

THE ALBERTAN

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1917

THE NEW PREMIER

The selection of Hon. Charles Stewart to be the third premier of the province of Alberta will meet with the approval of a large majority of the electorate, regardless of party affiliations.

"Charlie" Stewart is one of the best liked men in the Alberta legislature, and enjoys to an unusual degree the esteem and confidence of his associates on both sides of the house. He is typical of a rapidly increasing class of political men in western Canada, in that he is young, vigorous, progressive and fraternal; he has a first hand knowledge of the mass of the people of his province and their conditions of living and working; he is friendly and easy of approach, and has no "frills" and no false notions of prestige, and withal he is a man of obvious sincerity of purpose and integrity of character.

Observers are primarily impressed with his sincerity and the conspicuous lack of political guile in all his dealings. Of all the straightforward, thorough-going, friendly young men in western political life just now, the new premier of Alberta is the most outstanding representative of the type. He is a conspicuous refutation of the frequently accepted notion that politics is a deep game, played trickily.

Twelve years ago Mr. Stewart was a newcomer to Alberta, comparatively unknown and without political experience. He was born in the farming community of Strathmore, Ont., in 1898, and was educated in the schools of Ontario.

When he was a little over 20 years of age he removed with his family of young children to a farm at Killam, Alberta, where he farmed and gave generously of his services and ability to the development of the new country in which he had settled. At a Liberal meeting in Wetaskiwin in 1906, Hon. Duncan Marshall encountered Mr. Stewart and summed up the general opinion of the gathering in the remark that Stewart would have to come into the legislature. Mr. Stewart promised to think about it. He was elected by the constituency of Sedgewick in 1909, three years later. He entered at a critical time in the history of the province, and one of the first problems which confronted him was the A. & G. W. situation. He was one of the leading insurgents against the first Liberal administration, and vigorously assisted in the cleaning out which took place shortly after. When Hon. A. L. Sifton organized a new cabinet, Mr. Stewart was one of the ministers. His administration of the department of public works has been admirable. The organization of the department, the choice of officials, and the businesslike executive methods have marked him out as a minister of extraordinary ability, and his achievements, in spite of the adverse circumstances under which he has worked, have been beyond criticism. The department of public works has been almost entirely free of adverse criticism from the opposition.

Mr. Stewart is a lucid and powerful speaker, an excellent executive official, well informed on current affairs, sympathetic to all classes of workers, and an ardent advocate of the reform movement initiated by the farmers of western Canada. He understands the temper of the people, and the significance of the time, and he has the vigor, the integrity, the resourcefulness and the humane point of view which are especially required at the moment. As premier, he is a representative of whom every citizen of Alberta may be proud.

Peace River is the most up-to-date district in the whole Dominion just now, and its latest accomplishment is the striking of oil.

Despite wars and such like, the baseball game is giving the American people and the fans beyond the border more than the ordinary number of thrills.

There are many Conservatives in this city who would be quite satisfied with the union government if there were no Liberals in it, and there are many Liberals who would vote it a success if the Conservatives were eliminated from it.

There is some criticism these days of the fact that there are so many lawyers in government affairs. It is interesting to note that only one of the four western premiers is a lawyer. In Alberta, however, four of the seven cabinet ministers are lawyers, three of the four coming from Edmonton though not one of the three represents an Edmonton constituency.

A SYMPATHETIC RECEPTION

The small number of newspaper opponents of the new government, without waiting for its policy or the completion of its membership, have characterized it as a government of the Big Interests. There is nothing yet to show that the new government will be dominated by the Big Interests. Unfortunately, the Liberals who are apparently opposing the new government have given no indication in parliament that they have any definite policy upon conscription of wealth or that they are in sympathy with any plan designed to force the big interests to contribute more fully their share to the carrying on of the war.

It may be noticed also that the Liberals who have been associated most closely with the financial interests of the country are now in opposition to the new government, and the Liberals who have been regardless of the large railway corporations are either in the new government or are supporting it.

With Sir Robert Borden as leader of the government, it is not surprising that the opposition should endeavor to fasten upon it the many mistakes of the previous administration. That is not quite fair. This is a new government, composed largely of new members, organized for the purpose of administering the affairs of the country during the continuation of the war. Such an undertaking is of sufficient magnitude to keep any government busy. Probably this administration will undertake nothing else but war problems. It should be commended or criticized upon its own administration, and not upon the work of its predecessors.

The Albertan believes that Canadians sincerely interested in the proper administration of the war will give a sympathetic reception to the most genuinely patriotic move made by party leaders since the beginning of the war.

If there are to be union candidates here in Calgary for the Dominion elections, now would be the right time to start the conventions.

With Carvell, Rowell, Sifton and Calder in the cabinet, no Liberal need fear that the Liberals will have no influence in the new government.

If any person can tell of better autumn weather than Alberta has had this year, The Albertan would be pleased to get his name and address.

The union government will greatly strengthen its position among the people when it announces some plan for the effective conscription of wealth.

If the formation of the new union government does away with the patronage evils, as has been suggested, it would be worth while for that alone.

The motor rules in the city must be strictly enforced, and violation of them must be met with the sternest punishment. Reckless driving must be checked in this city.

The worth of Premier Stewart is indicated by the fact that in each of the four elections, his opponent has lost his deposit. That is what his neighbors think of him.

There is a possibility of James Garden swinging into line and running for commissioner or mayor. Mr. Garden was not a bad commissioner, his only fault being that he didn't size up to the impossible program that his unwisely supporters promised in his election campaign.

Twelve years ago Hon. Charles Stewart came to this province, quite unknown, without friends and without influence. Today he is premier of the best province in the Dominion. That is a tribute to his own splendid abilities, and also to the opportunities of a western province.

The Dominion government would be well advised if it went to the country at once. The people are anxious to get the election over with, and the government is as strong now as it is likely ever to be, with the extremes of both parties watching it, prepared to criticize every move.

The union government is making a great mistake by not having a strong labor representation in it. There can be no union government without labor representatives. The provincial government would be stronger with a labor representative, and now is a good time to appoint one.

If the city should start an organization of business men to encourage the payment of taxes, it would be a very good move. Then the city should treat the debt as business houses treat their debtors, and use all its power to get the money. The money is in the city, and the city should get it.

Miss Foote has announced her determination to retire from the board at the end of the year. That is unfortunate. Miss Foote is a very efficient representative, who gives much attention to public affairs, has an inside knowledge of the working of the schools, and cannot well be replaced on the board. She should reconsider.

COUNT VON LUXBURG DETAINED
Buenos Aires, Oct. 12.—Count Karl von Luxburg, the former German minister to Argentina, arrived today at detention camp of the island of

GERMANS SWEEP DOWN ON ISLAND IN GULF OF RIGA

(Continued from page one)

Officers Were Shot
On the Baltic last night was condemned by the Heligoland revolutionary committee and all the sailors who took part were arrested.

Pressing the Russians

Petrograd, Oct. 14.—Fighting between the Russians and the German troops, which landed on Oesel island, in the Gulf of Riga, continues, according to the official statement issued today. The Germans are pressing the Russians toward the southeast. An attempt made by a German force to capture a pier on Moon island, between the island of Oesel and the mainland of Esthonia, was repulsed. The text of the statement reads:

"Baltic sea on Friday, the enemy who landed on Oesel island, succeeded in occupying part of the island. Towards evening it was observed that enemy motor cyclist detachments were approaching Oriskand, in the eastern part of the island, and they attempted to capture a pier on Moon island, but were repulsed.

"The fight with enemy troops which landed, still continues. Enemy advanced detachments are pressing our troops in southeasterly direction. The landing of German troops on Oesel island continues. The region where the debarkation is taking place is guarded from the sea by very large enemy naval forces.

"Simultaneously with the landing on Oesel island, several enemy ships engaged our shore batteries on Dagoo island. According to the information to hand, four of the enemy torpedo boats were sunk by the fire of our batteries and one enemy cruiser which was firing at this battery ran aground. Our batteries were completely destroyed by the overwhelming gunfire from the enemy ships. This enabled the enemy to land a small detachment on Dagoo island, which, however, was unable to maintain its position and the troops promptly returned to their ships.

"Since yesterday morning, our ships have successfully hindered the enemy's naval forces entering our waters between Dagoo and Oesel islands. In the course of the engagements of the last two days our ships suffered no appreciable damage. While the sea continues the usual mine-sweeping along the coast and operations of our reconnaissance and engagements in the region of Oesel island, one of our aviators brought down an enemy airplane.

Russian Sailors Fought
Petrograd, Oct. 14.—A correspondent of marine, in a supplementary communication issued this evening, says:

"The Russian sailors, in the two days' bombardment of the islands of Oesel and Dagoo were trifling. Our crews gave proof of their courage, initiative and self-denial."

Now Germans Put It

Berlin, Oct. 14.—German troops which landed on the Russian island of Oesel on Friday quickly broke the resistance of the Russian troops, the German general staff announced today, and are now advancing towards the southeastern coast. According to the official statement, the capture of the island, and Sereel, on the Svorov peninsula, are in flames.

HEAVY RAINFALL ON FLANDERS FRONT: SMALL ENCOUNTERS

(Continued from page one)

craft were restricted. One of our fighting patrols during the forenoon shot down an enemy machine over Ostend, the machine falling in flames.

AVIATORS BUSY IN BAD WEATHER

London, Oct. 13.—The following was office statement concerning aviation action was issued tonight:

"Yesterday the weather could not have been less favorable for the cooperation of our airplanes with our infantry in their attack. Nevertheless our machines went out until 4 o'clock in the morning but during the rain and in the intervals. With great difficulty they succeeded in locating the troop movements of the enemy and the positions of a great many hostile batteries and reported their observations to our artillery. In addition to this work, more than 10,000 rounds were directed by our airmen with machine guns at hostile infantry in trenches and shell holes on the roads. Parties of mounted troops and the convoys of hostile transports also were engaged at low altitudes, causing many losses to the enemy and great confusion in their ranks. Only a few German machines were encountered, presumably on account of the bad weather, and little fighting took place in the air. Four enemy airplanes were brought down and five others were driven down out of control.

"Ten of our machines are missing. The very strong west wind and the suddenness with which the driving rainstorms came up accounted for the non-return of many of our airplanes. Several of those missing belonging to patrols that were not engaged in fighting and evidently were lost in the storm."

WET WEATHER CONTINUES

London, Oct. 13.—The official statement issued tonight by the war office reads:

"Beyond the usual action of both sides on the battlefield, nothing of special interest occurred during the day. The wet, stormy weather continues.

"The number of prisoners taken by us yesterday and so far reported is 761, including 41 officers."

ARTILLERY ACTIVE

London, Oct. 14.—The text of the British statement issued this afternoon follows:

"The enemy's artillery was active during the night northeast of Ypres. Hostile reconnoitering parties were repulsed west of Boeselaere and north of Poelcapelle.

"We carried out a successful raid in the region of Hulluch."

ATTACKED ENEMY PATROLS

Paris, Oct. 14.—The text of the French statement reads:

"In the course of the night our reconnoitering parties attacked enemy patrols on our new front in Belgium and brought back about 30 prisoners, including one officer."

"On the Aisne front, the artillery duel was lively at times, notably in the region of the Pantheon and on the plateau of Valenciennes and Calonne."

"On the rest of the front there was intermittent cannonade."

ARTILLERY FIGHTING ONLY

Paris, Oct. 13.—The official communication issued by the war office tonight, reads:

"The two artilleries were active in the regions of Croonne and Laflaux, in Champagne, in the sector of Mont St. Eloi, and on the right bank of the Meuse, in the region of Samogneux, Hill 244, and the Bois de Chaume."

"Eastern theater Oct. 12.—The artillery fighting was spirited at the Cerna bend. There was less activity on other parts of the front."

THE BELGIAN REPORT

Havre, Oct. 13.—An official statement issued this evening by the Belgian war office announces the following:

"On the day of October 12th, our artillery directed a destructive fire on the German works at Hamme, and to the south of that town."

"Today, the enemy artillery was very active. German batteries bombarded our trenches, principally in the region of Ramscapelle. We again took under our fire enemy works near Dixmude and Womun."

"On the morning of October 11, one of our aviators, while flying at a height of 5,000 or 6,000 metres over Staden, attacked an Albatross belonging to a German



WAITING FOR HIS VICTIM
—New York Times.

squadron. The enemy machine was disabled, and fell. Today an enemy machine was engaged in battle and defeated by one of our aviators who then went in pursuit of another battleplane in the direction of Dunkirk."

AUSTRIANS WERE CHECKED

Rome, Oct. 13.—The official statement issued by the Italian war department today follows:

"Thursday night, in the Cortabella region, an attempted attack by the enemy was promptly crushed. Yesterday on the Julian front our patrols harassed an enemy working party and on the southern front, the enemy made an attempt to burst through our lines. At Vrbovec, enemy parties attempting to approach our positions were repulsed."

REPULSED THE TURKS

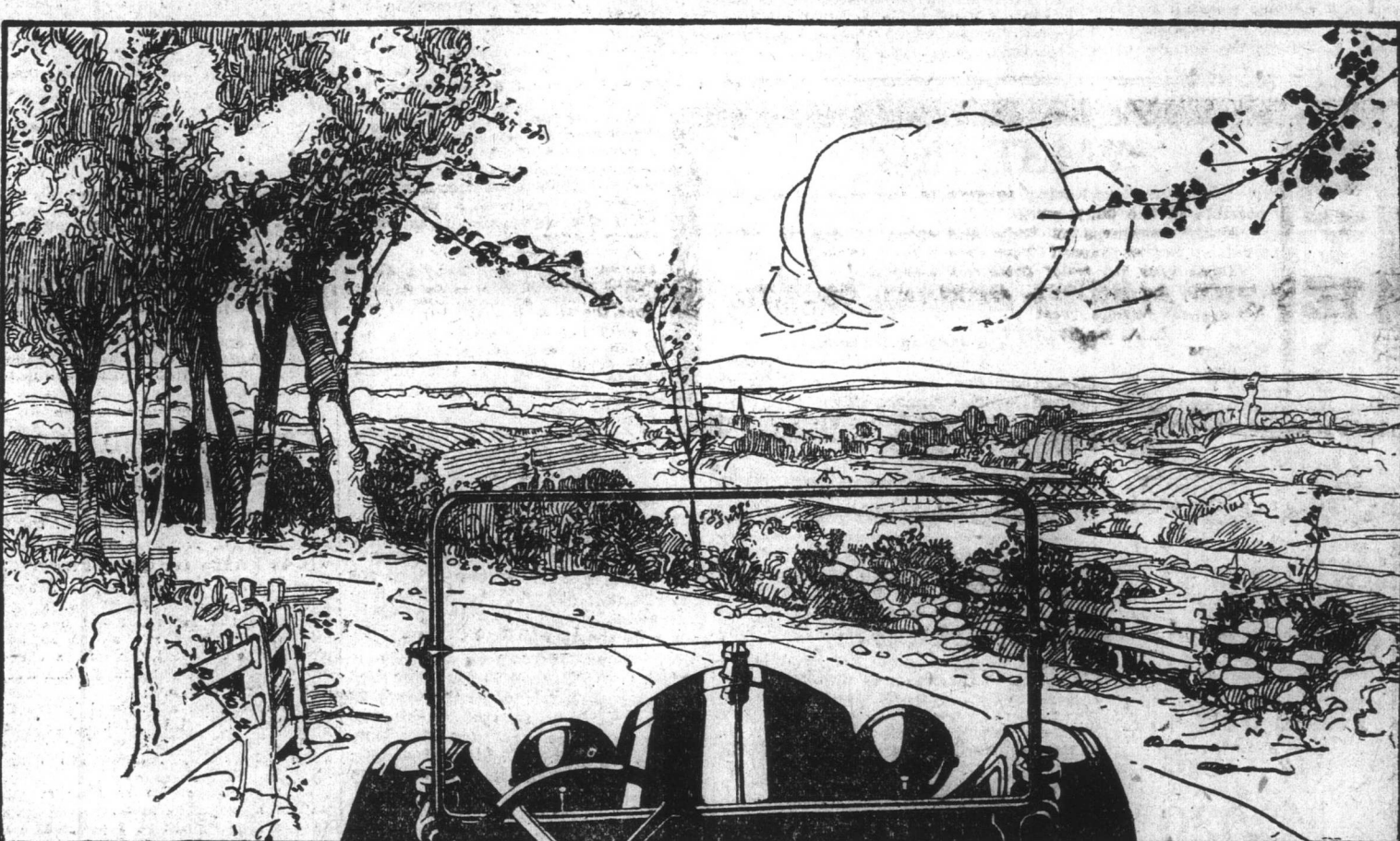
Petrograd, Oct. 14.—Turks about a battalion strong, on Thursday attacked the Russian positions southwest of Erzingan, in Turkish Armenia. The Russian war office statement says that the advancing Turks were repulsed by rifle fire and hand grenades in front of the Russian trenches.

In the Black sea, Russian torpedo boats destroyed near the Anatolia shores, eleven schooners. Twenty prisoners were taken according to the official statement.

THE GERMAN REPORT

Berlin, Oct. 14.—Reporting military operations on the battlefield between the Baltic sea and the Black sea, today's statement says there was no change in the situation. Concerning the Macedonian front, the report says:

"As the result of violent downpours of rain there was only artillery action near Monastir and in the Cerna bend."



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