

The Herald

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At The Battle Front.

As will be seen by reference to our report of the progress of the war, the Allies have been steadily gaining and driving the Germans back. The Allies have now regained about all the territory overrun by the Germans in their series of fierce drives since March last, and forced the enemy beyond the battle line that approximately divided the contending armies for sometime previously to the Hun's last plunge toward Paris.

The accounts furnished to the world of the operations of the Allied armies during the last two or three weeks, plainly indicate that enormous well disciplined forces have taken part, that admirable tactical skill has been employed, that on the whole splendid generalship has been displayed. The carnage must have been terrible. We are afforded only mere glimpses of the losses in killed, wounded and prisoners. It is intimated, indeed, that the number of prisoners taken by our armies, when published will thrill the allied world. Let us earnestly hope that the victorious onward march of the Allied forces, and their splendid achievements may continue until the Germans are driven clear back to Berlin, their great armies battered to fragments and their spirit of militarism forever crushed.

The favorable turn in the fortunes of the allied armies, after four years of strenuous warfare, affords occasion for serious reflection. When Germany declared war four years ago, every able bodied man in that country was a trained soldier, was a part of her military system, ready for the field at the call to arms. Not only was her militarism firmly established and rigidly enforced, surrounded and safe guarded by force of law: but every possible manner of preparation had been made for this very war. This preparation had been going on for forty years or so, and nothing seems to have been forgotten. Against this extensive powerful and fully equipped army, Great Britain had a standing army of about 180,000.

Beginning with such terrible odds against her, and for four years contending with an enemy so fully prepared, and that has shown itself capable and proficient in every possible species of deception, hypocrisy, falsehood and cruelty; so utterly devoid of all the instincts of justice, humanity and truth, our country is now marching on to victory. How has all this been accomplished? By good generalship, by obedience of her sons to the call of duty: by the patriotism and loyalty of her subjects in every portion of the far flung British Empire. The Lion was roused and the Lion's whelps from the overseas Dominions hastened to her aid. The great General Foch has now at his command an army probably greater than Germany had at the beginning, and it is constantly increasing, while that of the foe is decreasing. In these circumstances the victory must be with us.

Thomas Francis Molony, Lord Chief Justice of Appeal in Ireland since 1915, has been appointed Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, according to an official announcement made in London on August 2.

Remembrance Day

Monday last August 5th, the fourth anniversary of the declaration of war by Great Britain, was duly observed in this City as "Remembrance Day." The celebration was under the auspices of the Provincial Government, and was carried out by a committee appointed for that purpose. The commemoration was of a two-fold character, the fourth anniversary of the war and the formal opening of the Convalescent Home for soldiers, erected at Government House. Unfortunately the weather turned out to be disagreeable; rain commenced about the time for starting the proceedings and continued all through. As the exercises were outside in front of Government House, it will be readily understood how disagreeable were the conditions. Notwithstanding the unfavorable weather conditions, there was an immense throng in attendance. A procession with two Bands formed on Queen's Square and proceeded to Government House. There was a tremendous crowd in the procession; returned soldiers, members of the draft stationed here, and others. His Honor the Lieut. Governor presided and other speakers were Hon. Premier Arsenault, Mayor Wright, U. S. Consul Pierce, Chief Justice Mathieson, Major General Biggar and Lieut. Col. Warburton. The following resolution was enthusiastically passed: "That on this Fourth Anniversary of the Declaration of a righteous war, this meeting of citizens of Charlottetown records its inflexible determination to continue to a victorious end the struggle in the maintenance of those ideals of liberty and justice which are the common and sacred cause of the Allies." An identical resolution was passed in every section of the Empire, where the occasion was commemorated. An interesting feature of the day's proceedings was the presentation, by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, of the military medals won by Gunner Spurgeon Bruce McLean, Ptes. Arthur P. Buel and Norman W. Lowther. Another interesting feature was the presentation to the four V. A. D.'s leaving shortly for overseas, Misses Aitken, Gillespie, Nicholson and McMillan, of badges of membership in the Daughters of the Empire. The presentation was made by the Regent of the Charlottetown Chapter, Mrs. G. W. Hodgson, in a few fitting remarks. Tea was served in the drawing-room of Government House, and was well patronized. Want of space prevents us from further observations on the programme which was well carried out notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather.

When War Shall Cease.

Speaking at a luncheon given in his honor by Sir Robert Parks in London on July 31st. Sir Robert Borden, in referring to the deliberations of the Imperial War Conference divided the results into three classes. One class of resolutions, he said dealt definitely with matters of great moment. Another class commended to the attention of the various Governments questions requiring fuller consideration, as well as the executive and parliamentary action of each. The third class comprised resolutions which set up standing committees representing the United Kingdom and the Dominions for the purpose of investigating and reporting to the governments concerned. This last class included demobilization, regulation of ocean freight rates, control of the raw materials of the Empire. On the whole, said Sir Robert Borden, the deliberations of the conference had been attended by important results. Moreover, a more perfect understanding had

been attained by discussion between representatives from all parts of the Empire. It would be of inestimable value if the Imperial War Cabinet took up still more urgent and more vital work. These deliberations were necessarily secret, as vast and complicated problems arising from the world war had to be considered and determined. When the ministers from the Dominions arrived in London continued the Canadian Premier, they were confronted by an enormous mass of documents partly covering the deliberations of the War Cabinet and its conclusions since May 1917. New developments had taken place and fresh problems had arisen. Further determination regarding future action was required on very grave questions, some of which intimately concern the Dominions' interest in the disposition of their troops and the future conduct of the war and are still, demanding and receiving consideration and attention. The part played by the ministers of the Dominions in the deliberations has been very real and by no means nominal. Being jealous of their own autonomy they necessarily refrained from participation in Britain's domestic affairs. The Imperial War Cabinet had been constituted to deal with matters of common Imperial concern and its deliberations were confined to that purpose. The British War Cabinet continued to exercise its functions with respect to matters of domestic concern within the United Kingdom. Thus the line of demarcation was established with sufficient clearness to prevent unfortunate misunderstandings. "In this connection," said the Canadian Premier, "It should be clearly understood that neither the Imperial War Cabinet nor the imperial Conference has had under consideration this year the question of preference. The recent announcement on that subject was made on behalf of the British Government, as a statement of domestic policy of the United Kingdom." Continuing Sir Robert declared that as Canada claimed and exercised the right of absolute control of its own fiscal policy, so the representatives of Canada necessarily refrained from attempting any interference with the fiscal policy of the United Kingdom. Moreover, Canadians had not desired the people of the United Kingdom to shape or modify their fiscal policy for the sole purpose of giving preference to Canadian products, especially if such a change should involve any supposed injustice or should be regarded as unfair or oppressive by a considerable proportion of the people of the United Kingdom. Proceeding, the speaker paid a tribute to the spirit of the British people, which he had found as firm and undaunted as last year. The true realization of the ideal of service for the benefit of the country must bring home to everyone a higher sense of responsibility. He who shrinks from or neglects that duty, strengthened the enemy line. Under the increasing strain of four years of war, differences were bound to develop and sometimes become acute. There had been examples of this not only in Britain but in Canada. Sir Robert concluded: "We look forward to the day when the last nations of the world will so ally themselves to preserve the world's peace that war will be impossible; it can be anticipated. This supreme purpose can be accomplished by conciliation and if necessary by arbitral determination. If we in the British commonwealth aspire to that great ideal so devoutly to be wished for, ought we not to so arrange our affairs between employers and employed, between Government and people that industrial disputes or labor difficulties shall not paralyze or impede the nations effort. Surely

this should be possible in time of war and I hope eventually it may not be impossible even in time of peace. Unless we show ourselves possessed of such firmness, moderation and self control as will make this possible there cannot be confident hope of obtaining or realizing that higher and nobler ideal which would command the peace of the world." (Cheers)

Editorial Notes

Nothing definite is known at Ottawa in government or official circles as to the probable date of Sir Robert Borden's return to Canada, but it is regarded as not unlikely that he will be home some time before the end of August. The date of his departure from England depends upon his business before the Imperial War Cabinet and the great need for the presence of the Prime Minister in London. Sir Robert and his colleagues in Ottawa are in constant touch by cable, and it is understood that no important steps have been taken by the government without his being consulted. Speaking at a luncheon at the Canada Club in his honor, at which the Duke of Connaught presided, Sir Robert Borden paid tribute to the services rendered by the Duke during his tenure of office as Governor General of Canada. He also warmly referred to the Canadians in England and France, both men and women, who labored without respite at war work. The Canadian Premier referred to the inconveniences incurred by the Canadian Ministers in coming to England this year, by consequence of the important matters demanding their attention at home. He fully realized and was fully conscious that his first duty was to the Canadian people, yet he was equally conscious, even from that standpoint, but not forgetting four hundred thousand Canadians who had crossed the ocean to fight for freedom in the past four years, that no duty could be more serious or more compelling than that in which he had been engaged for the past six weeks.

Cuba's obligatory service law providing for sending troops to France, was passed by the Lower House last week, and was also approved by the Senate by a vote of fifteen to four. The Bill was approved practically as it has been passed by the House except instead of one regiment of regulars and as many volunteers as present themselves, the President is now authorized to send as many regulars as he deems fit and proper, as well as volunteers. The Bill will be returned to the House, where it is understood it will be immediately passed.

London advices of July 31 state that Bonar Law, replying to questions in the Commons said the government had decided on the adoption of a policy of Imperial preference after the war. What had happened was that the government had put itself into line with the dominions in a better way. Matters were not yet complete, but a general statement will be issued as soon as possible when the exact terms of the resolution adopted will be published.

Sir Robert Borden, accompanied by Sir Edward Kemp, visited every ward in the Canadian hospital at Basingstoke. They also visited the Base Forestry Corps at Windsor Park. On July 29 a meeting of the overseas ministers was summoned by Sir Robert to discuss the position of the Dominion respecting important matters. An unanimous conclusion was reached. It is understood that a further conference between the ministers of the Dominion will be held shortly.

Progress of the War

London, Aug. 3.—A correspondent with the American forces in the field telegraphs that Von Ludendorff will eventually retire to the Aisne. His present stand is being made so that he can reorganize and rehabilitate his divisions that were so badly shattered in trying to check Foch's attack. The German Commander, he holds is certain to launch another attack soon in order to regain if possible, the prestige lost owing to his recent defeat and retirement. However it is believed he lacks reserves for a major attack. He is more likely to make a swift local thrust. The party in Germany that is advocating peace by negotiating is growing stronger daily, and the astounding reverse suffered at the Marne needs a strong, well disciplined people to bear up under the shock. The military rulers of Germany cannot afford to end the present campaign without achieving some success. Such a policy would be ruinous to the morale of both the soldiers fighting on the battlefields and the German subjects as a whole.

Paris, Aug. 3.—French troops have entered Soissons, according to the French official communication issued this evening. Over the entire line between Soissons and the vicinity of Rheims the Germans have been compelled to give up important positions and retreat precipitately, the communication adds. The Crise River has been crossed along the whole of its front, further progress has been made in the center of the fighting line and on the east the Allied line has been pushed more than three miles north of the Dormans-Rheims Road. The text of the communication follows: "Attacks conducted during the past two days by our troops and Allied units on the front north of the Marne have obtained full success, the Germans having been pushed back over all the line and forced to abandon the positions of resistance they had chosen between Fere-en-Tardenois and Ville-en-Tardenois and to retreat precipitately.

"On our left our troops have entered Soissons. "More to the south they have crossed the Crise along the whole of the river front. "On our centre we are progressing widely north of the Oureq. We have passed Arcy-Sainte Reaume and penetrated the Bois de Dols. "More to the east, Coulonges, four kilometres north of the Bois Meuniers is in our possession.

"On our right Goussancourt, Villers Agro and Ville-en-Tardenois are in our hands. "On this part of the front we carried our line about five kilometres north of the Dormans-Rheims Road on the general line of Vezilly and Lheroy. "Between the Ardre and the Vesle we have occupied Gueux and Thailiers. "Aviation on the 31st seven German airplanes were downed during the day. Twenty-two tons of explosives were dropped on aviation grounds between the Aisne and the Vesle and on barracks and encampments of the enemy in the valleys of the Ardre and Vesle.

London, Aug. 3.—Soissons has been taken by the Allied armies and the Crise has been crossed. Thus the western anchor of what remains of that famous Salient has been cleared of the enemy. The French, British and American troops have pushed forward and driven the Germans back in a precipitate retreat.

Paris August 4.—The Germans retreat in gaining momentum as the Allies push forward on the whole 45 miles of front from west of Soissons to Rheims. In the centre Allied troops are driving toward the Aisne to the Dottillon valley, and are within six miles of the important enemy base of Fismes (Ohan) recently captured in an earlier despatch is about that distance south of Fismes.) West of Rheims the Allies have advanced 11 miles and have reached several points on the Vesle river (which flows from Rheims almost due west through Fismes.) East of Soissons many Germans are retreating northward along Launoy Aux Coutres road French patrols have reached the Aisne

near Venizel. The enemy seems to have been surprised at Soissons, as they had not time to set fire to the city. The battle line now crosses the main highway from Fismes southward to Fere-Tardenois and only seven miles from Fismes.)

Paris, August 4.—General Berthelet of the Fifth army, in the course of his order of the day, speaking of the part played by the British in Champagne says: "Scotsmen of the Hills, Yorkshire lads, Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians, all of you, officers and men of this army corps, so brilliantly led, you have added a glorious day to your history. Marfaruz, Chamuzny, Montagne, Delbizy are names of glory which can be inscribed in golden letters on the panels of your regiment."

London, August 4.—With the capture of the Soissons and the obliteration of the entire southern half of the Rheims-Soissons salient, as announced by the war office at Paris last night Ludendorff's great adventure is swiftly developing into irreparable defeat. The German retreat from the Marne front has become a rout and already a storm of recrimination has broken in Berlin with the result that Mackensen may succeed to the chief enemy command in France. Progress of far reaching importance was scored

by the Allied armies yesterday, compelling the foe to make a precipitate withdrawal and abandon or destroy enormous quantities of war material.

London, August 4.—In the Albert sector the British troops drove the Germans after terrible fighting, out of all the territory they had taken in March from the French, recapturing all the ground held by the Germans west of the Ancre River.

London August 5.—Foch is giving the Germans no rest. French and American troops yesterday captured Fismes, a great enemy storehouse. Braise is closely invested and the south bank of the Vesle river, from Rheims to Soissons, has been cleared of the foe. The Allied advance in this region has become so menacing that yesterday it was announced enemy troops had carried out a retirement on a front of between 8 to 10 miles along the Avre river to the west of Montdidier. Tremendous losses have been inflicted by Foch's armies, and an official despatch from Paris yesterday stated that when the number of prisoners captured during the last two or three days is announced it will thrill the Allied world. Once more the elements have been unkind to the Teutons, for heavy rains have swollen the Vesle river to such an extent that their rearguards were unable to

ford the stream, and they were compelled to fight for their lives but without success. Most of these men were killed or made prisoners.

London August 5.—Field Marshal Haig, commander in chief of the British forces in France, in his fourth of August message on the occasion of the anniversary of the entry of Great Britain into the war says to his troops, "The conclusion of the fourth year marks the passing of the period of crisis. The Russian revolution set free large hostile forces which were transferred to the western front. The enemy's intention was to use great numbers and to gain a decisive victory before the arrival of American troops could bring the Allies relief. The stream of Americans arriving in France has restored the balance."

London, August 5.—The war office announces that Sir Douglas Haig's troops have recaptured most of the positions previously held by the Germans on the west bank of the Ancre river, on both sides of the town of Albert. The enemy in his retirement from this line was closely pursued by the British and considerable losses were inflicted upon him. Berlin states that an official statement said that a hostile raiding party was driven off south of Arras.

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August 7, 1918.