

Weather Forecast:
Showers

53rd YEAR. No. 22781

LONDON, CANADA—THE HOME OF UNBROKEN PROSPERITY.

THE LONDON, ONTARIO, ADVERTISER, THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 7, 1917. 80 COLUMNS.

HOME
EDITION

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Coalition Splits Over Conscription; Early General Election Is Assured

(BORDEN MAY FIRST TRY FOR UNIONIST MINISTRY)

HAIG OPENS NEW DRIVE ON 9-MILE FRONT AT YPRES; FIRST OBJECTIVES GAINED AND PRISONERS COMING IN

British Launch Offensive Against Sharp Salient of Germans Southeast of Ypres Which Menaces Lille—Gains on Mile Front Made North of Scarpe.

London, June 7.—The British have opened an attack on a nine-mile front between Messines and Wytschaete and have taken all their first objectives.

The official statement says that the British progress is being continued and that a number of prisoners have been taken.

The text of the official statement follows: "We attacked at 3:10 a.m. this morning German positions on the Messines-Wytschaete ridge, on a front of over nine miles. We have everywhere captured our first objectives and further progress is reported to be satisfactory along the whole front of attack. Numbers of prisoners are reported already to be reaching the collection stations."

The new British offensive is against a sharp German salient three miles south of Ypres. For several days the British have maintained a tremendous bombardment for almost thirty miles on this portion of their front. The salient itself is about three miles in width and the same distance in depth. An effective advance in this sector would seriously menace the German hold on Lille, which is about five miles from the nearest British position.

THREE TOWNS TAKEN.

British Headquarters in France, June 7, via London.—The village of Messines is reported to have been taken early in today's fighting. It was also reported that Lenfer and Zereba had fallen and that Wytschaete had been surrounded by the British storming troops.

WELL OVER RIDGE.

British Headquarters in France, June 7, via London, 4:50 p.m.—(From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press).—The British rush this morning on the Messines-Wytschaete ridge of the Belgian front took them well over the ridge where they are now entrenching.

1,000 GERMANS TAKEN.

British Headquarters in France, June 7.—Tanks were in the thick of the fighting today. More than 1,000 Germans were taken prisoners early in the engagement.

The fighting continues under a midsummer sun. The Germans have not yet rallied for the expected counter attack.

GERMANS IN PANIC.

British Headquarters in France, June 7.—The British have captured important trench positions all the way from Observation Ridge, southeast of Ypres, to Ploegsteert Wood, north of Arras.

More than 1,000,000 pounds of high explosives was blown up under the German forward positions. This, the most gigantic mining operation in the history of war, spread panic among the Germans.

The British in their attack today used probably 20 per cent more guns, especially those of heavy calibre, than they employed in the battle of Arras.

HOW BERLIN REPORTS IT.

Berlin, June 7.—Early today the German statement says the battle in Flanders flared up after the most extensive explosions and the most violent drumfire.

GAIN MILE ON SCARPE.

LONDON, June 6.—The British troops have captured German positions north of the Scarpe River over a front of about a mile, according to the official report from British headquarters tonight.

The text reads: "The operations commenced last night north of the Scarpe were successfully completed during the day and all our objectives gained. We have captured a mile and taken 162 prisoners, including four officers."

"We have also captured a few prisoners as a result of raids carried out early this morning north of Ypres."

"There has again been considerable artillery activity on both sides at a number of points along our front, particularly on the north bank of the Scarpe and in the neighborhood of Vinny village, Arras and Ypres."

"FRENCH GIVE LITTLE." PARIS, June 6.—The official statement issued by the war office tonight reads:

"This morning, after the bombardment of our positions between the Albert River and the Laon road, and northwest of Braye-en-Laonnois, the Germans delivered several attacks at various points in this sector. Two attempts against the Bois-du-Mort north of Vauxaillon, broke down, and gave to the enemy no other result than appreciable losses."

"The Germans concentrated their force north of the front line, particularly in the direction of the Bois-du-Mort, where they attacked on the front of the Pantone-la-Corriere farm. The enemy attack, repulsed in its entirety, was not able to reach our lines except at one point south of Flin."

"Loss at Bouvettes." In the neighborhood of our Bouvettes some troops elements of the first line remained in the hands of the enemy. Everywhere else our assaults were driven back to their own trenches."

"Belgian communication. During the course of the day both sides were active along the whole front, particularly before Dixmude and between Stenestre and Het Sars. On the latter part of our front we carried out effective fires on enemy batteries and works. Our aviators bombed considerable stations at Vysvegen and Langemark."

"LOCAL TEMPERATURES." Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night: Highest, 67; lowest, 54.

"The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 66; lowest, 51."

PROMINENT LONDON LADIES TO GO OVERSEAS AS RED CROSS AIDES.



MISS LOUIE DILLON.

MISS DORIS SABINE.

MISS NORINE BUTLER.

GUNNER PAYNE PREDICTED THAT HE WOULD DIE

Stories of Despondency Lead Police to Believe He Ended Life.

DELUSIONS ARE KNOWN

Unfortunate Soldier Told Friend Poison Was Being Put in Food.

Mystery still surrounds the death of Gunner Harold Payne, who was yesterday morning found lying dead near a sugar shanty in a bush owned by Wesley Shobottom, a farmer living close to Ploegsteert in London Township.

The county police spent a busy morning around the barracks, and what little information was gleaned would lead to the belief that Payne was at times mentally unbalanced, and possibly in a fit of despondency went to the woods and committed suicide.

High Constable Waterworth, and Sheriff Cameron declared that it looked like a case of suicide.

Looks Like Suicide.

"It begins to look like suicide to me," said the high constable. "I believe from what I have been told that he could have inflicted the wound on the side of his head that he believed to have caused his death. A man dependent on his work for his living, and who was in a nervous state of mind, he might easily have striven up the earth around the tree stump where the bits of money were found. The fact that the stone which was used to make the wound in the head was found several paces away might easily have meant that he staggered round in a dazed fashion."

Sheriff Cameron also stated that he believed that this was a true explanation.

"From the evidence that has come to my knowledge, the man did away with himself," said the sheriff.

Follow Trail From Barracks.

Constable Campbell and Dawson started this afternoon from the barracks, and will follow the trail of Payne to the place where he was found in the bush.

Inquiries will be made at every farm house, and everything possible done to trace the death of the unfortunate man from 4:20 o'clock Saturday afternoon till he was found in the bush Wednesday morning.

Their road will be no easy one, it is seen by the fact that it is a common occurrence for the constables to walk out Oxford street for exercise, and a man in the hospital uniform would not even excite passing comment. Nevertheless, the fact that he had a sandy moustache is looked upon as being of great help to the officers.

Predicted His Own Death.

J. H. Creighton of St. Mary's, for whom Payne had worked for some time, told Col. Smith at the barracks that the soldier had stated on his last visit to the Creighton farm, between May 7 and 23, that Creighton would never see him again. They are poisoning my food. You will never see me again. Take my watch, it's no good to me, for I'll never need it. Mr. Creighton kept the watch as requested.

Mr. Creighton also told the colonel that Payne had appeared down-hearted and despondent ever since the death of his mother a year ago. He had always received a letter from her, his sister wrote to him every two weeks, yet he missed the epistles conveying motherly love. Payne insisted that Mr. Creighton keep his watch before returning to London.

The nurse attending Payne at the hospital declared that his appetite had been bad for some time, especially so at breakfast, when he would hardly touch his food. Saturday morning he received a letter from his sister, and he was not seen with a person as far as from the military authorities know.

Gunner Payne drew \$33 of his pay

Continued on Page Three.

RALLYING CRY TO CHURCH FOUND IN PASTORAL ADDRESS

President Rev. D. N. McCamus Delivers Comprehensive Survey of Church Problems to Conference—Vital Matters of the Hour Touched Upon—Sunday Morning Hit.

The pastoral address of the president, Rev. D. N. McCamus, of Blenheim, delivered in Dundas Centre Methodist Church at 2 o'clock today introduced the business of the 24th annual session of the Dundas Conference of the Methodist Church. Prominent among subjects touched upon was that of church union with the Presbyterian and Congregational churches.

Emphasizing the point that the urgent duty of the Methodist Church is to preserve in all wisdom and understanding the unity of spirit in the bond of peace within the church, the speaker called attention of the conference to the growing movement and serious consideration of this, the most vital question ever submitted to a Methodist conference.

Others Matters Touched On.

Other subjects commended for consideration were the securing of new members for the ministry, the question of increase of salary for ministers in various departments of the church, and the duties of Christian citizenship and the church in relation to civil government.

A review was also given of the encouraging financial and spiritual condition of the church throughout the conference.

The address in full.

The pastoral address of the ministers of the Dundas Conference to the conference, held at the Dundas Centre Methodist Church, was delivered by Rev. D. N. McCamus, president of the conference.

The response to the appeal for money was given by Rev. D. N. McCamus.

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PRESBYTERIANS OPEN ANNUAL PARLIAMENT

Business Deliberations of the Church Under Way at Montreal.

Montreal, June 7.—With a huge Union Jack stretched beneath the dais occupied by the president, the annual parliament of the Presbyterian Church of Canada opened its business today in the grand hall of the Hotel Windsor, Montreal.

The delegates to the Presbyterian General Assembly began its business today in the grand hall of the Hotel Windsor, Montreal.

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PREMIER AND LAURIER UNABLE TO AGREE ON COALITION GOVT.; BORDEN INSISTS ON COMPULSION; MAY FORM UNIONIST CABINET

AN ELECTION IS CERTAIN, SAYS TORONTO NEWS

Borden Organ Says It Will Be Called Soon as Necessary Steps Taken.

Toronto, June 7.—A dispatch from Ottawa to the Daily News says: The proposals made by Sir Robert Borden for a union cabinet have been decisively rejected by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. As a result, a general election is certain, and will be called as soon as the necessary steps can be taken. The situation was explained to members of the House this morning, when both parties held a caucus.

SIR ROBERT TO FORCE MEASURE THROUGH HOUSE

Conservative Caucus Approves Bringing Down of Conscription.

[Canadian Press.]

Ottawa, June 7.—The Conservative caucus today, after hearing a report from the premier on the failure of coalition negotiations, gave what is said to have been practically unanimous approval to a proposal of Sir Robert Borden that the conscription bill should be brought down next week and forced through the House. So far as known, there is no intention of any delay in the introduction of the bill.

The two leaders were unable to agree upon the composition of the cabinet and finally negotiations came to an end yesterday and the deal was declared off.

MILE OF POSITIONS TAKEN BY GERMANS, IS BERLIN'S REPORT

Berlin, June 7.—Via London.—German troops yesterday captured French positions for an extent of nearly one and one-quarter miles along the Chemin-de-Dames front, south of Pargny-Filin, in the Alsace region, says the official statement issued today by the German army headquarters staff.

The publication committee's financial statement showed receipts of \$156,630.25, an increase of \$14,151, the net expenditures were \$161,358.50, an increase of \$12,618, leaving \$15,279 to be carried forward. The excess of assets over liabilities is now \$65,338. A new series of teacher training handbooks and a booklet for children is announced in the report.

Regret is expressed at the resignation of Mrs. Jane Wells from the managing editorship of the Illustrious. It is recommended that Rev. John Mutch, Stouffville, Ont., be appointed an associate editor.

BRAZIL SPENDS LARGE SUM ON DEFENCES

Rio Janeiro, June 7.—The Government has issued a decree for the formation of a first section of coast artillery. The decree also calls for the opening of a credit of \$70,000,000 reis to be expended on armament and war materials.

Under normal conditions \$70,000,000 reis would equal \$25,000,000.

EXPLOSION AT PETROGRAD.

LONDON, June 7.—An explosion in Petrograd harbor on Tuesday, as a result of an attack, caused a fire in which a great quantity of explosives which had just arrived from England were destroyed. The Copenhagen correspondence says that a number of persons have been killed.

WILSON URGES EARLY CONTROL OF FOODSTUFFS

Washington, June 7.—President Wilson has asked members of the Senate agricultural committee to act quickly on the pending legislation to give the Government control over the nation's staple food supply. He expressed the fear that if Congress delayed European nations largely dependent on American supplies might begin to compete with each other in buying here in such fashion as to send prices in the United States to alarming heights and bring about unrest in the great cities. The president urged also passage of the Administration bill, under which railroads could be compelled to give preference to food and fuel shipments.

NO CALL ON FRENCH.

PARIS, June 7.—Camps have been laid out for infantry and artillery and aviation parks have been established for American aviators.

The Matin says the arrival of the transport means that the provisioning of the army is well under way before the arrival of the troops, and that accordingly the American forces will make no call on the French stock of food.

Sir Wilfrid Rejects Conscription Proposal, But Promises Support if People Approve of It.

DISSOLUTION AND GENERAL ELECTION EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE AT ONCE.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, June 7.—Coalition proposals and their failure will be explained in Parliament this afternoon. Compulsory service and the reason for coalition being offered seems to have been the reason for its having failed.

(Special to The Advertiser.)

Ottawa, Ont., June 7.—Correspondence handed out today shows that coalition has broken to pieces on the rock of conscription. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in a letter to Sir Robert Borden, outlines the latter's proposal which included:

1.—A coalition government.

2.—Passing of the conscription bill.

3.—An appeal to the country by the coalition government; the bill not to be enforced in the meantime.

PROPOSALS REJECTED.

Sir Wilfrid rejected these proposals on the conscription issue at the same time assuring Sir Robert that he would advise obedience to a conscription measure if the same were approved by the people.

Sir Robert, in his reply, declared conscription is an absolute essential in any coalition.

MEANS DISSOLUTION.

This plainly means dissolution and general election immediately, with probably a new unionist party, composed of conscriptionists from both old parties, led probably by Sir Robert Borden.

It is expected Borden will press the conscription measure in the commons in the meantime, and whether it passes or not, will forthwith appeal to the country on this issue.

LIBERAL LEADER TOLD PREMIER SHOULD HAVE BEEN INVITED IN BEFORE CONSCRIPTION INTRODUCED

Following is the text of the letter that passed between Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the premier over coalition.

Dear Sir Robert,—On the 12th of May you asked me to meet you on the following day, which I did. After explaining fully the conditions of the war in the light of knowledge acquired during your recent visit to Great Britain, you stated the reasons which had led you to the conclusion that compulsory service was necessary, and you explained to me the provisions of the military service bill.

Proposed Coalition.

You then proposed the formation of a coalition government upon the basis that outside of the prime minister, each of the two political parties should have an equal representation in the Cabinet, and you emphasized the importance of avoiding, if possible, an election during the war.

Serious Difficulties.

I told you at once that if my cooperation was desired I regretted that I had not been invited before you had announced a policy of compulsory service, as I dreaded very serious difficulties if a conscription law was passed by the present Parliament. You rejoined that you had thought it preferable to invite me after the policy had been enunciated rather than before.

The Premier's Proposal.

At an interview which took place on Tuesday, the 29th of May, you suggested to me that you thought it necessary to hold a caucus of your supporters, but desired to consult me before doing so. I suggested to you that to hold a caucus pending negotiations would not be attending towards the objects to be attained. At the same time I suggested that, as I wanted to submit particularly to Sir Lomer Gouin and some other friends, I would like to have a clear statement in writing of your proposals, which you formulated as follows:

That a coalition government should be formed.

That a military service bill should be passed.

That a pledge should be given not to enforce it until after a general election.

That Parliament should be dissolved and the coalition government should seek a mandate from the people.

The Final Conference.

At the conference on Friday, the 1st of June, and again on Monday, the 4th, the possible personnel of a coalition government was considered. Some of the insurmountable difficulties in that personnel were anticipated, and the subject was not concluded. On Wednesday, the 6th of June, the final conference took place, at which I announced that I had decided to support the coalition.

The disturbance which was situated in Iowa yesterday morning is now hovering over Wisconsin, causing showers weather over the Great Lakes. Elsewhere, the weather is generally clear, with a few light showers here and there in the northern parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

THE WEATHER

TOMORROW—SHOWERS.

Toronto, June 7.—3 a.m. Forecast.

Fresh in strong south to west winds; partly fair and warmer today and Friday, with occasional showers and local thunderstorms.

Temperatures.

The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

Stations. High. Low. Weather.

Victoria. 74. 46. Fair.

Calgary. 71. 46. Fair.

Port Arthur. 71. 46. Cloudy.

Ferry Sound. 70. 42. Clear.

Port Stanley. 63. 32. Cloudy.

Buffalo. 63. 30. Rain.

Toronto. 66. 46. Cloudy.

Kingston. 72. 34. Cloudy.

Ottawa. 70. 44. Cloudy.

Montreal. 70. 54. Cloudy.

Quebec. 70. 54. Cloudy.

Father Point. 54. 36. Clear.

Weather Notes.

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