

BRISH AT GRIPS WITH ENEMY ALONG SECTION OF FRENCH LINE WHICH THEY HAVE TAKEN OVER

ROYAL COMMISSION TO PROBE SHELL CONTRACTS

Premier Borden, on Own Initiative, Asks Sir Wm. Meredith and Judge Duff to Act as Commissioners, Asks Laurier to Name Third and Cables Lloyd George for Authority to Investigate Alleged Profits of Col. Allison and American Munitions Makers Named by G. W. Kyle—Sir Sam Hughes Returning Home.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, March 30.—Sir Robert Borden will not tolerate the suspicion of wrongdoing in connection with shell contracts, or any other contracts. Earlier in the session he declared that he would not grant an inquiry into contracts which were the sole business of the British government, although made by the shell committee, but if a member of parliament had a definite instance of what he believed to be wrongdoing, there would be a full and complete investigation.

Hon. Wm. Fugatey made a bluff at making a charge. He performed all the duties associated with the making of a charge, but he left out the vital part, he made no charge. His intended spectacular move was laughed out of court.

However, two evenings ago G. W. Kyle, of Richmond, N. S., gave the House a list of profits that Col. J. Wesley Allison and some American munitions manufacturers are alleged to have made on contracts for fuses. He named the names of the companies and decided that an investigation would be held. He named two of the most prominent jurists in Canada, Sir William Meredith, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario, and Justice Duff, of the Supreme Court of Canada, and he asked Sir Wilfrid Laurier to name a third. This is a remarkable example of fairness, and one which was never exhibited by Sir Wilfrid when he was prime minister himself. In fact he never allowed an inquiry at all. In the case of the matter connected with the South African war contracts—one of which involved F. B. Carvell, and was also in the House by Hon. Martin Burroughs some weeks ago—he refused to have the matter considered at all until the war was over. He has altered his opinions nowadays.

However, it is worth noting that Judge Duff, one of the Royal Commissioners was not yet time a Liberal organizer in Manitoba, and through all the appointments of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to find one Conservative would be in vain.

But the remarkable fairness of the proposed Royal Commission would not be acceptable to the opposition. He did not remark that the minister had acted upon his own initiative, that he had called for authority to hold the inquiry, and although he has not yet received a reply from Lloyd George, he had actually asked the judges mentioned if they would be prepared to act, and they had acquiesced.

tion had any charge to make against any member of the government as shown by this in his place, make a personal statement on the responsibility as a member and conclude the statement with a charge. The charge would then be investigated thoroughly and completely.

"This has not been done," continued Sir Robert Borden, "and the course which I am about to announce is, strictly speaking, not demanded by any action which honorable gentlemen opposing had taken. Not one of them has risen in his place and taken the responsibility of making a charge in the sense set forth above."

Royal Commission to Investigate. "The honorable member for Richmond, N. S. (Mr. Kyle), however, made statements late on Tuesday evening as to the connection of the minister of militia with certain contracts entered into by the shell committee and as to the enormous profits or commissions springing out of those contracts to certain companies which he mentioned. It is alleged that Mr. J. Wesley Allison had a very large interest in those profits or commissions, and it is suggested that through his influence with the minister of militia the shell committee were induced to make the contracts in question. The minister of militia had previously stated to the House his close relations to Mr. J. Wesley Allison and his great confidence in that gentleman.

"Having regard to these considerations, I think it desirable that an inquiry should be made into the fuse contracts made by the shell committee with the American Ammunition Company and the International Arms and Fuse Company, and the cartridge case contract made by the shell committee with the Edwards Valve Company."

"Upon careful inquiry I cannot find that any of the other contracts out of which it is alleged by the member for Richmond that J. Wesley Allison obtained profits or commissions, were made either by the shell committee or any department of the government of Canada. However, as it has been alleged that the shell committee made a contract with the Providence Chemical Company, of St. Louis, that alleged contract will be included.

"I, therefore, propose to recommend to His Royal Highness, the Governor-General, that a Royal Commission shall issue appointing one or more judges to make a thorough investigation into these four contracts and all matters connected therewith."

RUSSIANS HAVE SPOILED VON HINDENBURG'S CHANCES FOR OFFENSIVE IN SPRING

Are Now in Positions to Renew Drive as Soon as Thaw is Over.

BATTLE LINE EXTENDS OVER 30 MILE FRONT.

Germaans Brought from Other Fronts to Take Part in Expected Attack Forced to Maintain Defensive.

Petrograd, March 30, via London.—The Russian offensive manoeuvres along the Dvinsk-Riga front, although apparently local in character and unimportant as compared with more sweeping spectacular movements which have marked warfare on the Eastern front, have already rendered the carefully constructed positions of Field Marshal Von Hindenburg less secure and well, it is thought here, determine the course of the coming Spring campaign.

The fighting has now developed from isolated encounters along a ten-mile front to a general engagement, extending more than thirty-five miles along the line. German troops which were being pushed to this front instead of taking part in an advance believed to have been intended by the Germans, are occupied in defending their positions of last fall, and it appears to observers here that Field Marshal Von Hindenburg's Spring campaign will be defensive rather than offensive, the one which was expected. Since the first blows struck by the Russians along the northern sector the Russian situation has continually improved, and the heights which they now command along the left bank of the Dvina, and their successful operations in the Riga district, are considered a solid foundation for a further advance as soon as the Spring thaw is over and the ground becomes firm.

PRIZE WINNERS IN PUZZLE CONTEST

The second puzzle offered by The Standard turned out to be less difficult than was anticipated. It had been believed that among those who successfully solved the first puzzle there would not be found very many who could solve the second puzzle at its maximum. However, out of almost three hundred who attempted this second puzzle six tied on the highest number of points and fourteen other tied on the second highest number sent in.

This being the case the prizes offered have been divided among the successful ones, the first six prizes being distributed on the dividend basis as originally announced. The winners and amounts which they receive are given herewith:

- The highest correct solution received was 9,409. D. S. Boone, Aroostook Jct. \$29.16. Irene M. Rand, Parrsboro, N. S. 29.16. Arthur L. Robertson, 208 Duke St., City. 29.16. Capt. J. Spicer, Parrsboro, N. S. 29.16. C. S. Gaines, Aroostook Jct. 29.16. Louis D. Clarke, 55 Pitt St., City. 29.16. Rod McLean, Moncton. 5.00. A. C. Adams, Campbellton. 5.00. Fred W. Strong, Upper Granville, N. S. 5.00. A. W. Kyle, Hartland. 5.00. Wilfrid Candemire, Aroostook Jct. 5.00. E. C. Morgan, Hartland. 5.00. Vernon F. Noddin, Hartland. 5.00. Beecher Steeves, Edgerts Landing. 5.00. Miss L. M. Reid, Hartland. 5.00. Miss E. L. Coles, 175 Charlotte St., City. 5.00. Geo. H. Barnes, Hampton Station. 5.00. Wesley C. Dunlop, Renforth, N. B. 5.00. R. Allan Christie, 136 Carmarthen St. City. 5.00. W. Brown, 326 Rockland Rd., City. 5.00. A number of incorrect solutions were received.

GERMANS TWICE HURLED BACK BY FRENCH FORCES

TWICE ATTACKED NEAR FORT DOUAUMONT, EMPLOYING LIQUID FLAME, BUT HURLED BACK—EIGHT GERMAN AEROPLANES BROUGHT DOWN OVER ALLIED LINE.

Fighting is still going on between the British and Germans along the British end of the French line, particularly near St. Eloi, where bomb throwers have succeeded in reaching a portion of a mine crater held by the British. Near Boesinghe the British put down an attempted attack by the Germans.

Strong forces of Austrians and Italians are aligned against each other in the Gorizia sector of the Austro-Italian front. On the heights of Seltz spirited fighting is taking place for the possession of trenches. Elsewhere along the front the artillery duels continue. Berlin says the big offensive of the Russians in the region of Postavy has ceased, and that the Russians also have given up their attacks around Lake Narocz. Artillery duels, however, are going on around Jacobstadt, and to the north of Wlady.

Great Britain has put in effect an order-in-council under which neither a vessel nor her cargo is immune from capture for a breach of the blockade on the sole ground that the vessel at the moment is on her way to a non-blockaded port.

Paris, March 30.—The official communication issued by the war office tonight on the campaign in the western zone reads as follows: "To the west of Nouvion an enemy aeroplane was brought down by our special guns. The machine fell about five metres in front of our trenches. The passengers were killed. We brought back to our lines one of the

machine guns of the aeroplane. "To the north of the Aisne the fire of our batteries, directed against the enemy organizations on the plateau of Vauciers, caused a powerful explosion. "In Champagne our guns brought down a German aeroplane, which fell inside the enemy lines near Saint-Marie-A-Py. "In the Argonne we energetically bombarded the Malancourt wood. At La Fille Mortie one of our mines shattered a German trench, and another destroyed an enemy post at Hill 283. "To the west of the Meuse, in the course of the day, the bombardment continued in the region of Malancourt. There was no infantry action. "To the east of the Meuse the Germans directed, this morning, on our positions in the neighborhood of Fort Douaumont a violent attack, accompanied by jets of liquid flame. The enemy was completely repulsed. A little later a second attack at the same point was no more successful, and similarly cost the Germans very appreciable losses. "In the course of the day our aerial forces displayed much activity. In Champagne, in the region of Dontriville, one of our pilots brought down a Fokker, which fell in flames within the enemy lines. "In the region of Verdun five German aeroplanes were brought down in the immediate proximity of our lines. Our aeroplanes were hit many times, but all of our pilots returned safely."

COLLAPSE OF CLYDE STRIKE IS IMMINENT

Important Development Late Last Night Expected to Break Backbone of Strike—Commons Discusses the Conspiracy.

London, Mar. 30.—During a discussion of the Clyde strike in the House of Commons tonight, David Lloyd George, the munitions minister, declared that the big guns which the army wanted had been held up through all stages of manufacture, and that the strikers were holding up most important guns needed by the army.

That the Clyde strike caused a ferment out of all proportion to the number of men involved is explained by Mr. Lloyd George's statement that it was responsible for holding up of guns needed at the British front.

Long discussions on the subject of the strike took place in the House of Commons today. They were mainly concerned in an endeavor to shift the responsibility for the continuance of a

strike which has been denounced alike by the general public and the responsible labor leaders. William H. Priest, Liberal, blamed the government authorities for breaking off negotiations which would have secured a settlement of the strike. Mr. Lloyd George replied that it was impossible to negotiate with men who were defying the law. It was in the course of a warm defence of Dr. Christopher Addison, parliamentary secretary of the munitions department, who was accused of thus breaking off negotiations, that Mr. Lloyd George started the house by declaring that the strikers were holding up the big guns.

Mr. Priest, who had placed all the blame on the obstinacy of the ministry of munitions, flatly denied that there was any such reasonable conspiracy as had been alleged. Late tonight it was announced at Glasgow that an important development had occurred, promising the immediate collapse of the strike. Three More Labor Leaders Deported. Glasgow, Mar. 31.—Only 365 of the Clyde strikers have thus far returned to work. Three more labor leaders have been deported, each being given a railway fare and ten shillings, and being sent away with a command not to return to Glasgow. Two prominent Glasgow Socialists have been arrested under the Defence of the Realm Act. Arthur Henderson, president of the Board of Education, is on his way from London to Glasgow, and much is hoped from his personal intervention with the men.

Soldier Dies in Hospital. Private West, of the 116th Battalion, died about seven o'clock last evening in the General Public Hospital after an illness of two weeks. His home was in Victoria Co.

Any Means, If Success Can Be Attained, Germany's Motto For Submarine Campaign

London, March 30.—An agreement has been reached by the Reichstag main committee that "Germany's sea warfare should be carried through by all the means most instrumental in securing a successful issue of the war," according to a despatch from Berlin today. During an exhaustive discussion of the subject, Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg, Admiral Von Capelle, secretary for the admiralty, and Dr. Selt, the colonial secretary, again delivered speeches.

DOCK WORKERS VOTE TO REMAIN ON STRIKE

Liverpool, March 31, (8.45 a.m.).—Ten thousand dock workers here have decided to continue their strike, rejecting the terms of the arbitration award, which granted about half of their demands.

CANADIENS WIN DECIDING GAME.

Montreal, Mar. 30.—Canadiens tonight defeated the Portland, Oregon, team in the final game for the Stanley Cup and the hockey championship of the world, winning by a score of 3 to 1. Each team had two games to its credit previous to tonight's contest, hence there was great interest in the outcome of this deciding game. The game was hard and fast throughout.

JAS. KEOUGHAN CHATHAM MAN IS WOUNDED

Ottawa, Mar. 31.—The casualty list issued at midnight contains the names of the following Maritime Province men: Fifteenth Battalion. Wounded—Joseph H. Appleby, New Glasgow, N. S.; James Keoughan, Water street, Chatham, N. B.

THE 140TH BAND FUND

There were two contributions to the 140th New Brunswick Band Fund yesterday. The committee in charge of the purchasing are now getting together and arranging the specifications of the instruments required. It is expected that an order will be sent forward in a few days for the complete equipment. Previously acknowledged \$397.17 Louis Ready, Fairville 5.00 C. P. Baker, Randolph 25.00 \$427.17

KINGS CO. BRANCH OF TEMPERANCE ALLIANCE MEETS IN SUSSEX

Sussex, N. B., Mar. 30.—A meeting of the Kings County branch of the Temperance Alliance was held in the Madley Hall, President C. W. Weyman in the chair. Representatives were present from Hampton, Norton, Bloomfield, Sussex, Havelock and Studholm. The meeting opened with prayer by Rev. H. C. Rice. It was moved and carried that the constitution of the New Brunswick branch of the alliance be adopted and by so doing affect the reorganization of a county alliance.

The following officers and committee were appointed: J. C. Mills, president; J. H. Brown, vice-president; M. A. MacLeod, secretary; C. W. Weyman, treasurer. Executive: John Frost, H. W. Polkies, Rev. R. H. Stavert, H. P. Cochran, M. Garfield White, J. E. McCauley, Arthur Rouse, P. W. F. Brewster, Rev. M. Sheven, L. C. Floyd, Abram Branscombe, John Leiper and J. T. Prescott.

Finance committee: S. H. White, M. G. White, Murray Parmer and J. I. Calhoun. Mr. Wilson, field secretary of the Dominion Alliance, addressed the convention on the necessity of thorough organization through the county. He asked that all the parishes be organized and every voter interviewed regarding his position on prohibition and that a campaign of publicity be entered upon in order to combat the attempts that are being made to undermine the passing of a prohibition law. It was decided to hold meetings in all parishes in the county, and a big mass meeting will be held in Sussex in the near future.

"PORKY" FLYNN WINS FROM GUNBOAT.

New York, March 30.—"Porky" Flynn, the Boston heavyweight, out-fought "Gunboat" Smith, of this city in a ten round bout here tonight. Flynn weighed 198 pounds, and Smith, 183.