

SLIGHT INDENT OF DIAZ'S LINES AT HEAVY COST

But Austro-Germans Were
Unable To Break Through
Into Plains.

STRUGGLE IS DESPERATE

Enemy Gains Small Foothold
in the Mountains After
Bloody Clashes.

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Wednesday, Dec. 12.—Gen. von Below's German troops have joined the Austrians and Bohemians under Field Marshal Conrad von Hotzendorf in a series of heavy assaults during the past two days between the Brenna and Piave rivers, just north of Monte Grappa. The fighting has been severe and has been attended with large losses, but in the main the Italian line has held. The fighting was fiercest at the station at Monte Spioncova, where the Austrians on the right and the Germans on the left. The fourth Austrian division, on the right, had a number of Bohemian regiments in the front line, these were fresh from the Russo-German front.

Desperate Struggle.
A desperate struggle went on around Col. Beretta, where the Austrians were aided by enfiladed fire from batteries on the west bank of the Brenna River in positions established when the lines were reformed last week. For some time the Beretta position was in the hands of the enemy, but a brilliant counter-attack has restored nearly all the Italian possessions. German reserve forces were engaged for the first time since they were used on the big Italian offensive. The fighting was fiercest around Monte Spioncova and Col. Orso, "Bear Hill," with the enemy gaining a foothold. The result of the two days' fighting has not advanced tactically the enemy's positions leading toward the Venetian Plains, which is his real aim.

CHATHAM THEATRE NOT BIG ENOUGH TO HOLD MC COIG CROWD

CHATHAM, Dec. 12.—Griffin's big theatre failed to hold the crowds which gathered tonight to hear Archie McCoig and J. C. Elliott, M.P., and an overflow meeting was held, which taxed the capacity of McCoig's big committee rooms. Dr. Rutherford also spoke, and in a fine address declared that Premier Borden should have gone to the country just as soon as he found he was unable to handle the gang of thieves at Ottawa. Mr. Elliott declared that considering the alliance that the Borden administration had made in 1911 with the Nationalists it was a wonder that Canada had ever been able to address the men overseas. He declared that the Liberal party is the real win-the-war party. "Whatever happens," he said, "there must be no division of public sentiment on the question of winning the war."

Premier Borden, by his actions, had disrupted Canada from ocean to ocean, and is now tampering with the military service act, despite the fact that he had formerly made the most unflinching representations regarding the need for immediate reinforcements for the boys at the front.

Mr. McCoig was given a roof-raising reception, and in a straight from the shoulder talk challenged the tactics of the opposition. J. W. Flew, whom he charged with having solicited a contribution from the Ford Motor Company for his campaigning fund, said that he had made in connection with Mr. Flew's promises of exemption.

He urged the vital importance not only to Canada but to the Allies of the Dominion's support in its agricultural interests. "We must not only look after the needs of the boys who are fighting," he said, "but we must be able to feed them."

Great preparations are being made for the union Sunday school Christmas entertainment, which is to be held in the town hall on Monday night, December 24.

Sgt. R. A. Duncan is expected to arrive in the village any day. He came over in charge of a party of invalid soldiers, and was at Princeton last week. Sgt. Duncan has only leave for one week here.

The regular monthly meeting of the Women's Institute will be held at the home of Mrs. E. J. Cody's on Thursday, January 3.

AWARDED THE D.C.M.
GALT, Dec. 12.—A word to word just received by his wife, Sgt. Albert Galt of this city, who enlisted over two years ago with a Guelph battery, has been recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous bravery on November 25. He was reported slightly wounded.

The "Pork and Onion" Dramatic Company---And Not One Is Smiling Otherwise Known as the Borden Government---Minus Blondin, Sevigny and Others Who Do Not Look Well in Print.



The above illustration is given out as an "official" picture of the Borden Cabinet. It will be noticed that the Nationalist members—Blondin and Sevigny—were absent, perhaps by request. Perhaps they are conferring with "P" (the "Pork and Onion" Dramatic Company) in Montreal. Mr. Carvell (on the left) looks as though he had lost a dear friend. Messrs. Foster and Rowell flank Sir Robert—when shall we three meet again? "Lill Artha" Sifton is looking sweetly pretty next to Newton W., while the heavy-moustached Calder, at the end, looks like the "heavy man" in the piece. He does the Simon Legree parts, it is understood. The hero? Oh, there ain't going to be any hero.

TEST CASE BROUGHT TO SEE IF BANKERS SHOULD BE EXEMPT

Institutions Claim Women
Cannot Fill Higher Posts.

DUFF ADJOURNS HEARING

Case Will Be Resumed in
Ottawa December
21st.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

OTTAWA, Dec. 12.—Judge Duff, central appeal judge under the military service act, today heard a test case in the question of bank clerks in the higher positions being exempted from military service. The case was that of the latter, an accountant of a Toronto bank, who had been exempted by the tribunal before which he appeared. The exemption, however, was appealed by Con. Grier, the military representative on the board. The appeal was heard before Judge Duff, who decided that the exemption was valid, and the decision of the tribunal was upheld. Col. Grier then appealed the case further to the central appeal judge, who heard it today. Col. Grier contended that such positions could not be filled by women. The bankers' representatives contended that they could not.

Justice Duff declined to give judgment on the question until the bankers' representatives had produced evidence as to the possibilities of women filling such positions. "The question," he said, "is as to whether the national interest, having regard to what is involved in the war, would be better served by keeping these men here. All questions of convenience or inconvenience, however acute they might be from a narrower point of view, will have to be considered in that light."

NO DECISION GIVEN IN EMBRO APPEALS

EMBRO, Dec. 12.—The young men of this district who appealed for exemption, met at the town hall in the council chamber yesterday for the tribunal. F. Stanton of Lakeside, George Johnston of West Zorra, No. 10, was given at the meeting.

The price of hogs has gone up over in charge of a party of invalid soldiers, and was at Princeton last week. Sgt. Duncan has only leave for one week here.

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**Yes you like your tea and coffee
but do they like you?
Lack of highest efficiency
is a big price to pay
Suppose you try
Postum!**



Von Hertling Is Shy of Food in Berlin; Calls on Bavaria

Number of His Friends Arrested
for Smuggling
Food to Him.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 12.—According to the Munich Post, a number of admirers and friends of Count George F. von Hertling, the imperial German chancellor, have been sending him foodstuffs since he left Bavaria for Berlin to take up the chancellorship, fearing he might find difficulty in obtaining food in the German capital. As the sending of foodstuffs from Bavaria to Prussia is against the regulations, the packages were seized and the senders arrested. Count von Hertling has telegraphed the Bavarian authorities, requesting the release of these persons and asks that the packages be forwarded to him, adding: "They will be gratefully accepted."

HUN AGENTS PAID HEAVY TO SECURE REVOLT IN INDIA

Chicago Land-Owners Sent
Money to Hindu Agents
in Manila.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 12.—Indications of the extent of German financial operations in this country incident to the alleged conspiracy to foment a revolution against British rule in India were brought out again today in the United States District Court at the trial of William S. Williams, a Chicago land-owner and friend of Baron Hans von Reitsch, former acting German consul general in Chicago, testified that at the baron's request he advanced \$40,000 in two months to a Chicago Jeweler for letters of credit to be dispatched to Manila and Oriental cities for the ostensible purpose of purchasing "Oriental" goods. The prosecution charged this money went to Hindu agents of the alleged conspiracy. The prosecution introduced further papers seized by federal officers in the New York office of Wolf von Igell, former confidential representative of the German embassy at Washington. Among these was a memorandum dated December 12, 1917, which showed that \$5,000 to Dharendra Nath Sarkar, one of the defendants.

DEMOBILIZATION IN CHAMPAGNE.

PARIS, Dec. 12.—The war office announcement on the campaign tonight reads: "There was pronounced activity on the part of both rival armies in the sectors of Chavignat and Courtenay in Champagne, in the region of the Meuse and on the right bank of the Meuse. An enemy surprise attack near Courcy was without result."

**PTE. VICTOR LARDNER
WHO DIED HERE IS
BURIED AT HESPELER**

HESPELER, Dec. 12.—The funeral of Pte. Victor Alfred Lardner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Lardner, was held from the home of his parents to the local cemetery this afternoon, and was largely attended.

Pte. Lardner went overseas with the 11th Battalion, having enlisted with A. Company at Galt. He was taken ill after being in France five weeks, invalided to England, where he spent several months before being sent to the London, Ont. Convalescent Hospital six months ago. He was born in London, England, and was his 30th year.

One of four brothers who survive has been in the trenches twelve months. A younger brother enlisted with the 12th Battalion, but was discharged on account of his age. Three sisters also survive. The husband of one is overseas with the 11th Battalion.

Robert Duffie Forbes, who recently completed his training in Texas, has been discharged to arise as a member of his age. Three sisters also survive. The husband of one is overseas with the 11th Battalion.

The funeral of Charles Bartles, who has resided in this vicinity for many years, was held from his residence in Clearview to the Hespeler Cemetery this afternoon. He was his 77th year. The funeral was largely attended.

**JOHN MCINTYRE IS
DEAD AT STRATFORD**

STRATFORD, Dec. 12.—John McIntyre, aged 77, died today at the Queen's Hotel. He was born in Scotland, and came to Canada in 1856. He was in the drygoods business at Cobourg and here for many years. He was one of the original trustees of the Stratford General Hospital, and a director of the Stratford waterworks before he was sold to the city. He had been an active member of the Presbyterian Church, being an elder for 25 years and a manager for 30 years. Two brothers, one here and the other in Scotland, survive.

MALCOLM SCHELL, THE LIBERAL CANDIDATE IN SOUTH OXFORD RIDING



Spanish Hostility To Britain and U.S. Grows Alarmingly

Germany Is Buying Over King
Alfonso's Country.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Germany is buying up Spain, according to a prominent source. There is great unrest in King Alfonso's country, and hostility to England and the United States is growing. The source adds that Spanish officials are being corrupted by German agents, and that the king is being bought over.

BRITISH LINE MOVES AHEAD TO NORTH OF CITY OF JERUSALEM

Ghurkas Carry Positions at
Mouth of the Midieh.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Premier Lloyd George told the House of Commons today that Gen. Allenby's proclamation of the right of the British Empire to all sacred buildings and holy places in Jerusalem. Gen. Allenby was well received by the American and other military attaches entered Jerusalem with Gen. Allenby, the general's report stated today.

The British line north of Jerusalem, midway between that city and Haifa, has been advanced. Gen. Allenby's dispatches show contingents of Gurkhas carrying positions at the mouth of the Midieh. Fifty Gurkhas were killed and ten taken prisoner. British airplanes bombed the city of Haifa with good result.

An official statement announces that Gen. Allenby, in acknowledging the King's congratulations, says the message was received by the general in Jerusalem on Tuesday.

AIM TO CRUSH FRANCE.

PARIS, Dec. 12.—"It is common talk in the French capital," says a letter from Bern, "that Austrian troops will take part in a big offensive in the region of the Meuse and on the right bank of the Meuse. An enemy surprise attack near Courcy was without result."

BLAMES BORDEN FOR CONDITIONS IN QUEBEC

HANOVER, Dec. 12.—Mrs. Rose Henderson of Montreal addressed a monster meeting here tonight in the interests of W. Wright, the Independent Liberal candidate in South Grey. Dr. Taylor, chairman, Mrs. Henderson gave the election of this district some 100,000 votes in the last election. She said that the alliance Premier Borden made with the Nationalists in an effort to kill Sir Wilfrid. She had some scathing remarks to make about the Premier's remarks to the effect that the Nationalists were a "patriotic Canadian women of the day."

She told of the manner in which the profiteers have robbed the people and issued up millions of dollars for themselves. She urged the people to rise against the men of the day.

This afternoon she addressed a fine meeting at Durham.

HALIFAX EXPLOSION SENT HUGE WAVE OUT TO SEA

MONTREAL, Dec. 12.—A special to the Star from Boston today said: "The tidal wave caused by the Halifax explosion swept thirty-five miles today by Kenneth Casson of this city, who was on a returning transport off the coast of Nova Scotia the day of the disaster. Casson, who served in a hospital unit in France, declared the huge wave swept over the vessel, smashing the pilot house and damaging the structure."

HAIG REPULSES TERRIFIC BLOW BY HINDENBURG

Masses Hurlled at British
Slaughtered in
Heaps.

ENEMY GAINS LITTLE

LONDON, Dec. 12.—There will be a thorough investigation of the recent operation on the Cambrai front, in which the Germans broke through in the southern sector, Major-General F. B. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the British headquarters in France, today. The truth regarding the incident will be told in due course, he promised.

RUSS POLLING RETURNS.

Petrograd, Dec. 11.—The latest returns from the elections to the constituent assembly show the following: Social Revolutionists, 102; Bolsheviks, 44; Constitutional Democrats, 39; Nationalists, 11; Jews, 3; miscellaneous, 9.

OBJECTIVE REACHED IN FIVE MINUTES FOR HALIFAX SUFFERERS

Sarnia People Give Quickly
and Generously to Fund.

JOHN McDONALD HURT Kicked in the Head While Leading Fractious Horse.

SARNIA, Dec. 12.—The whirlwind campaign inaugurated by the Sarnia Board of Trade to raise funds for the Halifax relief started at 10 o'clock this morning. Five minutes after the campaign started \$1,000 was subscribed, which was the objective. Complete figures have not yet been received, but it is expected that at least \$1,500 will be forwarded for relief work in the stricken city.

SEVERELY INJURED.

SARNIA, Dec. 12.—While leading a shipment of horses to the ferry dock John McDonald was kicked on the head and nose by one of the horses when it reared up. The accident occurred about noon near the Arlington Hotel. The wounds inflicted were severe, 21 stitches being necessary. McDonald was able to proceed to his home in Port Huron.

WILL HUR APPEALS

SARNIA, Dec. 12.—MacWatt and Rev. R. Weaver have been appointed to act as an appeal board in connection with the appeal of the Sarnia Board of Trade. They will leave on December 18 on a trip through the county.

STRICKEN SUDDENLY.

SARNIA, Dec. 12.—Wm. Wood, aged 66, employed by the Industrial Mortgage Company, died suddenly today from heart failure. He came here from Toronto in September and has been residing with his daughter, Mrs. Thomas Manning, at 105 North Vidal street. He leaves five children, Mrs. F. Saul, Mrs. C. Cassell and Mrs. Wood, all residing in Sarnia, and one son, Wm. Wood, in the army.

MUST CLEAN WALKS.

SARNIA, Dec. 12.—Persons in this city who have not cleared their sidewalks of snow are liable to be fined. The city has a bylaw to the effect that all snow must be removed from the sidewalks within a reasonable time of the completion of a snowstorm. The penalty for violation of the bylaw is a fine of \$10.

WINDSOR WILL USE COAL BECAUSE FUEL IS SCARCE

WINDSOR, Dec. 12.—The water commissioners have apparently solved the danger which threatened the city by the use of coal. A decision to install at once two powerful new pumps to be driven by electricity. An agreement to this effect was made tonight at a dinner tendered by Mayor Tison to city officials.

AUSTRALIA PUTS BAN ON ALLIED SUBJECTS OF AGE FOR SERVICE

MELBOURNE, Dec. 12.—Via Reuters' Ottawa Agency.—A regulation has been issued prohibiting the employment in Australia of Allied subjects of military age.

"REDS" TO BLOOM DEMOCRAT RULE OF PARLIAMENT

Constituent Assembly Will Not
Be Controlled By Saner
Factions.

MUST BE SUBSERVIENT

Latest Election Returns Show
Bolsheviks To Be In the
Minority.

Petrograd, Dec. 12.—The Constitutional Democratic party will not be permitted to get control of the constituent assembly by the Bolsheviks, according to a statement issued by the official news bureau.

"In the event of a majority of the constituent assembly not being in favor of the Bolsheviks, the statement says, 'it is proposed to exclude the Constitutional Democrats who are frankly counter-revolutionary and who should not be permitted to take part in the constituent assembly and to hold re-elections in view of the suborning of electoral committees in many places by the Constitutional Democrats. In any case the masses will only support a constituent assembly whose members guarantee them land, peace and liberty. The commissaries will now hand over power to the Congress of Workers' and Soldiers' delegates, an assembly which will organize the revolution and will carry out the will of the people.'

"The demonstration with the watch will be organized by the Constitutional Democrats. All power remains in the hands of the soldiers and peasants and those who defend their interests."

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ENOS

The
Gentle
Laxative

FUEL SHORTAGE WILL BE INVESTIGATED AT CONFERENCE TODAY

Chatham May Buy 1,000 Tons
of Coal Shortly.

GAS FLOW IS STRONGER

City Will Find Out Just
What Its Rights
Are.

CHATHAM, Dec. 12.—The local fuel situation showed slight improvement today, when the gas flow came on much stronger. Many householders are taking advantage of the coal dealers' offers to buy coal in small lots, in order to tide them over the present emergency.

The conservation committee is taking up the matter with a view to relieving conditions and protecting citizens from being caught in another cold snap. Ald. Murray Reeves, the chairman, has written the local coal merchants with his confidence, and an effort will be made to secure 1,000 tons of coal for the city.

With this in view a conference between the members of the committee and the city coal importers will be held in the city council chambers Thursday evening to discuss the matter.

The special committee of the city council delegated to inquire into the situation, held a short meeting today, and decided to employ the city solicitor with a view to finding out just what the rights of the city were under its contract with the Chatham Gas Company.

True Bill Returned.
J. W. Flew, who is still flapping his hands about in Kent County, despite the fact that the parent ship has refused to endorse him, has been returned to the city council chambers for a meeting with his political associates. An instance of this occurred at a meeting held together with his right-hand man, Mayor J. G. Kerr and Dr. Oliver, at the city hall. Flew, who had been charged with a conspiracy to defraud the city, was found by the city council to be a fraud.

Mr. Flew is also finding considerable difficulty in organizing his "True Bill" campaign. He has been charged with a conspiracy to defraud the city, and has been found by the city council to be a fraud.

True bills were returned by the grand jury on all the criminal indictments submitted for its consideration at the present sitting of court.

The cases are: Orville Jenkins, securing goods by false pretences, and making false statements; Peter and Joseph McCarty, abducting a child.

In the case of McCarty vs. Henry, the jury returned a verdict in favor of the plaintiff. The case was heard by Judge Stanworth, who dismissed the action, and ordered Henry to pay the costs of the case. Henry charged that Henry had refused to carry out his contract after a sale, and sought to recover \$562.24.

That good service was one of the most important factors in the making of a successful business, was the subject of a lecture given by Mr. J. W. Flew, who is still flapping his hands about in Kent County, despite the fact that the parent ship has refused to endorse him.

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