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PROBS— A few scattered thunder showers, but for the most part fair and decidedly warm.

TUESDAY MORNING JULY 24 1917—TWELVE PAGES

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Senate Reading Room
18Jun17

SIR CLIFFORD SIFTON'S URGENT CALL FOR UNION GOVERNMENT

French Make Progress Near Cerny
Big Offensive by British Airmen

Virtual Dictatorship for Kerensky
Raid By Canadians on Wide Front

FORTIETH FOE ATTACK FAILS TO GAIN ROAD

French Retain Chemin-des-Dames After Desperate Engagements.

CRAONNE HOLDS OUT

Best German Troops Refuse to Face Ally's Terrific Fire.

(By a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.)

Grand Headquarters of the French Army in France, July 22—The watchword of the French troops at Verdun: "They shall not pass," has applied equally to the Champagne, and the French today showed the crown prince's army that the Chemin-des-Dames was a closed road to them.

On Sunday morning, the Germans made in great force their fortieth attempt since the French captured Craonne on May 4, to secure possession of the famous road. This effort was one of the biggest offensive movements they had made since Verdun, so far as artillery was concerned, and proved an undoubted failure. Four o'clock was striking when a terrific bombardment was opened along the front extending from just west of Cerny to Berry-au-Bac. The front lines and rear positions and all the roads leading thereto were deluged with shells, both great and small, as well as asphyxiating projectiles.

At five o'clock the German infantry started from their trenches. The greatest concentrations advanced between Hurtebise and Casemates Plateau and between Casemates and Californie Plateaux, where it was evidently hoped to rush Craonne. The correspondent was posted where he could observe the entire battle along the crest which stood out in the clearest atmosphere, but rolling along it and over it, were dense clouds of black, brown, grey and white smoke from tens of thousands of shells.

Prussian Guards In It.

It was known that the Prussian Guards and several other divisions faced the French positions while other fresh troops were hurrying across the Ailette Valley from the north. The French guns did not remain long mute, but answered shot for shot, and when the German reinforcements were observed approaching, they poured a hurricane of projectiles directly into them, creating great confusion and causing heavy losses. Rifle and machine gun fire began crackling, while the trench mortars hurled torpedoes, and the rifle grenadiers opened a wicked barrage fire as soon as the Germans, who had been awaiting the pre-arranged signal to spring forward, began to leave their jumping-off parallels.

German shock units as usual, led the way, followed by waves of ordinary infantry, who were to occupy and organize any ground captured. In the sector from Hurtebise to Casemates

(Concluded on Page 7, Column 2).

LT.-COL. W. S. DINNICK ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

Retires From Presidency of Two Well-Known Companies and Vice-Presidency of a Third.

Lieut.-Col. W. S. Dinnick announced to The Toronto World yesterday that he had resigned the offices of president, The Sterling Trusts Corporation; president, the Dovercourt Land, Building & Savings Company, and vice-president, the Standard Reliance Mortgage Corporation.

After a connection extending thru 25 years with the corporations, Col. Dinnick is severing his official relations in order that he may enter with his full time upon broader and more personal enterprises with which he has recently become connected, and where he will feel less restricted in carrying on with the public duties that he has assumed during the war.

The Anglo-American Hotel Company, one of Col. Dinnick's enterprises, will proceed with the erection of "The Devonshire," immediately the labor and general situations permit it.

Col. Dinnick is this week moving his offices from 84 East King street, to 33 Jordan street.

MID-SUMMER HAT SALE.

A great mid-summer clearing sale of straw hats and Panamas at Dineen's: $15 Panamas for $10, $12 Panamas for $8, $7.50 Panamas for $5, $6 Panamas for $4, $4 Panamas for $2.67.

Imported English straws, including Dineen's exclusive imported English lines: $5 Sennit straws for $3.33, $4 Sennit straws for $2.67, $3.50 Sennit straws for $2.33, $3 Sennit straws for $2, $2.50 Sennit straws for $1.67, $2 Sennit straws for $1.34.

Every straw and Panama hat in the Dineen store, except the American Dunlap, reduced one-third off. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

SCRAPPED!

Berlin, July 23, via London.—Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the former chancellor, left Berlin for his estate in Hohenfinow.

BRITAIN TO AVOID GENERAL ELECTION

Defeat of Amendment to Corn Production Bill Saves Situation.

MEASURE UNPOPULAR

But Government is Supported in Interest of Winning the War.

London, July 23.—A threatened general election was again averted when the house of commons tonight by a three to one vote, defeated the Wardle amendment to the corn production bill, which the ministers had announced their intention to treat as a vote of confidence. This was the most critical amendment to the bill, and the government victory is regarded as insuring the safe passage of the measure, despite the fact that it is heartily disliked by a large section of parliamentarians and the public.

The strong sentiment against having a general election during the war, however, predominated over the opposition to the bill, and shows that the government played a strong hand when it decided to treat the vote as one of confidence. Today's debate gave evidence of unabated dislike to the measure. A number of the members, while maintaining their opposition to the bill announced that they would support the government rather than risk a general election.

HUNDRED TURKS SLAIN BY BRITISH NEAR GAZA

Successful Raid Creates Havoc in Moslem Ranks in Palestine.

London, July 23.—The following official announcement of operations in Palestine was made today:

"On the morning of July 19 the enemy pushed two cavalry regiments from Beersheba toward the Line El Buggar-el-Girjeir, about nine miles west of Beersheba. Our mounted troops engaged and drove them back to Beersheba, capturing 13 prisoners.

"On the night of July 20 our troops successfully raided the enemy's trenches southwest of Gaza. They killed one Turkish officer and 101 men, and brought back 17 prisoners, a machine gun, a trench mortar, a number of rifles and other booty."

RUSSIA CALLS ON KERENSKY TO END PERIL

Unlimited Dictatorial Powers Are Given Premier and Government.

KEEP UP RETIREMENT

Mutinous Troops Refuse to Make Stand Before Tarnopol.

London, July 23.—Alexander F. Kerensky, the man of the hour in Russia — the man who early in July started the brilliant offensive against the Germans and Austro-Hungarians in Galicia which gave them notable gains—has been made virtual dictator in Russia and given the tremendous task of putting down the disaffection of the troops which has resulted in a retreat along the front in Galicia, and otherwise to end the anomalous situation that prevails in Russia.

By an almost unanimous vote, the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates and the Peasants' Congress, realizing that a man of ability of the highest order was required at the present juncture to strengthen the morale of the Russian troops, has given "unlimited powers" to M. Kerensky and his government, and M. Kerensky already is on his way to Galicia, where he soon may be expected to use all the force at his command against the recalcitrant troops and again bring the men to face the foe.

The situation in both east Galicia and to the north of the Pripet Marshes for the moment is proving disconcerting to the Russian Government. Added to the struggle it is having with the deserters in Galicia, who are still falling back nearly everywhere, comes the news that lack of stability among the men fighting against the Germans in the region of Smorgon and Krevo, southeast of Vilna, is giving the Russian Government and military command great cause for worriment.

Lack of Stability.

In a fierce attack between Smorgon and Krevo, the Russians drove a wedge into the German line to a depth of two miles at various places and took more than a thousand prisoners. The Petrograd war office communication announces, however, that the lack of morale of certain detachments of the Russians is placing the success in jeopardy, while the latest Berlin official communication, which admits that gains were made, asserts

(Concluded on Page 6, Column 4).

GET THE BIG VIADUCT IN USE

The completion of the Bloor street viaduct was up yesterday in the board of control. Controller Foster pointed out that thousands of citizens to the east and thousands to the north wanted across. Every day's delay was a public loss. The board arrived at no conclusion, but it must find one and find it quickly.

The World believes that the contractors will have their work completed and the whole bridge concreted within the next sixty days, or ninety at the most—long before the first of November.

The city has only two things to do: to put down the wood-block pavement on the two sections of the bridge set apart for vehicular traffic; and put down two street car tracks on the centre section set apart therefor. The rails will rest on wooden ties concreted in, and the remaining space leveled off with creosoted wooden blocks.

The right of the city to lay street car tracks on the viaduct during the balance of the franchise of the Toronto Railway may be a question for lawyers, or simpler still, for negotiation between the Toronto Railway Co. and the city. Perhaps the company's rights are not of such a character that they would care to exercise; they would have to put down the rails and run cars upon the bridge and perhaps get little additional revenue out of them. But whatever the facts are that govern in regard to the tracks, now is the time for the city to ascertain them and act accordingly.

But in so far as the actual use of the bridge for general traffic purposes is concerned there is no reason why the city should not take every necessary step to secure the wooden blocks for the two ways for wheeled traffic on either side of the street railway tracks and have this all done thirty days after the completion of the bridge by the contractors.

The contractors have to hand over the bridge absolutely completed as far as foot passengers are concerned, and no doubt this could be ready long before the first of November; and as we say, in thirty days more the driveways could also be completed.

Let us have the roadways and the footways at the earliest moment. That's what the public want.

The bridge will cost over $2,000,000, and $2,000,000 at 5 per cent. is $100,000 a year, or $300 a day; and the convenience of having use of the bridge and access to the street car lines at either end is certainly worth another $700 a day, or $1000 a day in all, or $7000 a week. Every day's delay is that much loss! To have the use of the viaduct for foot passengers and wheeled traffic the city would also have to complete Danforth avenue from the head of Broadview to the adjacent end of the bridge, some two hundred yards, and also to complete the roadway in Rosedale between the main viaduct and the Rosedale viaduct, which could be done in four weeks' time and before the completion of the viaduct.

It is up to the citizens and the officials of the city hall and the board of control and to the council to see that a long-suffering community is given this great convenience at the earliest possible moment. We may be tied down to the street railway franchise, but we are not tied down to the use of the bridge in any other respect than by the activity or lack of activity in our own representatives and officials at the city hall.

It is about time public meetings were called to let the officials and their representatives know what the public expect. Controller Foster has started off all right; let him continue with still more vigor and let the aldermen in wards one and two give a helping hand. And the mayor should certainly see that he opens the bridge and takes the grand honors of the event before December first has arrived.

CANADIANS MUST UNITE TO WIN WAR
SIR CLIFFORD SIFTON'S STRONG PLEA

SIR CLIFFORD SIFTON'S LETTER

Sir Clifford Sifton's open letter to Senator Bostock must begin a new stage in the national life of Canada if there is to be any continuing national life in the country. The people of Canada cannot stand dumbly by and see their national honor go aglimmering and their national character waste away while there is yet time to save them. It is no time for party, and it is no time for personalities or any other pettiness. It is a day of great issues and demands great action.

The situation which is outlined by Sir Clifford as the result of a possible return of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to power, pledged against conscription, pledged against loyal support of our men in the trenches, is an intolerable one. If Canada means anything to the people who inhabit it they cannot consent to such infamy.

Sir Clifford makes no charges and the very moderation of his language makes the immoderation of the minority the more outstanding. Either, as he says, we put our whole strength into the war, or we abandon our men at the front. There is but one way to take and one choice for men of honor to make. A union war government must be formed and administered on non-partisan lines, if we are not to fall to the lowest level of any national unit that has taken part in the world's war for liberty. We have put our hand to the plow. Let us make an honest job of it.

URGENT PLEA LIKELY TO PROVE EFFECTIVE

Sir Clifford Sifton's Open Letter Causes Sensation at Ottawa---Active Efforts to Unite Parties for Prosecution of War.

By a Staff Reporter.

Ottawa, July 23.—Ottawa experienced another sensation this afternoon when the press were handed an open letter from Sir Clifford Sifton, addressed to Senator Bostock, leader of the opposition in that chamber, calling for union government and absolute unity of the Canadian people to win the war. It is a clarion call, and will rouse the Canadian nation from one ocean to the other.

Sir Clifford Sifton has been in Ottawa now for over a month, and has been taking an active interest in promoting the idea of Canada sending more troops to the front, and taking an active part in the efforts made to secure union government, in order to keep up the number of our forces at the front and do our best to win the war. He supports the conscription bill.

It is known that he has had several interviews with Sir Robert Borden, and it is believed that he has also had interviews with a number of prominent Liberals, including Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and has done his best to get co-operation between the two parties, first, to the end of forming a union government, and second, getting the conscription law put on the statute book and enforced at as early a date as possible. It is also believed he is in touch with a large number of Liberal members of both houses.

Wide Response Expected.

He came back to Ottawa direct from England, where he has lived more or less since the war began; and has given most of his time to a study of the war, and especially of the part Canada was playing in it. Two of his boys are at the front.

It was stated here this afternoon by parties who ought to know, that once Sir Clifford Sifton has put his hand to the work of securing union government and a law of selective conscription, he will not quit until success is attained.

It is believed that a wide and enthusiastic response to his call will come from the people of Canada.

LARGE CANADIAN RAID SUCCEEDS NEAR LENS

Strong Parties of Central Ontario Unit Destroy German Dugouts Along Embankment---Establish Outposts in Ground Traversed.

London, July 23—(Via Reuter's Ottawa agency).—Reuter's correspondent at French headquarters in France telegraphs this afternoon as follows:

"In the small hours of this morning Canadian troops carried out a very successful little enterprise near Lens. Following a very heavy bombardment, strong raiding parties went across on a front of 700 yards. They carried their first point without much opposition, but when they went forward again across the rubble and scattered brick fields, they encountered considerable opposition.

"Notwithstanding this, they succeeded in reaching the high embankment of the Avion-Mericourt railway and proceeded to attack the dugouts with which it was found to be honeycombed. The enemy refused to surrender at first, and the Canadians bombed them heavily, doubtless inflicting severe losses.

"Having penetrated to a depth of about 500 yards, the attackers came back, bringing forty unwounded and 20 wounded prisoners. From the statements of these, their division only arrived from the Russian front a day or two before. They had not been in their new positions many hours before they were driven to cover by the drumfire of our batteries.

"As the Germans had been employing gas shells during the afternoon, the Canadians went over in their gas masks. They established a few posts, but the little garrisons of these had orders to fall back if a heavy counter-attack developed.

"About 4.30 this morning the enemy put down a heavy barrage so the Canadians retired upon their front trenches, having carried out a raid which must have cost the Huns some hundreds of men at a price in casualties less than the number of prisoners taken."

Stewart Lyon telegraphs from

(Concluded on Page 7, Column 1).

ALL IS SET FOR IRISH CONVENTION

Delegates Represent All Elements Except Sinn Feiners and O'Brienites.

Dublin, July 23.—Arrangements for the Irish convention, which on Wednesday will begin an endeavor to solve the Irish problem, are now complete. Today Henry E. Duke, chief secretary for Ireland, and Sir Francis Hopwood visited Trinity College here and inspected the convention hall and committee rooms. They expressed themselves as much pleased with the arrangements.

Various bodies in Ireland have chosen their delegates to the convention. They constitute a group which is representative of all elements of Irish life, except the Sinn Feiners and O'Brienites, who refused to take part in the convention. The nominations made by the government have not yet become known officially. The nominees have been drawn from all parties and classes. Some of them were chosen to strengthen the labor representation, in view of the refusal of the Dublin and Cork trades councils to send delegates.

Open Letter to Senator Bostock, Liberal Leader in Senate, Declaring Union Government Only Means of Grappling With Grave Situation---Return of Laurier to Power Would Mean End of Active Prosecution of War.

OTTAWA, July 23.—The following open letter has been addressed to Senator Bostock, Liberal leader in the senate, by Sir Clifford Sifton:

Ottawa, July 23, 1917.

To Hon. Hewitt Bostock, the Senate, Ottawa:

My Dear Bostock: "Will you permit an onlooker to respectfully express his views upon the present grave crisis in the affairs of Canada?

As the leader of the Liberal party in the senate, you will shortly be called upon to deal with the military service bill. You and your colleagues will be faced with a grave responsibility.

The world is in the final stages of a death grapple. No such dire and fearful tragedy has ever before occurred in the known history of mankind. The forces of tyranny and reaction thruout the world have rallied for a last desperate struggle. The fate of Liberty, human rights and free modern civilization are at stake. The issue is still altogether undecided and hangs in the balance.

No Time for Party.

We have eighty thousand men in the fighting line. It is not more than our share. Their numbers are being daily diminished by death and the casualties of war. They are driven to the utmost of their physical powers by lack of reserves. Our reinforcements are almost exhausted.

I am confident that I voice the sentiments of many thousands of Canadians when I say that at this supreme moment we care nothing for Borden or Laurier, Conservatism or Liberalism. The overwhelming importance of the crisis absolutely obliterates all considerations of persons or parties. The only thing that matters is:

The Vital Issues.

1. To put every possible ounce of force into our striking power with men, guns and munitions, in order to help the allies to win the victory for liberty.

2. To stand by our men at the front and give them abundant reinforcements and reserves to admit of rest and recuperation.

3. To maintain the honor of Canada and redeem our pledge to see the war thru to the limit of our capacity.

In common with many others I had hoped that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, if he could not join a union government, would agree to an extension of the life of parliament, so as to permit the Borden government to get on with its war policy. To the profound regret of many thousands of his best friends, he has decided upon another course. I have no criticism to offer upon his course, nor anything except respectful sympathy for the difficulties of his position.

The facts, however, must be squarely faced.

Meaning of Laurier's Attitude.

The meaning of Sir Wilfrid's attitude, and that of his principal supporters in Quebec, is that they have determined to force an election on the single issue of conscription. Read the speeches which are daily being delivered and you find that their policy in effect is:

1. No conscription.

2. No more men. No more money.

If Sir Wilfrid Laurier is returned to power in the approaching election two-thirds of his followers in parliament will be pledged to the hilt against conscription, and pledged to the hilt against any but a perfunctory and ineffective participation in the war. Then:

1. There will be no conscription in Quebec.

2. There will be no recruiting in Quebec.

Could Not Raise Troops.

3. Under these circumstances, it will be obviously impossible to raise troops in the other portions of Canada (imagine a Laurier government trying to raise troops in the other provinces while Quebec scornfully refuses either to submit to conscription or to recruit.)

4. Our regiments at the front will be left stranded and will dwindle and disappear as an effective fighting force.

The predominating and controlling element behind Sir Wilfrid Laurier will not allow him to prosecute the war. No one who has the slightest experience of parliamentary government in Canada can honestly gainsay this conclusion.

Anti-war Influences.

It is said that a great effort is to be made to unite behind a solid Quebec all the elements in the population who are hostile or lukewarm in regard to the war, together with certain of the larger business interests who feel that conscription will interfere with their operations. Thus a determined effort is to be made to return Sir Wilfrid to power.

What will be the result of this effort if it succeeds? How is the war to be carried on with vigor by a parliamentary party which is controlled by a hostile majority?

To ask these questions is to answer them. With Sir Wilfrid in power the anti-war party of Quebec will dictate his policy. It is dictating his policy now.

Mistakes Made.

It is said that the government has made many mistakes. Probably it has. All the other war governments made mistakes. To err is human. It is said that more skilful piloting would have avoided this crisis. Perhaps it would. It is hard to say. On the other hand it is alleged that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, had he chosen to do so, when applied to, could have found a way out of the difficulty. It may be so. It is easy to criticize.

What is certain is that none of these things matter now. We have to face facts, not theories. The issue is simple. Either:

1. We put our whole strength into the war, or

2. We abandon our men at the front, and dishonor our solemn obligation.

I will go further! The decision of this issue will determine, once for all, whether Canada is a nation dominated and held together by a national will, and a national sense of honor, or is a helpless aggregation of sectional communities, held together only by time-serving consideration of sectional interest.

Union War Government.

If anything in this trouble in the world can be absolutely clear it is clear today that we can grapple with this situation in one way and in one way only; by the formation of a union war government, administered on non-partisan lines, who will straightway appeal for a mandate to the people of Canada, and can consistently be supported by every element in the population that is loyal to the cause.

Germany is fighting desperately to wear out the fortitude of her opponents. If she succeeds the peace will be inconclusive. It will be no peace for us, but the beginning of an intolerable strain of constant preparedness for war.

We are not fighting for sentiment, for England, for imperialism; we are fighting for the rights of ourselves and our children to live as a free community.

Shall Canada be the first of all the allied nations to slink from the field? Let us realize the position now. It will be no use to wake up when it is too late.

Believe me, yours faithfully,

Clifford Sifton.