

BRANTFORD DAILY COURIER.

FORTY-FIFTH YEAR

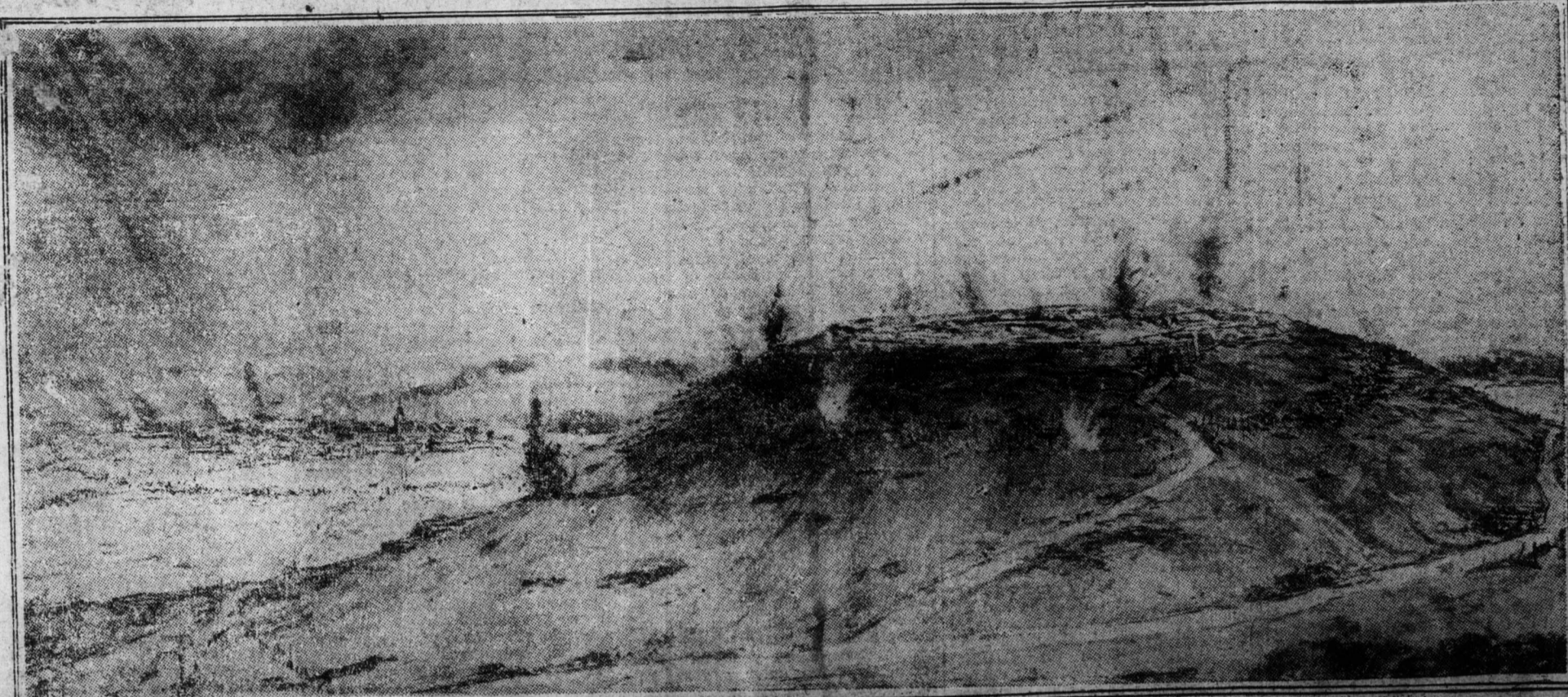
BRANTFORD, CANADA, FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1916

PROBS: Saturday—Fair and mild.

ONE CENT

Sir Robert Borden Takes Immediate Action French Have Lost the Village of Malancourt German Spy Declares Huns in British Navy

BATTLEGROUND OF DOUAUMONT, WHERE THOUSANDS FELL FIGHTING FOR VERDUN



THE VILLAGE LAY ON LOWER GROUND TO THE NORTHWEST. THE FORT WAS SITUATED 1,200 FEET HIGH. A ROAD, SEEN IN THE FOREGROUND OF THE VIEW, RUNS AROUND THE FOOT OF THE HILL, WHILE ANOTHER ROAD WINDS RIGHT UP TO THE DOOR OF THE FORT. IT IS THERE THAT DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF THE VERDUN BATTLE DESPERATE AND TERRIBLE FIGHTING TOOK PLACE, AND THE SLOPES WERE REPORTED TO BE COVERED WITH HEAPS OF GERMAN BODIES.

SIR SAM CABLES; IS RETURNING

Sir Robert Borden Appoints a Royal Commission of Two Judges With a Counsel From Each Party.

Ottawa, March 31.—Sir Robert Borden yesterday announced the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate the Kite charges. It will consist of Sir William R. Meredith, Chief Justice of Ontario; Hon. Lyman P. Duff, member of the Supreme Court of Canada; one counsel selected by the Government and one counsel selected by the leader of the Opposition.

The announcement of the commission, made by the Prime Minister at the opening of the House, was followed by an extraordinary, if explainable, exhibition on the part of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Liberal members. The opposition leader had moved for an investigation of charges against Sir Sam Hughes, but the Prime Minister had announced that if any charges were made against any member of the Government those charges would be investigated. Charges had been made, not against a member of the Government directly, but involving the name of the Minister of Militia, and Sir Robert Borden had gone beyond the limits of his promise in granting an investigation into the Kite charges by a Royal Commission.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier declared at once that the Government's proposal was not acceptable. The name of Sir William Meredith and that of Sir Charles Davidson, when mentioned in connection with Sir Sam Hughes' cable were received by the Liberal leader and his followers with derisive jeers. Sir Wilfrid angrily declared that the only investigation that would satisfy the Opposition would be one by a Parliamentary committee.

The announcement by the Prime Minister has wrought a swift and remarkable change in the Parliamentary situation. A condition of affairs which Liberal members have boastfully declared was embarrassing and dangerous to the Government has been converted by the prompt and vigorous action of Sir Robert Borden into one of extreme dissatisfaction.

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HUGHES ASKS FULL ENQUIRY

Ottawa, March 31.—Premier Borden yesterday afternoon read in the House of Commons the following cablegram received from the Minister of Militia:

London, March 30. "To the Prime Minister, Ottawa:

"Please state to the House that I have no improper connection with contracts referred to or any other contracts. If any suggestion to the contrary is made, I respectfully demand a full investigation by the judicial tribunal presided over by Sir Charles Davidson. I shall sail first available boat. (Signed) 'SAM HUGHES.'"

Mrs. Alex. Leclair, wife of Charles M. Page, a wealthy resident of Albany, N.Y., shot herself at her husband's studio yesterday, dying almost instantly.

AMAZING STATEMENT OF HUN SPY ARRESTED ON BRITISH STEAMER; GERMANS IN BRITISH NAVY

Says That He He Himself, After the War Broke Out, Went to England and at His Own Government's Request Enlisted in the Navy.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Lewes, Del., March 31.—Ernest Schiller, the young German who was arrested on the British steamer Matoppo, declared that he was a spy for the German government. The prisoner, weary from all the excitement he had undergone in his efforts to escape from the steamer yesterday, (he had held the crew in his power with pistols all of Wednesday night), threw himself on a cot in the Lewes jail early to-day and sought sleep.

"Yes, I am a spy for the German Government," he said. "You can believe or not, it makes no difference to me. I got my instructions from the German Government to go aboard the ship and blow her up to prevent her cargo from reaching Russia. I could have blown her up but the captain's plea for his wife and daughter was too much for me, and I hadn't the heart to do it. I am ready to take the consequences, but I ask that they keep me ashore instead of sending me back to the ship for the captain to take me in charge."

Schiller had been told that as his daring exploit occurred outside the three mile limit, he would in all likelihood be taken to British possessions in West India, coupled with the reports the West India trial for piracy. Federal officers and represent-

atives from the British Government came here to-day to examine Schiller and to decide what to do with him. If the United States finds it has no jurisdiction under international law, he will be turned over to the representatives of Great Britain. An examination into Schiller's mental condition will be conducted. Those who have talked with him hold he is irresponsible and that his story of his career is not true.

Schiller was reluctant to tell his history. "I was born in Germany," he said. "Never mind the town or my parents' name. I have been in this country, one year, in New York three weeks. I was sent by the German government to England soon after the war started and at Germany's request enlisted in the British navy, and was assigned to the training ship Conway at Liverpool."

"I want to say right now that there are several thousand Germans in the British navy. I know what this means to me. It's the tower of London if they get me back to the Matoppo, they get me back to the Matoppo."

Captain Richard Bergner of the Matoppo said he is convinced that Schiller is a former naval officer.

Villa Heading Southeast to His Old Headquarters

By Special Wire to the Courier.

El Paso, Texas, March 31.—Francisco Villa has crossed the great Colorado divide, and is heading southeast to his old headquarters at San Andres, according to most reliable information from General Funston's headquarters at San Antonio.

Keen interest in the chase has been aroused once more on the border by the renewed possibility that the Mexican bandit may be trapped before he can swing to the south of the pursuing squads. American troops, sweeping down from the north on the eastern side of the divide should be to-day, by all calculations, within striking distance of the San Geronimo ranch, where the quarry was last known to be. This ranch is at the head of Santa Maria valley where the river of that name has its rise.

Another detachment of General Pershing's cavalry is believed to have swung southeast from Madera, pass-

ing well south of Guerrero, where Villa is said to have massacred his Carranza troops, and to be striking the mountain and Cuchumatlan in the hope of cutting off the brigand from the south. The east is presumably closed by the several thousand men whom General Gutierrez is said to have in the district around Chihuahua city.

So again hope has arisen that Villa is trapped, but those who know the man and country best are not disposed to become optimistic. The most popular argument advanced by the optimists is that this time he is being pursued with a purpose, a vigor and a discipline that he has never before confronted.

FIGHTING REPORTED
San Antonio, March 31.—Major General Funston to-day awaited news that fighting between American troops and a Villa force had begun along the Mexico Northwestern Railroad be-

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Word From the Aurora

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Wellington, N.Z., March 31.—A wireless despatch just received from the Aurora says: "We are setting toward Snares Islands under the influence of wind and sea. We are unable to manoeuvre the ship, owing to damage to the jury rudder."

The authorities are sending a tug to the assistance of the Aurora.

Snares Islands lie in the South Pacific Ocean, south of New Zealand, the easternmost being in latitude 48.3 south, longitude 166.30 east. A wireless despatch from the Aurora, the auxiliary ship of the Shackleton Antarctic expedition, dated March 30, reported the vessel 350 miles southwest of Port Chalmers, New Zealand.

DROPPED ON SWISS TERRITORY

By Special Wire to the Courier.

BERNE, Switzerland, March 31, via Paris.—Two aeroplanes of unknown nationality dropped five large bombs at dawn this morning on the small Swiss village of Porentruy, near the French frontier. Some damage to property was caused.

Germans Gain Village of Malancourt From French

French Troops Hold Outskirts of Village and Have Also Beaten Back All Attacks Against Positions Retaken by Them in the Avocourt Wood.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Paris, March 31.—The Germans delivered a fierce night attack on three sides of the village of Malancourt, says the French official statement issued to-day, and the French retired upon the village proper, which was in ruins, but continue to hold its outskirts. Fierce infantry fighting lasted for the entire night before the French withdrew from the untenable position in the village of Malancourt, the official statement adds.

The Germans again tried to carry by assault the position which the French had won back in the Avocourt wood, but they were repulsed. East of the Meuse the night was calm.

The text of the communication follows: "In the Argonne district we have repulsed two attacks with hand grenades, directed against our positions to the north of Avocourt."

"To the west of the River Meuse, the bombardment of Malancourt has gone on with 'redoubled' violence. Last night, the Germans delivered a series of attacks in mass formation. They advanced from three sides at a time upon the village, which formed the advanced salient of our line, and which sheltered one of our battalions. After furious fighting, all night long, which entailed considerable sacrifices on the part of the enemy, our troops evacuated the ruined village, but we still hold its outskirts."

"To the east of the River Meuse the night passed quietly. "In the Woevre district the Germans endeavored on three separate occasions to capture from us the works to the east of Hatmout, but all their advances were repulsed. "There has been no occurrence of importance on the remainder of the front."

(Continued on Page 8.)

YOAKUM REFUSED TO TALK

Director of American Firm Mentioned by Kite, Says That Hughes is Not Involved in the Charges.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

New York, March 31.—Neither E. F. Yoakum, nor E. B. Cadwell, mentioned in despatches from Ottawa, as being connected with American ammunition companies which received orders from the Canadian shell committee, would discuss the charges made against General Hughes, when seen here last night.

The Tribune this morning says: "If General Sir Hughes benefited personally by the placing of war contracts with the American ammunition company, a director of the company said yesterday that he had no knowledge of the transaction. This statement was made as a result of the charges before the Canadian Parliament, Wednesday, that Col. J. Wesley Allison, agent for General Hughes in the purchase of war munitions in the United States, had arranged contracts for shells and fuses for companies here which Col. Allison had organized."

"In addition to the American ammunition company, which has offices at 95 Broad street, the International arms and fuse company, of 200 Fifth avenue, was mentioned in connection with the charges."

"Airing of the charges was of particular interest to Wall street as they told for the first time of the recent activities of E. F. Yoakum, chairman of the Prisco Railroad, who, with E. W. Bassick, of Bridgeburg, Conn., and Col. Allison were alleged to be the backers of the two companies. On June 19, they obtained \$250,000 from the Canadian shell committee. The day the contracts were awarded, it was the value of \$20,000,000. The day the shell committee advanced them \$9,165,000."

"The Tribune learned yesterday that Yoakum's and Bassick's connection with the two companies lay in the fact that for turning the two contracts, amounting to \$5,000,000 fuses each to the two concerns, they were paid a commission both in stock and in cash. Just what the total amount paid to in dollars, was not disclosed. It was said, however, that the figures mentioned in Ottawa dispatches were exaggerated."

"At the time of the organization of the American ammunition company the big typewriter concerns of the country were interested in its organization, as their machinery, especially adapted them to manufacture fuses for high explosive and shrapnel."

(Continued on Page 8.)

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Emil Green, aged 17, has confessed to the New York police that he murdered Henry Thayer, a boarder at his mother's home.

COURIER'S DAILY CARTOON



WILHELM—'FORWARD MARCH!'
—OFF IN PARADISE TRANSPORTED