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TUESDAY MORNING MAY 23 1916—FOURTEEN PAGES

VOL. XXXVI.—No. 12,977

BRITISH TIGRIS FORCE ADVANCES TO KUT-EL-AMARA

FRENCH RECAPTURE PART OF FORT DOUAUMONT--ITALIAN FRONT UNBROKEN BY AUSTRIANS

Favorable Ross Rifle Reports Suppressed, Hughes Charges

FOOD SUPPLIES IN BRITAIN ARE RUNNING LOW

Recruiting Has Resulted in Serious Lack of Farm Laborers.

VESSELS HARD TO GET

Acland Makes Disturbing Statement in House of Commons.

LONDON, May 22.—Francis Dyke Acland, financial secretary of the treasury, speaking in the house of commons on the agricultural situation today, made a somewhat disturbing statement. It was imperative, Mr. Acland said, that farmers should drop their prejudice against the employment of female labor. A breakdwn in home supplies was only avoidable if the labor situation did not grow worse. The danger point of greatly decreased production already had been reached, and even as things were going, it was now feared that England could not hope to maintain her production on last year's level. If more men were swept into the army from the farms, she could only escape famine by diverting to importation of foodstuffs ships, which are so urgently needed for the transport of munitions.

"And," Mr. Acland continued, "we are unable to say whether there will be ships to divert that way."

During the course of the debate following Mr. Acland's speech, Rowland Edmund Prothero, Oxford University, expressed the opinion that sooner or later the government wil be compelled to put the country on rations in order to economize the food supplies. He urged the government to grasp the serious situation forthwith.

PAT O'KEEFE DEFEATED.

LONDON, May 23.—1.28 a.m.—The British middleweight champion pugilist, Pat O'Keefe, lost his match with Bandsman Blake at the National Sporting Club last night. Had O'Keefe won he would have gained thereby a pension of $1 a week for life.

CYMRIC'S LOSS NOT DUE TO BOILER'S EXPLOSION

British Admiralty Replies to Story That Came From Berlin.

LONDON, May 22.—The British admiralty, referring to a report sent out from Berlin to the effect that survivors of the British steamship Cymric, which sank May 9, had asserted the sinking of the vessel was due to the explosion of her boilers, declares the statement to be entirely unfounded. On the contrary, says the admiralty, the Cymric was torpedoed without warning.

Previous accounts from British sources, as well as despatches to the state department at Washington from the American consul at Queenstown, said the Cymric was torpedoed.

SIX MORE SHIPS HAVE BEEN SUNK

Italian, French, Greek, Swedish and Danish Craft Fall Victims.

FEW DETAILS GIVEN

Two Steamers Sank After Striking Mines Off the Swedish Coast.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

LONDON, May 22.—News of the sinking by submarines or mines of five steamers and a barque, was received tonight.

Lloyd's reports show that the Italian steamer Birmania, 2215 tons; Greek steamer Anastasios-Corroneos, 1901 tons; French steamer Languedoc, 1612 tons, and the Italian barque Erminia, 1444 tons, were lost. The last named sailed from Savona May 11, for Philadelphia.

A Stockholm despatch says: The Swedish steamer Rosalind, 877 tons, from Copenhagen to Stugsund, in ballast, has been sunk by a mine off the Stockholm skerries. The crew was saved.

Copenhagen reports that the Danish steamer Carla, 316 tons, has been sunk by a mine outside of Sandhammar Point, on the southern coast of Sweden, according to a Stockholm despatch. The crew was saved.

SIR WILFRID IN TORONTO.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier arrived in Toronto from Ottawa last night, and was met by Fred Pardee, M.P., and other Liberals. He was taken to the Ontario Club. He is arranging to hold a meeting at Massey Hall, where he will speak on bilingualism.

ALDERSON GAVE UNFAIR REPORT ON ROSS RIFLE

Real Test Ignored and Misleading One Basis of Charges.

HUGHES MAKES REPLY

Col. Gwatkin Overlooked Statements of Gen. Carson and Col. Aitken.

By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, May 22.—The militia department hands out the following memorandum on the Ross rifle to the press:

Major-Gen. Carson, on May 19, 1916, cabled the minister of militia and defence, submitting the following rather startling facts in relation to Gen. Alderson and the Ross rifle:

It appears that the soicalled test referred to by Gen. Alderson was no test of the rifles whatever, but was merely designed to try out bad ammunition. From other reliable sources it also appears that the soldier handling the Ross rifle was a mere novice while the one with the Lee-Enfield was an expert. Later an officer who understood the Ross, clearly proved its superiorities.

A startling feature of the case is that each, Gen. Carson and Col. Sir Max Aitken, received Gen. Alderson's letter of Feb. 7 on Feb. 11. Each immediately so notified Gen. Alderson in the following letters, and Sir Max Aitken, the very same day, observing that Gen. Alderson's letter was addressed to Gen. Gwatkin; also notified Gen. Gwatkin in the letter which follows that Gen. Alderson's statements and inferences were incorrect.

Both letters to Gen. Gwatkin must have reached Canada at the same time.

Letter to Alderson.

The following letter to Gen. Alderson, signed by Gen. Carson and endorsed by Col. Sir Max Aitken, is latcd London, Feb. 11, 1916.

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 8th instant with enclosure of copy of letter dated 6th inst. on the subject of the Ross rifle and which I have noted with a great deal of interest. I have no comments to make on this beyond the statement that the test which Sir Max Aitken and myself quite accidentally saw in France, some months ago, was, we thoroly understood, a test of the effect bad ammunition, which had been withdrawn from service, would have when fired from the Lee Enfield and Ross rifles. I understood that

(Continued on Page 4, Column 3).

ENEMY CAPTURES BRITISH TRENCHES

Germans Penetrate Line on Fifteen Hundred Yard Front.

FOE HEAVILY SHELLED

Much Artillery Work and Mining Operations Conducted at Artois.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

LONDON, May 22.—Heavily bombarding the British front at the north end of Vimy ridge, Martois, France, all day Sunday, the Germans launched an attack and captured trenches of a depth of 100 to 300 yards on a front of 1500 yards. The British artillery shelled the positions taken by the enemy all day in preparation for the counter-attack. The following is the British official statement on the fighting in France:

"After a heavy bombardment all yesterday (Sunday) becoming most intense in the afternoon, the enemy attacked our position in the north end of Vimy ridge and succeeded in penetrating our front line of trenches on a front of about 1500 yards. The depth of penetration varies from 100 to 300 yards.

"Today our artillery subjected the German positions to a heavy bombardment. On the remainder of the front we sprang mines near Roclincourt, the Hohenzollern redoubt and the quarries. There was mining activity also near Neuville St. Vaast and south of Fleurbaix.

"The artillery of both sides has been active opposite Lens and east of Ypres. We obtained direct hits on an enemy battery east of Blairville.

"Yesterday enemy aeroplanes were active. Many were engaged by our machines. Eight were driven off, tho none was brought down. One of our reconnaissance machines was forced to land in the enemy's lines."

HOME RULE SOON WITH EXCLUSION OF ULSTER

Powerful Influences Reported at Work to Effect Quick Settlement.

LONDON, May 22.—According to The Evening Standard, influences are working for a settlement of the Irish question by granting home rule at the earliest possible moment, with clean-cut exclusion of Ulster from the operations of home rule. In the interim, the newspaper says, the premier may propose a temporary government of Ireland by an advisory board, consisting of Irishmen belonging to both parties.

DEWART AUTHORIZED TO ACT AT ENQUIRY

Laurier's Letter Removes Misunderstanding as to His Legal Status.

By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, May 22.—A letter from Sir Wilfrid Laurier formally appointing H. H. Dewart, K.C., of Toronto, to represent the Liberal party at the enquiry by the Davidson commission into the sale of small arms ammunition, was received by the government this afternoon. This gives Mr. Dewart the definite standing and recognition which it was found at this afternoon's preliminary session he lacked.

The commission meets tomorrow morning to take evidence. F. Orr Lewis of the Canadian Vickers Company, and Col. Harston of Quebec, chief inspector of arms and ammunition, are being asked to attend as well as other witnesses.

ITALIANS PRESENT UNBROKEN FRONT

Stem Austrian Offensive and Hold Main Positions Solidly.

FOE MAKES CLAIMS

Crown Prince of Austria Boasts of Taking Many Prisoners.

ROME, May 22.—Austrian artillery of all sizes and ranges, with the monster 305-millimetre guns predominating, has transformed the battle front between the Adige and Brenta rivers into an inferno.

Notwithstanding the snow-capped mountain barriers, the Austrian infantry is being launched in waves which, military observers say, break against the formidable resistance of the Italians.

The Italian troops have now formed their lines of defense and are holding firmly all the passes and peaks from which Italian officers say the forward movements of the Austrians have not only been successfully arrested, but the Austrians have been disloged from several strategic positions taken in the first rush of the offensive.

"Italy's great hour has struck," is the theme of the comment of the public and the press on the news that is being received from the front.

"All the reports coming from the fighting zone agree that the number of Austrian troops now in action has been more than doubled, and that the Austrian artillery, especially heavy, long-range guns, is daily increasing and unmasking the imposing offensive prepared by Austria with the object of reaching the Alps before Vicenza, from which the Austrians would be able to dominate the entire Venetian region and threaten the flank and rear of the main Italian army occupying the provinces of Ludine and Belluno."

The Austrian official report claims that 23,883 prisoners have been taken in the offensive against Italy. It says that the Italian defeat on the southern Tyrol front is certainly becoming more serious. Austrians have taken the Lavarone plateau, Fima, Madriolo, and the height immediately west of the frontier from the summit as far as the Astach valley. The troops of the Crown Prince Charles Francis Joseph have reached the Monte Tormino-Majo line.

The Italian official report of today says that a violent attack of the Austrians against the Italian positions on the left bank of the Adige was repulsed with serious losses to the enemy, and that on the rest of the front as far as the Astico Valley no events of importance have occurred. The Austrians have continued to attack at intervals the Italian line between the Astico and the Sugana Valley. Skirmishes with Austrian detachments between Adige and Garda led to the driving back of the enemy everywhere.

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FRENCH REGAIN PART OF FORT FROM ENEMY

Capture Portion of Old Fortress of Douaumont.

TAKE MANY TRENCHES

Attacks Progress East and West of Meuse Before Verdun.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

LONDON, May 22—Beginning an offensive of their own on both banks of the Meuse and before Verdun, the French made considerable progress today and not only restored their own lines to the positions which they occupied before the last fighting for Le Mort Homme and Hill 287, but stormed German positions along a front of about a mile and a quarter between a point west of the Thiaumont farm and a point east of Fort Douaumont. The French troops captured German trenches on the entire front and they penetrated fort Douaumont. The Germans are still in the northern part of this fort. The French official statement says that numerous prisoners were taken in this action. The French also won German trenches along a front of 330 yards by a successful surprise attack in the Bouchet wood on the heights of the Meuse. Prisoners also were taken there.

Progress on Left Bank

On the left bank of the Meuse the French progress was continued in a series of sharp surprise attacks, which drove the enemy from the new entrenchments captured by him in the region of Le Mort Homme and forced him to evacuate a small work which he has held since May 18 south of Hill 287.

During the night the fighting was extremely ferocious west of Le Mort Homme. The Germans made several attempts to make further progress and they were stopped by a terrific fire from artillery and machine guns. This action cost the Germans heavy losses. The French troops then made a vigorous attack and captured the ground lost on Saturday night.

Quarries Attacked.

The Germans launched repeated attacks against the Haudremont quarries and they were driven off in every attempt in the usual way. The French captured a small German trench in the outskirts of Vaux Village.

The Germans attempted to make a gas attack on the French in Champagne and a veering of the wind caused the fumes to blow back in their own faces.

The French brought down a German machine which was approaching Dunkirk with the object of dropping bombs on that town and they also brought down two more machines in aerial combat in Alsace.

French aeroplanes and dirigibles have continued their activity in raining down bombs on stations and other important points in the rear of the German lines by night.

Their batteries in the Argonne busied themselves today in the bombarding of the German communications at Nantillois, Montfaucon, and Cheppy wood.

HEALY CREATED SCENE IN BRITISH COMMONS

Heated Protest Against Executions in Ireland Led to Disorder.

LONDON, May 22.—Timothy Healy, Irish member of parliament created a scene in the commons this afternoon during a debate on the executions in Ireland, by shouting:

"We are not going to stand here and see our people shot. We are not in Prussia."

Some cheers from Irish members greeted his statement.

"He is a licensed traitor," shouted one voice. From all over the house came mingled cries of approval and dissent and the commons was in an uproar.

Healy previously during the debate had declared he had no confidence in the court-martial, nor in Sir John Maxwell commanding the government forces in Ireland.

ASQUITH WILL EXPLAIN SERIES OF EXECUTIONS

Statement Will Be Made in House of Commons on Thursday.

LONDON, May 22.—Premier Asquith will make to the house of commons on Thursday a statement giving full particulars of the acts for which 15 participants in the Irish rebellion were executed.

The premier stated in parliament today that he was anxious, because of misunderstanding in America on this subject, that the statement should be presented at the earliest possible moment.

There was no cabinet meeting today, but Mr. Asquith was in consultation with different ministers, including David Lloyd George, minister of munitions, and also with John Redmond, the Irish leader.

The putting off of the statement until Thursday was for the purpose of enabling the cabinet thoroly to review the situation.

EARLY PEACE PROSPECT HELD TO BE BRIGHTER

Underwriters' Rates in London Show Big Change in Two Months.

LONDON, May 23.—(2.49 a.m.)—The underwriters yesterday charged 50 per cent. to insure against a declaration of peace between Great Britain and Germany before Jan. 1. The rate indicates that in the underwriters' opinion the prospects for an early peace are better than two months ago, when the rate for the same risk was only 30 per cent.

ADMIRAL TOLD TO WATCH OUT FOR CASEMENT

But Irish Government Was Not So Advised, Baron Wimborne Says.

HIS POWERS LIMITED

Lord Lieutenant Seeks to Clear Himself of Charge of Laxity.

LONDON, May 22.—Lord Wimburne, lord-lieutenant of Ireland, testified today before the royal commission investigating the Irish rebellion, that the admiral at Queenstown had been secretly notified that Sir Roger Casement had left Germany in a ship escorted by two submarines, and would probably reach the Irish coast about Easter Sunday. Lord Wimborne said this information had not been communicated by the Irish government. The evidence of the lord-lieutenant created somewhat of a sensation.

Wimborne declared he had urged the simultaneous arrest of between 60 and 100 Sinn Fein leaders, but that the revolt began while such a course was under consideration. He emphatically asserted that his powers had been usurped by the chief secretary and under-secretary for Ireland, that he had no means of taking the initiative, and that his opinions were not invited.

Lord Wimborne said he imagined that the charge that would be

(Continued on Page 6, Column 4).

ENEMY TOOK TRENCHES WEST OF MORT HOMME.

PARIS, May 22, 4 p.m.—An official review of the fighting in the Verdun region for the week, May 14 to May 20, says that the actions from May 18 to May 20 were of extreme violence, and adds:

"On the 20th a big German attack was made upon the region of Le Mort Homme. Between Le Mort Homme and the Meuse the enemy was stopped. We hold trenches taken in April.

"Upon the slopes west of Le Mort Homme the Germans succeeded in taking our first line trenches along a front of 1200 to 1500 mtres, 1300 to 1650 yards."

SANK THREE SHIPS IN BALTIC.

PETROGRAD, May 22.—The Russian admiralty announces that one of the Russian submarines has sunk three German steamers in the Baltic.

ADVANCE ON DIARBEKR.

PETROGRAD, May 22.—The only official news reported from the Caucasus theatre of the war is that on the road to Diarbekr the Russians have fought only minor advanced guard engagements.

CALL FOR MINING ENGINEERS.

By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, May 22.—Fifty mining engineers are wanted for overseas service, the militia department announced tonight.

BRITISH REACH OUTSKIRTS OF KUT-EL-AMARA

Gen. Gorringe Makes Successful Advance South of Tigris.

FOE HOLDS SANNAIYAT

Only Small Turk Rearguards Cover Shattl-el-Hai Bridge.

LONDON, May 22.—A despatch received from Lieut.-Gen. Sir Percy Lake, commander of the British forces in Mesopotamia, shows that the forces of Lieut.-Gen. Sir George Gorringe, operating on the south bank of the Tigris, have now virtually reached Kut-el-Amara, this region now being clear of Turks up to the junction of the Shatt-el-Hai River with the Tigris at Kut. On the north bank of the Tigris to the east of Kut-el-Amara, however, the Turks still occupy Sannaiyat. An official communication issued tonight concerning the operations in this region says:

"Gen. Lake reports on May 20 that the right or south bank of the Tigris is clear of the enemy as far as the Shatt-el-Hai, except for small rear guards covering the bridge over the Hai some 500 yards below its junction with the Tigris. Our main force on this bank has reached the line of Magasis-dujailam.

"On the left, or north bank, the enemy is reported still occupying the Cannaiyat position. The weather is intensely hot and trying. The temperature during the last few days was over 100 degrees in the shade."

NEXT BRITISH MAILS.

British and foreign mails, via England, will be closed at the general postoffice as follows: Regular mail will close at 6 a.m. Friday, May 26, 1916. Supplementary mail (parcel post and newspapers) will close at 6 p.m., Friday, May 26, 1916. Supplementary mail (letters) will close at 9 p.m., Friday, May 26, 1916.

GOUIN'S MAJORITY IN QUEBEC LARGER

Only Seven Conservatives Elected to Seats in New Legislature.

COUSINEAU DEFEATED

Liberals Expect to Have Seventy-Four Representatives on Final Returns.

MONTREAL, May 22.—Sir Lomer Gouin returns to power in the provincial legislature with an increased majority. Not only has the Conservative opposition dwindled from 17, as in the last house, to seven in the new house, but the leader, Philemon Cousineau, has gone down to personal defeat in his constituency, Jacques Cartier, as a result of the Quebec elections today. J. S. A. Ashby is the Liberal leader who ousted Mr. Cousineau, and his majority is 1580. Mr. Cousineau said tonight, after the result was known, that he would not seek election in another riding, but was thru with the party leadership.

The standing of the two parties at present is: Liberals, 72; Conservatives, 7. There are two deferred elections, however, in Gaspe and Madeline Islands, and there is little doubt these will add to Sir Lomer Gouin's majority, making it a grand total of 74 against 7. Today's voting was in 58 ridings, where 49 Liberals and four Conservatives were elected. Twenty-three Liberals were returned by acclamation, while three Conservatives got in by acclamation.

Conservatives elected are: Tansey, St. Ann's division, Montreal, by 109; C. E. Gault, St. George's division, Montreal (acclamation); Col. C. A. Smart, Westmount (acclamation); A. Sauve, Two Mountains (acclamation); G. B. Campbell, Pontiac, by 100; P. D. Auteuil, Charlevoix, Saguenay, by 950; J. N. S. Tuveille, Lake St. John, by 212.

WAR SUMMARY

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

TURNING the current of the offensive against the crown prince, who has been hammering away at the French defensive positions before Verdun with true Hohenzollern denseness after all hope of success has been destroyed, the French made several successful attacks yesterday, and gained ground near Hill 287, west of Le Mort Homme on the western bank of the Meuse, and on a mile and a quarter front, extending from the Thiaumont farm to east of Fort Douaumont. In this offensive they took German trenches at every part of the line of advance, and they regained the most of Fort Douaumont. Numerous prisoners, the official statement asserts, were taken in this brilliant stroke. They also surprised and captured 300 yards of German trenches in the Bouchet Wood on the heights of the Meuse.

* * * * * * *

Altho the French offensive of yesterday does not necessarily imply that the big offensive of the allies will be launched from this Verdun vantage point, it proves pretty clearly the weakness of the Germans. Unless they keep constantly on the offensive they lose ground to attacks, and thus display a marked deterioration from their striking powers of a year ago. That is the underlying notion that has governed the allied tactical policy for some considerable time past, and in reality, except where they are on the offensive, the Germans are steadily, tho slowly, retreating.

* * * * * * *

In connection with the great Austrian offensive against Italy, Rome asserts that despite terrific onslaughts of the enemy, the Italian front remains unbroken. As this movement has been under way for about a week, and enough time has elapsed to show the Italian high command its serious import, doubtless sufficient troops are on the way, and enough guns have been forwarded to handle the situation. The Austrians have amassed a great number of their 12-inch guns for their attempt to burst thru the fortified barriers of Italy.

* * * * * * *

The official communique issued at Rome yesterday reports only one violent infantry action, all the rest being minor. This heavy fighting took the form of a heavy attack on the Italian positions on the left bank of the Adige and its repulse with enormous losses to the enemy. The hostile attacks are being continued in the Sugana Valley. Between Garda and the Adige, artillery actions were fought, and skirmishes with Austrian detachments ended in their being driven back.

* * * * * * *

If the Italians, anyhow, should get into difficulty, the allies could assist them by launching a big offensive somewhere else. As the armies

(Continued on Page 2, Columns 1 and 2.)