

# FIRST CLASH BETWEEN ITALY AND FORMER ALLIES AT ANY MOMENT

## AUSTRIANS WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM ITALIAN FRONTIER TOWNS; BURN BRIDGES AND DESTROY LINES OF COMMUNICATION

First Clash Near -- Believed Austro-German Army Carry Fighting Into Italian Territory and Strike First Blow -- Italian Troops Massed in Great Numbers Along Frontier -- Italian Senate Adopts Chamber's Action Granting Government Free Hand.

### DAY'S DEVELOPMENTS IN ITALIAN SITUATION

Italian Senate by vote of 252 to 2, adopts bill giving government full powers in case of war.

Navigation activities in Adriatic Sea suspended.

Austrians withdraw troops and customs guards from frontier points after blowing up bridges and destroying telegraph and telephone lines.

Austrian aeroplanes reported to have flown over Italian territory.

Great demonstration in Rome where Royal Family are given ovation.

Austrians cut railway lines along frontier.

London, May 21.—A state of war now virtually exists between Italy and her former allies, Austria and Germany, although no formal declaration has yet been made.

Austrian troops have been withdrawn from some of the frontier posts and all navigation services in the Adriatic have been suspended. As indication that the clash is not far off is the fact that the Italian Senate today endorsed the action of the Chamber in granting the government extraordinary powers in the event of war, for which the whole country appears to be enthusiastic.

#### TEAR UP RAILS ON FRONTIER RAILROADS

Bulletin—Paris, May 21 (9.15 p.m.)—A despatch to the Havas Agency from Udine, Italy, says that the Austrian military authorities today, after returning Italian mail sacks to Italy from the Austrian frontier, cutting the telegraph communications and also removed rails from the railroad line.

Geneva, May 21, via Paris (4.50 p.m.)—Information gathered by correspondents on the eastern frontier of Switzerland shows that Austrians and German forces, with heavy artillery, have been concentrated at Trent, Bozen and Merano. Movements of considerable bodies of troops are reported from Munich.

The theory is advanced that Germany and Austria expect to break through the Italian frontier defences and carry the fighting into Italian territory. Italian troops are massed in great numbers, however, along the same front.

Brescia, Italy, May 21, via Paris (3.30 p.m.)—The Austrians evidently consider that a state of war between the dual monarchy and Italy already exists. The Austrians have withdrawn their troops and customs guard from the frontier at Ponte Caffaro and Ledro, after destroying the bridges, the telegraph and telephone lines and the electric light apparatus. Other bridges on the frontier have been mined.

From Ponte Caffaro and Ledro two roads pass over the frontier and serve for communication between Italy and Austria.

On the neighboring mountains Austrian artillery can be seen.

Paris, May 21 (10.15 p.m.)—A despatch to the Havas Agency from Rome says that the bill giving the government full powers in case of war was adopted by the Italian senate by a vote of 252 to 2.

Austrians Prevent Italians From Returning Home

Rome, May 21 (12.15 p.m.)—Advice received in Rome from Basel, Zurich and other Swiss towns in touch with Germany and Austria are to the effect that thousands of Italians are being prevented from returning home by the German and Austrian authorities. In addition it is asserted that the employers of Italians in Austria and Germany are refusing to pay the men their wages.

If these reports should be true they would be a striking contrast to the conditions existing in Italy, where Germans and Austrians are being protected and given complete freedom.

Ovation For Royal Family in Rome

Bulletin—Rome, May 21, via Paris (11.05 p.m.)—Several hundred thousand persons, led by the mayor of Rome, gathered tonight, before the Quirinal. The members of the Royal

### FRENCH TAKE 'THE WHITE WAY' FROM GERMANS

Drive Enemy from Strong Hill Where Their Machine Guns Were proving Hindrance to French Advance.

Paris, May 21 (10.45 p.m.)—The official communication issued this evening says:

"Supplementing the previous reports of the importance of the defeat suffered by the Germans in their attack to the north of Ypres, during the night of May 20-21, we captured 150 prisoners and took several machine-guns. The ground was strewn with more than 500 German dead.

"The weather having improved, our troops on the slope of Notre Dame de Lorette made an attack which succeeded brilliantly. We have taken the German fortified works called 'The White Way' (La Blanche Voie), which is situated on the only one of the five southern ridges of the Lorette Hill, which was still partially in the hands of the enemy. From this point the Germans, with their quick-firers, were considerably hampering our action, as also was the case on the plateau and to the west of Souchez.

"The entire Lorette Hill and the lesser ridges, which the enemy had defended fiercely for more than six months, are therefore in our possession. In addition we have captured that section of Ablain St. Nazaire, which linked 'The White Way' works to the northern end of the village, still occupied by the enemy.

"In this fighting we captured more than 250 prisoners, several of them officers. We also took a cannon of the enemy.

"The enemy replied to our success here with a very violent bombardment. They have not, however, counter-attacked.

"The day was uneventful on the rest of the front."

### Zeppelins May Use Bombs Charged With Poisonous Gases

London, May 21 (8.25 p.m.)—An indication that German Zeppelins might be used with bombs charged with poisonous gases, if they make raids on London, is contained in a notice issued by Scotland Yard tonight.

"It would be well for persons thus taking refuge to keep all windows and doors on lower floors closed, so as to prevent the admission of these gases."

### Alpine Troops Strain Leash in Desire to Attack Austrians

Udine, Italy, via Chisasso to Paris, May 21 (6.40 p.m.)—From the Alps, which are still covered with snow between the fir forests, down to the sea, where the grape-vines form miles of festoons, the whole vast region has been transformed into a huge military encampment. Everywhere are tents, gun carriages and flags, and at all points in this section there is the intense activity which makes a military camp.

The Italian army officers have great difficulty in restraining the soldiers from crossing the frontier. The troops most anxious to fight are the

### SIR ROBERT BORDEN EXPECTED BACK IN OTTAWA NEXT WEEK

Hon. Mr. Hazen Gone to Adirondacks to Recuperate After Recent Operation.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, May 21.—Sir Robert Borden is expected back in Ottawa early next week and all the cabinet will be here except Hon. Mr. Hazen, who has gone to the Adirondacks for rest and quiet after his operation in Montreal.

It is believed that one of the first things to be dealt with by the prime minister will be the resignation of the secretary of state, and popular member for Hochelaga. It is understood that Hon. Louis Coderre is likely to succeed Mr. Justice Teller on the bench in Montreal. The latter has served for many years and is qualified to retire on full salary.

The question of the new French-Canadian member of the cabinet is uncertain. The French-Canadian members of the House of Commons will doubtless be allowed to offer suggestions on the matter after discussion among themselves.

### ATTACKING TURKISH FORTS AT KOMU BURNU

Allies' Ships Hammering Away at Enemy's Strongholds and Town of Gallipoli Badly Damaged.

London, May 21 (9.27 p.m.)—"There was a lively bombardment yesterday of the Dardanelles, directed principally against Turkish camps at Komu Burnu, on the Asiatic side," says Reuters' Athens correspondent. "It is stated that Chanak Kalesi has been completely destroyed and that the town of Gallipoli, on the European side of the waterway, has been badly damaged."

Major Guthrie Keen to Get Into the Fight.

Next sinking his rank as Honorary Captain, he applied for work in the trenches and went off a Lieutenant of the Tenth Canadians, who needed officers; he was seen no more, until Monday morning, when he returned to search for his office, which had been moved to a cellar at the rear and was at the moment in charge of a Sergeant. But he had only returned to inveigle some officer with a gift for accounts into the paymaster's office. This arranged he sped back to his Tenth Battalion.

He was not the only one of his department who acted as a combatant on that day. Hon. Captain McGregor, of British Columbia for example, had been paymaster for the Canadian Scottish, Sixteenth Battalion. He, too, armed with a cane and revolver, went forward at his own desire to hand-to-hand fighting in the wood, where he was killed fighting gallantly to the last.

The case of Major Guthrie, of New Brunswick, is somewhat similar. He was major of the Twelfth Battalion, still in England, but was then at the front, in some legal military capacity connected with court martials. He, like Captain Costigan, had asked for a commission in the sorely tried Tenth. There was some hesitation, since Guthrie, as a major, might quite possibly find himself in command of what was left of the Tenth, if and when he found it. "I'll go as a Lieutenant, of course," he said and as a Lieutenant he went.

Lieut.-Col. Currie, commanding the 48th Highlanders, Fifteenth Battalion, had his telephone communication with his men in the trenches cut by shrapnel. He therefore moved his headquarters into the reserve trenches and took with him there a little band of "runners" to keep him in touch with

### "CANADA" GLOWS WITH NEW MEANING BEFORE THE WORLD SINCE THE BATTLE OF YPRES

Canadian Eye-Witness' Story of Incidents in Great Fight Where Men of Canada Won Reputation by Their Gallantry -- Maj. Guthrie Sinks His Rank as Major in Order to Get Into Thick of the Fighting -- Many Heroic Acts which Historians May Miss.

(By Sir Max Aitken, Canadian eye-witness.)

London, May 21.—A wave of battle is like a wave of the sea. While it advances one is only conscious of its rush and roar, only concerned to measure how far it may advance. As it ebbs the known landmarks show again and we have leisure to gather observations of comrades who were borne backwards or forwards on the flood.

The wave that fell on us around Ypres has christened the Dominion into nationhood; the mere written word "Canada" glows now with a new meaning before all the civilized world. She has proved herself, and not unworthily; but those who survive of the men who have won our word right to pride are too busy to trouble their heads about history. That may come in days of peace.

The main outlines of the battle have been dealt with already. We know what troops took part in it and how they bore themselves, but the thousand and vivid intimate episodes seen between two blasts of gun fire or reported by men met by chance in some temporary shelter can never all be told. Yet they are too characteristic in their unconsciously to be left without an attempt at a record, so I give a little handful from a great harvest.

In the days before the battle, when the Canadians lived, for the most part, in and about Salby, whence one saw, as I have already written, the German trench flares, like Northern lights on the horizon, Hon. Captain Costigan, Calgary, was the field cashier and lived as the field cashier must, decently remote from the firing line. Then came the great attack that proved Canada, and the German flares advanced and advanced till they no longer resembled flickering auroras, but the sizzling electric arc lights of a great city. Captain Costigan locked up his pay chest, and abolished his office, with the words: "There is no paymaster."

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### THINKS DOMINIONS SHOULD HAVE VOICE IN NEW MINISTRY

Suggested that New Cabinet Should be Empire Coalition One With Representatives from Dominion.

London, May 21.—(Gazette Cable)—That the Overseas Dominions should not have to wait until the war is concluded in order to participate in a new form of Empire government, but should now be active advisers of the Imperial government, is the suggestion made by Sir Lawrence Gomme, former chief clerk of the London County Council. Writing to the Daily Telegraph he advocates that the coalition ministry should be an Empire coalition of organizing statesmen and specifically singles out Premier Botha of South Africa, who should work with Lord Kitchener.

The attack on Lord Kitchener by the Northcliffe group of newspapers is arousing a good deal of resentment, which is freely expressed by opposition journals. The Pall Mall Gazette declares that if the working of the constitutional machine is made more difficult we shall be near a situation which will drive democracy to demand a dictatorship.

The Globe, which has advocated a coalition government, says that when the full story of the shells supplied to the British army is told it will be found that Lord Kitchener has been improperly attacked.

Incidents of the Battle

And here is a story of a brigade headquarters in a house surrounded by a moat over which there was only one road. On Thursday the enemy's artillery found the house, and later on, as the rush came, their rifle fire found it also. The staff went on with its work until the end of the week, when incendiary shells set the place alight and they were forced to move. The road being impossible on account of shrapnel, they swam the moat, but one of them was badly wounded, for whom swimming was out of the question. Captain Scrimger, medical officer, attached to the Royal Montreal Regiment, protected the wounded man with his own body against the shrapnel that was coming through the naked rafters, and carried him out of the blazing house into the open. Two of the staff, Lieut. Col. Hughes (brigade major of the Third Infantry Brigade), and Lieut. Thompson (Third Brigade Grenade Company officer), then re-swam the moat, and, waiting for a lull in the shell fire, got the wounded man across the road onto a stretcher and into dressing station, after which they went on with their official duties.

This is but one of a hundred deeds done on the spur of the moment, of which there will never be any memorial, except the moment's cheer, or the moment's laughter from those who had time to observe.

A man can be both heroic and absurd in the same act, and human nature under a strain always leans to the comical. What follows is not at all comical, though it made men laugh at the time.

In one of the many isolated bits of nightwork it happened that a German detachment was cut off by one of ours and its situation was hopeless. There was something like a gasp as the enemy realized this, and then a silence, broken by a voice, crying in unmistakable German-American accents, "Have a heart."

The Canadians had just recovered a dressing station which had been abandoned a few hours ago, and there they had found the bodies of their comrades with their wounds dressed, dead of fresh wounds by the bayonet. It is unfortunate that the Canadian's first serious experience of the enemy should have included asphyxiation by gas and the murder of wounded and unaccountable men.

The supply of ammunition and medical attendance continued unbroken and unceasing through all the phases of the last engagement. The ammunition columns waited for hour after hour at their stated points, ready to distribute supplies as needed. Their business was to stay where they could be found and if the shrapnel caught

(Continued on page 2)

### LABOR MAN IN NEW GOVERNMENT

Arthur Henderson to succeed Rt. Hon. Herbert Lewis Samuel as president of local Government Board.

London, May 21.—The first authoritative announcement as to an appointment in the British national cabinet, outside of Premier Asquith and Sir Edward Grey, the foreign secretary, is that of Arthur Henderson, a Labor leader, who succeeds the Right Hon. Herbert Lewis Samuel as president of the Local Government Board. The Trade Unionists are highly pleased at the appointment.

RECITAL AT MT. A. A MARKED SUCCESS

First event of Closing Exercises held last night in Charles Fawcett Memorial hall.

Special to The Standard.

Sackville, N. B., May 21.—The opening number on the official programme of the closing exercises of the Mount Allison institutions was a most pleasant event. It was a recital given by students of the school of expression in the Charles Fawcett Memorial Hall, under the direction of Miss Bessie Lewis Kenyon, head of the oratory department. There were several hundred in attendance and all were highly delighted with the programme, each number received a well merited round of hearty applause.

It is not expected that the attendance will be as large as in former years, but a large number of friends and former graduates are expected tomorrow.

Those taking part in this evening's programme were: Miss Helen Ford, Miss Bertha Hattenbury, Miss Oran Fisher, Miss Beatrice Dinnis, Miss Faith Henderson, Miss Alice Inch, Miss Sara Mccovey, Miss Nita Thompson, Miss Oran Fisher, Miss Esther Rogers.