Elsewhere there was strong artillery action."

## GERMANS START RUMOR OF TRUCE BY RUSSIA AND CENTRAL POWERS

London, May 18.—According to an Exclusion Telegraph despatch from Amsterdam, it is rumored at the Hague that a truce is being worked for a few days between the Central Powers and the Allies.

#### PATRICK GALLAGHER CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY

Moncton Transcript.—Patrick Gallagher of this city, is celebrating his 70th birthday today. He was born in Ballyshannon, County Donegal, Ireland, May 17th, 1845, and arrived in St. John, October 8, 1868, in his seventeenth year. He moved to Moncton in July, 1876, and has been a resident almost continuously ever since, with the exception of two and a half years spent in Dorchester, where he conducted the Windsor Hotel. In his early life he followed the meat business. In 1868 he began his hotel business in this city, and was proprietor of the Mint Hotel until February last, when it was burned. He is now carrying out plans to rebuild the hotel on a large scale.

#### CITY OF HAMBURG WITHOUT GAS THROUGH COAL FAMINE

Copenhagen, May 18.—Owing to shortage of coal Hamburg is now without gas, except a limited supply for a few indispensable institutions. Most of the restaurants and cafes are closed in the evening or conducting a twilight existence by the aid of a few lamps. The streets are largely in darkness and many households have only candles.

#### MASKELYNE, FAMOUS CONJUROR, IS DEAD

London, May 18.—John Nevil Maskelyne, London's famous conjuror, died in London today. Mr. Maskelyne was seventy-eight years old and for nearly fifty years had been almost an English institution. His celebrated show house, Egyptian Hall, was almost as well known as Westminster Abbey of Buckingham Palace.

## BRITAIN LENDS FAMOUS EVANS TO AMERICANS

### Captain of Destroyer Broke, Which Did Such Gallant Work in Defeating Six German Destroyers

London, May 18.—In the course of an editorial on the Navy League lunch, the Times, referring to the co-operation of Admiral Sims (American) with the British Admiralty, says: "In return for lending Captain Evans to the destroyer leader Broke."

The Broke was one of two British destroyers which engaged and defeated six German destroyers off Dover on the night of April 24. Broke, after running into the arms of the Germans, was attacked by two other enemy craft while the crew of the national vessel attempted to board her. The boarders were driven into the sea and the two other destroyers put to flight. Later the Broke, with a damaged and with her main engines out of commission, torpedoed and sank one of the remaining German boats.

Captain Evans was second in command of the famous Scott-Antarctic expedition and was also decorated with the Order of the Bath by King George.

## GRAVE CHARGE AGAINST CZAR

### Russian Paper Alleges Intrigue with Kaiser While Portsmouth Treaty Negotiations Were On

Paris, May 18.—A long account of an alleged secret pact between the Kaiser and Emperor Nicholas is given in the last issue of the Moscow Russkoye Slovo to reach Paris. According to the story, the Kaiser and Count Witte in 1905, while the peace negotiations between Russia and Japan were proceeding at Portsmouth, were interested in a loan to Russia, this would limit them hard, and the story goes, rather than have complicated the peace policy, the Kaiser yielded. Neither emperor, however, ever forgave Count Witte. He bound the editor to keep the information secret until he, Count Witte, was dead and Chancellor of the Reich. He bound the editor to keep the information secret until he, Count Witte, was dead and Chancellor of the Reich. He bound the editor to keep the information secret until he, Count Witte, was dead and Chancellor of the Reich.

#### SMUTS IN CHAIR AT CONVENTION ON HOME RULE

London, May 18.—The London correspondent of the Manchester Guardian, writes that General Smuts, former Boer leader, is invited to chair the convention of the Irish convention, if the latter materializes. The correspondent emphasizes the intellectual and practical qualifications of the general and is convinced that the appointment will be universally acclaimed.

## AMERICAN RED CROSS UNIT REACHES ENGLAND

London, May 18.—Sir Alfred Keogh, surgeon-general of the British army, announced today that the first of fully organized and equipped hospital units which the American Red Cross is sending to France arrived in England yesterday. The unit comprised about 300 persons, including twenty army medical officers, sixty nurses and more than 200 attendants.

The unit will be the first officially sanctioned by the United States to carry the American flag to the battle fields of France since the United States entered the war. After a brief stay in England the unit will be sent to the continent, where it will take charge of a base hospital behind the British front. The hospital will have accommodations for 600 patients and be fully equipped by the British hospital service.

#### FREDERICKTON NEWS

Frederickton, N. B., May 18.—The body of F. W. Demille, manager of the landing of Commerce here, was taken by St. John this morning's train and will later be removed to Vancouver for burial. Rev. Dean Neales conducted services at the house and the body was accompanied to the depot by members of the bank staff and other citizens.

George B. Jones, M.P.P., left for Apohaqui this morning on receipt of news that his safe had been burglarized last night.

Governor Wood entertained friends to a dinner party at his home last evening.

The University Dramatic Club held this morning for Woodstock to give a performance for the benefit of the memorial fund.

The college students held their annual post-convocation celebration last night. An old canon used to fire a salute blow up on the sixth shot, but the explosion did no damage.

## LOYALIST DAY

Flags are flying over the city today in honor of the anniversary of the landing of the Loyalists here on May 18, 1783. The school children have the anniversary impressed on their minds in a favorable way by a holiday. The public observance of the occasion took the form of a band concert in King square at noon. A fine program was played by the band of the 12th Battalion, through the courtesy of Lieut-Col. Gillis. Large numbers of persons thronged the square and there were many complimentary comments on the music.

#### NEWS OF SOLDIERS

The next of kin, or any relatives of Lt. Edgar Winslow Hall, formerly Sgt. Hall, No. 445, 20th, are requested to communicate with the office of the Western Union Telegraph Co.

## Jap Gunboats In Mediterranean To Help Combat Submarines

Paris, May 18.—Several Japanese gunboats have arrived at Marseilles to aid in the war on German submarines and convoy French merchantmen. If the experiment has satisfactory results it will be extended.

## BORDEN TODAY MAY TALK OF MODIFIED FORM OF CONSCRIPTION TO RAISE FORCES IN CANADA

Montreal, May 18.—An Ottawa despatch to the "Star" says: "Conscription on a modified scale is now regarded as almost inevitable in the event of the need of recruits for overseas and the failure to get them by the volunteer process. Possibly Sir Robert Borden's speech this afternoon, may touch upon this situation, particularly the urgent need of men. In any event there is a noticeable diminution of opposition to the idea of a modified conscription on the principle of selection. Local boards would determine whether men's services were of greater value to the state in their present callings or as recruits for overseas."

"That things are shaping in this direction admits no doubt. It is only a question of time when it will be effective and the exact process which will be involved."

## SPAIN AROUSED BY SINKING OF STEAMER

### Another Crisp Note to Germany Likely—Clash in Streets of Madrid

Madrid, May 18.—An extraordinary meeting of the cabinet was called last evening immediately upon receipt of news of the sinking of the Spanish steamer, San Leandro, by a German submarine. The cabinet stated that the crew was saved but that one sailor was seriously wounded.

The government authorities were extremely reserved as to the result of their two hours' deliberation on the case, but it is supposed that the cabinet decided on another note of the most energetic character to Germany.

A violent clash between Francophiles and Germanophiles occurred here last evening as the outcome of arguments over the Spanish note to Germany and Germany's reply concerning the sinking of the steamer San Leandro. Several hundred persons took part in fist fighting and some of them used canes during the encounter.

## FEW SUNK IN PROPORTION TO AMOUNT OF SHIPPING AT THE BRITISH PORTS

London, May 18.—Three hundred and seventy-one British vessels have been sunk in the three months since the Admiralty began issuing statements with regard to the tonnage of vessels. At that period more than 85,000 vessels had entered or left British ports.

Of the ships sunk 250 have been more than 1,000 tons, 115 below that tonnage and 108 have been fishing craft.

## MR. MAGEE CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Auditor-General to be Present on Tuesday to Explain Accounts

Frederickton, May 18.—The public accounts committee met this morning and elected Mr. Magee of Westmorland as chairman. Some informal discussion took place as to the manner of taking up the examination of the accounts, and the committee adjourned to meet on Tuesday when the auditor-general will be present to explain them.

## OFFERS \$600 IN PRIZES IN FARM COMPETITION

Halifax Echo.—The increased production of prizes, amounting to \$600, offered by the local Board of Trade have been well advertised throughout the province with the result that F. L. Fuller, Truro, received a large number of entries, one county alone, Antigonish, making forty. A number of entries, however, are conditional and therefore cannot be entertained. The committee are considering the merits of the entries, and a proposal to extend the date of receiving entries beyond June 1st.

## WEATHER REPORT

Light showers have occurred in eastern Nova Scotia, the southwestern counties of Ontario, the Lake Superior district, and in Alberta. Elsewhere the weather has been fair.

Maritime.—Moderate winds, fair to somewhat higher temperature. Saturday, moderate winds and for the most part fair.

New England forecast.—Local showers tonight. Saturday, probably fair, moderate shifting winds.

## Probe Of Valey Railway Affairs

### Mr. Stevens, Royal Commissioner, Begins Inquiry—An Astonishing Revelation Comes Early—Next Session in St. John

Frederickton, May 18.—John M. Stevens, K. C., of Edmundston, who has been appointed by the provincial government a royal commissioner to investigate all matters pertaining to the St. John Valley Railway, held his first court this morning in the sheriff's office, county court house. F. B. Carvell, K. C., M. P., appeared as counsel for the government and C. Dow Simons acted as stenographer.

Ross Thompson, chief engineer for the St. John & Quebec Railway Company, placed in evidence a contract entered into with the Nova Scotia Construction Company and other documents connected therewith. It was decided that the next sitting be held in the court house in St. John on June 2 at ten o'clock. In the meantime subpoenas will be issued to officials of the contracting company and others whose evidence is deemed necessary. The commissioner said this morning that the inquiry will be open and all parties will have the right to be represented by counsel if they wish.

Mr. Thompson submitted a list of alterations in response to a call made in December, 1915. These tenders, it will be remembered, were not acted upon and new ones were invited. On the second call, tenders for the work were received from the Nova Scotia Construction Company and Kennedy & McDonald. The first named concern tendered for both sections of the road and the latter for Alex McDonald and John Kennedy of the Nova Scotia Construction Company was the lower and the contract was entered into with them on May 4, 1916.

Mr. Thompson said that the successful tenderers were compelled by directors of the company to lower prices in some instances. The figures in Kennedy & McDonald's tender were filled in with a lead pencil and the directors suspected that there may have been collusion. The Nova Scotia Construction Company were therefore told that if they did not accept the price reductions made by the engineer new tenders would be called for. Mr. Carvell called attention to a clause in the contract whereby the company had agreed to build the Andover-Centreville section of the road on protracted time terms as the lower section. He questioned the witnesses in regard to this and brought out the rather surprising information that the contractors had been released from the obligation and a new and more generous contract had been made on Feb. 8 of the present year, not after the legislature had been dissolved. It called for the completion of the upper section of the road on November 1, 1918. In the old contract the company was allowed \$1.65 a cubic yard for solid rock excavation, in the new contract the price was boosted to \$1.65. For common excavation work the price was raised from forty cents to forty-six cents a cubic yard. There was a corresponding increase in some other items.

Before adjournment Mr. Carvell said that witnesses to be called would include Alex McDonald and John Kennedy of Kennedy & McDonald, Thomas Corzillo and Howard Lindsay.

## PEASANTS IN CONGRESS IN PETROGRAD

Necessity of Resuming Active Fighting Urged

Petrograd, via London, May 18.—A congress of 609 delegates, purporting to represent the peasants of all Russia, has assembled here. The programme covers four points:

First, the crystallization of the opinion of the peasant class on all vital national subjects; second, the necessity of impressing on all citizens that the new freemen brings not only new rights but new responsibilities; third, the safeguarding of the interests of the peasant class; fourth, the safeguarding of the interests of the whole country.

The honorary chairman pointed out at the opening of the congress the necessity of the resumption of active operations on the front. The greetings of the French peasantry were extended through M. Premier Lovoff minister of agriculture. The minister of agriculture urged the necessity of keeping up the supplies of food and munitions, without which he warned the delegates, it would be impossible to continue the war or to conclude peace.

#### THE GERMAN WAY OF ANNOUNCING DEFEAT

Berlin, May 18, via London.—The official statement issued today by the German army headquarters staff says that the ruins of the former village of Bullecourt were evacuated by them yesterday.

#### OFFER TO GUTELIUS SAID TO BE \$25,000

Ottawa, May 18.—F. P. Gutelius, manager of the government railways system, is being asked for some grades of Ontario flour than for Manitoba patents. There is little movement in Ontario flour, and some of the jobbers are not carrying any.

#### THE CLEAN-UP

This is the last day of the civic clean-up campaign and operations are being carried on in the midtown section of the city.

## LIEUTENANT EDGETT HAS DIED OF WOUNDS

Moncton, May 18.—Mrs. Annie B. Stevens today received a telegram from Ottawa informing her of the death of Lieut. Louis Stanley Edgett, who a few days ago was reported dangerously wounded. He was a son of the late Captain Judson Edgett of Hillsboro.

## REV. J. F. FLOYD DIES SUDDENLY IN STATES

News received in the city tells of the sudden death of Rev. John F. Floyd at his home in North Troy, N.Y. He was formerly pastor of the Congregational Church in this city. The Rev. Mr. Floyd went to North Troy to preach at the home of Mrs. W. B. Dunn, 54 Victoria street.

## LOSSES SUIT AGAINST WALDORF ASTOR, M. P.

London, May 18.—An action for £29,000, brought by Charles Trant against Major Waldorf Astor, M.P., was dismissed in court today. The action was brought under an act of George II providing that a member of parliament who is absent from the House of Commons for a certain period without leave shall be liable to a penalty of £100. The defendant was not a member of parliament at the time of the action.

## BARRELS OF SEED POTATOES FOR USE BY CITY

### Government Sends Them Here For Benefit of Soldiers

#### THE LANCASTER FARM

The provincial department of agriculture has contributed eight barrels of seed potatoes for use in the potato patch at Silver Falls which is to be cultivated by the city for the use of returned soldiers. Commissioner Wigmore asked the department for eight or ten barrels and has received advice that eight are being forwarded. At present prices, this is a substantial contribution. The commissioner has written thanking the minister of agriculture on behalf of the returned soldiers and also expressing his personal appreciation of the contribution.

The department of works and sewerage is preparing the land, will plant potatoes, cultivate them and harvest the crop. The product there will be available for returned soldiers who are heads of families, and if there is a larger stock than is required for immediate use, the balance will be stored for use later or for sale for the benefit of the veterans.

## Preliminary Work Completed And Engineering Staff Now Laying Out Plots—The Farms And the Boys

The preliminary work on city potato fields in Lancaster has been done and the engineering staff is now laying out the plots. Ladies are being provided to each lot so that there will be no confusion among those who are cultivating them. The twenty-five acres which are being cultivated will provide upward of 100 tons and already between fifty and sixty applications have been received. It is expected that the entire number will be ready to make the allotment of individual plots early next week.

## MONCTON PASTOR TO BE INVITED TO HALIFAX

Rev. D. Macdonald, formerly of Moncton and now of Pembroke, Ont., will be asked to take the pulpit of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church of Halifax. Mr. Macdonald, who is a native of Cape Breton, is a graduate of Dalhousie University and Pine Hill College.

## A PLEASANT EVENING

A very enjoyable time was had last evening at the home of Mrs. J. Rodday, 570 Main street, when a company of young people, including a party of convalescent soldiers from the Parks Convalescent Home, were entertained with music and games. Refreshments were served. Later, Leonard Voss, on behalf of those present, made an enthusiastic speech. The company dispersed with the national anthem.