

DUTCH MAY ENTER WORLD WAR; BRITISH GAIN GROUND AT ROBECCQ

DUTCH ARMY OF ABOUT HALF MILLION SOLDIERS ARE MASSED ON THE FRONTIER

Queen Wilhelmina's Country Faces Serious Situation which May Lead to War Whether She Accedes to Germany's Ultimatum or Not — Teutons Claim Right of Passage Through Dutch Territory to Belgium Under Old Belgium Arrangement.

If Holland Yields to Hun Demands, Allies Cannot Consider Her Longer as Neutral and She Thus Faces Prospect of War at Any Moment — German Threat to Occupy Dutch Ports and Queen's Army Mobilized on Frontier.

Special Cable to N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard. (By Arthur S. Draper.)

London, April 23.—The serious situation which has developed in Holland puts her nominally in the same position which Belgium occupied in 1914. Germany has made a number of demands, including the restitution of the old Rhine arrangement and the right of passage through Dutch territory to Belgium for certain stores of sand and gravel. Holland has not allowed the transportation of these goods since objections were raised by England.

The above questions are possible, capable of a pacific solution, but it is understood that Germany has unofficially made additional demands for the passage of war material and troops, which Holland cannot grant without a breach of neutrality.

Holland is thus faced by the prospect of war at any moment. The Dutch army, about half a million strong, is reported to be massed on the frontier.

Open To Attack.

If she refused the German's demands she will be open to attack from the east; if she accedes the allies cannot longer consider Holland a neutral. The outcome of the situation appears to depend entirely upon Germany's plans, but the opinion here seems to be that Germany can have no adequate motive to force Holland into the war, although she may consider that a threat to Holland may serve to keep reserves in England.

Holland possesses an army of about half a million which has the advantage of having been mobilized since the beginning of the war and would undoubtedly put up a good fight against the German army. The Dutch army is reported to be massed on the

frontier in view of the threat by Germany.

Orders were given some days ago for the conscription of all men and all unmarried and childless women capable of war work. The situation is regarded with much perturbation in Holland, but it remains to be seen whether Germany presses her demands for the passage of troops, or is merely bluffing for military reasons, or is trying to force an unequal acceptance of other demands.

May Occupy Dutch Ports. London, April 23.—A Reuter despatch from the Hague says: "Nothing is known in competent quarters here of the rumored German ultimatum threatening the occupation of Dutch ports unless certain demands are yielded."

Enemy About to Renew Drive On Grand Scale

Big Offensive May Fall on Mondidier-Oise Front or in Neighborhood of Arras—Many American Reinforcements Arrive.

(By Arthur S. Draper.) Special to New York Tribune and St. John Standard.

London, April 23.—All observers are agreed that the Germans are about to resume the offensive on a grand scale, one school expecting an attack on the Mondidier-Oise front, the other an offensive in the neighborhood of Arras. There is a position to judge say that the enemy has a considerable superiority of numbers, possibly as much as forty divisions, while there are still some fifteen divisions which might be brought from the Russian front.

and anxious to get in the fight. It is disclosing no information to say that the enemy reports that American soldiers are now arriving on the battle front in considerable numbers.

Great Britain is doing her best to fill the gaps in the line. She has drawn heavily from the army at home and she is now combining the country carefully for new material. Every class in the United Kingdom is concentrating on one problem—keeping Haig supplied.

The war-weary laboring class has taken a new lease on life and has dropped its differences with the government. The only state department which counts now in the eyes of the people is the army.

BRITISH FORCES IMPROVE THEIR NEW POSITIONS

They Gain Some Ground East of Robecq and Also Around Meteren.

NUMEROUS GERMAN PRISONERS TAKEN

French Army Participated in No Infantry Engagements Yesterday.

London, April 23.—The British gained ground today east of Robecq, according to Field Marshal Haig's report tonight and improved their position around Meteren. Numerous prisoners were captured.

The text of the statement reads: "In local fighting east of Robecq reported this morning, another minor operation having as its object the improvement of our line in this sector was carried through to complete success. In addition to a gain of ground we captured one hundred and twenty prisoners and a number of machine guns."

"We also improved our position slightly early this morning in the neighborhood of Meteren and secured several prisoners and four machine guns."

"The hostile artillery developed considerable activity early in the morning with gas shells in the Villers-Bretonneux sector."

Intense Air Fighting.

London, April 23.—"Our bombing machines were very active Monday," says the official statement issued tonight on aerial operations. "They dropped nineteen tons of bombs on numerous targets, including the Thourout railway station, the Engel ammunition dump and Warneton, Armentieres and Roulers. In the air fighting seven machines were brought down; six were driven down out of control or shot down in our lines by anti-aircraft fire. Two hostile balloons were destroyed. Three of our machines are missing."

French Statement.

Paris, April 23.—Aside from heavy artillery duels near Hangard-En-Santerre and west of Noyon, Tuesday passed quietly along the French front, according to the French official communication issued tonight. There were no infantry engagements. The text of the statement reads: "There was great artillery activity on both sides in the region of Hangard-En-Santerre and in the sector west of Noyon, but no infantry action. There were no events of importance on the rest of the front. Eastern Theatre, April 22.—Infantry and artillery activity was displayed along the whole front. On the west bank of the Vardar one of our detachments carried out a raid on an enemy work, the greater part of the occupants being killed. In the region of Vetrenek three attempts by the Bulgarians to recapture a fortified work taken the day before by the Serbian troops were broken. Between the lakes an enemy attack against our positions west of Preeba was arrested by artillery."

WILL DECLARE WAR

London, April 23.—Advice coming out of Germany are to the effect that the German newspapers are preparing to take a new lease on life and has dropped its differences with the government against Germany at an early date by Uruguay and Argentina. Guatemala is now at war with Germany.

MR. C. M. LEGER OF WESTMORLAND IN SPEAKER'S CHAIR

Hon. William Currie No Longer Presiding Over Legislature—Hon. John Burchill Acting as Deputy Speaker—Mr. LeBlanc of Restigouche Complains to House that Standard Published Mr. Murchie's Affidavit in Extenso and Did Not Give Equal Prominence to Affidavits of Speaker Currie and Mr. Richards of Continental Lumber Company.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 23.—The charges against Mr. Speaker Currie were brought vividly to the minds of members at the opening of the House this afternoon. When the formal procession entered, headed by the Sergeant at Arms, it was noticed that the Speaker was not in his place, Mr. C. M. Leger of Westmorland, who has acceptably filled the position of deputy Speaker, being temporarily elevated to the more important office. Mr. Leger presided during the afternoon and evening sessions, Hon. John Burchill, an ex-Speaker of the House, being called upon to take the duties of deputy Speaker and chairman of the committee of the whole.

But this was not the only reminder of the Currie case given to the members. Mr. Arthur T. LeBlanc, Mr. Currie's colleague from Restigouche, arose to a question of privilege. In his hand he held a copy of this morning's Standard and with his usual volubility he proceeded to complain that while The Standard had published the affidavit of Mr. Murchie in extenso it had not given equal prominence to the affidavits of Mr. Currie and Mr. Richards.

Mr. LeBlanc said he had no complaint to make with the headings published over The Standard's account of the Currie matter or with the text of the article following those headlines, but he did not think it was fair that Mr. Murchie's affidavit should be published in full while all The Standard had stated concerning Mr. Currie was that an affidavit from him had made a general denial of the charges and that an affidavit from Mr. D. E. Richards, president of the Continental Lumber Company, stated that Mr. Currie had no knowledge of the adjustment of the stumpage accounts under question.

Lectures Standard.

Mr. LeBlanc held that no newspaper had the right to pre-judge the case of any public man who had been charged in the house. But it was noticeable that he did not look in the direction of the Telegraph representative while giving opinion to this view. He was then proceeding to launch into a general defence of Mr. Currie and a laudation of that gentleman's qualities of heart and mind when Hon. Mr. Baxter arose and taking a point of order reminded the junior member for Restigouche that his complaint should be limited to some misrepresentation or mis-statement on the part of the newspaper complained of and in this case Mr. LeBlanc himself had admitted there was no mis-statement or misrepresentation. The question of privilege should not be used for the purposes of a defence for the gentleman charged, otherwise it might develop into a debate.

Point of Order.

Mr. LeBlanc attempted to proceed when Hon. Mr. Baxter pressed for Mr. Speaker's ruling on the point of order. Acting Speaker Leger ruled that on a question of privilege the member must confine his remarks to the point. Mr. LeBlanc replied that he would bow to the decision of the Speaker. He had merely wished to point out that the affidavits had not all been published in full. The incident then closed. The house then went into committee with Hon. Mr. Burchill in the chair to consider the workmen's compensation act and up to the dinner recess had made good progress.

MAY EXTEND WAR

Washington, April 23.—After spirited debate today in the Senate in favor of declarations of war by the United States with Turkey and Bulgaria, resolutions designed to initiate such declarations went over without action until tomorrow.

GOV'T MAJORITY DWINDLES TO 2 ON HEALTH BILL

First Gun Fired with Telling Effect in Attempt of Provincial Opposition to Prevent Foster Govrnt from Saddling Province of New Brunswick with an Absolutely Unnecessary, Expensive and Cumbersome Administration of Problems of Public Health—Hon. Dr. Roberts, who Longs to be Minister of the Peoples' Health has Already Advertised for High Salaried Specialists—Dr. Crocket and Hon. Mr. Baxter Speak.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 23.—The fight is on. The attempt of the provincial opposition to prevent the Foster government from saddling the province of New Brunswick with an absolutely unnecessary, expensive and cumbersome administration of the problems of public health, commenced in the Legislature shortly before ten o'clock tonight, the first gun being fired with telling effect by Dr. Crocket, M. P. P. for York. No man in the House could have performed the duty better. Possessed of a thorough knowledge of medical science with a gift of eloquence and the knack of speaking in epigrammatic sentences, a keen sense of humor and a pretty trick of satirical eulogy, Dr. Crocket riddled the prospective minister of health fore and aft, held up the incongruities of the proposition in which he is asking the province to engage and with tellingly delivered arguments contrasted the position of a government which admitted that it lacked the money to increase the salaries of hard working school teachers in this province and yet was willing to create the most expensive department in the public service merely to gratify the wish and personal vanity of the member for St. John.

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N. B. POWER BILL IS NOT FAVORED BY COMMITTEE

Latter Decides to Recommend Measure Sent up by Citizens of St. John and Asking the Lieutenant Governor to Appoint a Commission to Investigate.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 23.—The N. B. Power Company's bill was before the Corporations Committee this morning with Hon. J. P. Burchill in the chair. The session was private. Mayor Hayes was about the building in the interests of the city while Fred R. Taylor, K. C., was also in evidence as representing the Power Company.

After the session it was stated that the committee had decided not to recommend the Power Company's bill but would recommend the bill sent up by the citizens of St. John and asking the lieutenant-governor in council to appoint a commission to investigate the affairs of the Power Company. To this bill the committee recommended an amendment to the effect that the commissioners so appointed could if they deemed wise grant temporary relief at once to the Power Company to take effect while the commission was pursuing its investigations. This was agreeable to all concerned.

The committee's report was presented to the House this afternoon and adopted. The bill from the city will be read tomorrow. The action of the committee makes it practically certain that Power Company matters will not be discussed before the House at any great length. The commission in the case is to be selected by Premier Foster and Hon. J. A. Murray and it will then receive the approval of the government and start work at once.

NAVAL RAID BLOCKS THE BRUGES CANAL

British and French Carry Out Gallant and Successful Operation—Enemy Destroyer Torpedoed and British Destroyer Sunk—Officer who Developed Scheme Loses Life.

London, April 23.—In all probability the entrance to the Bruges Canal has been blocked effectively in consequence of a naval raid, Sir Eric Geddes, first lord of the admiralty, announced today in the House of Commons.

The result of the whole operation, said Sir Eric Geddes, first lord of the admiralty, was regarded as very successful. The French co-operated in the raid, Sir Eric said. He characterized it as an extremely gallant and hazardous undertaking, carried out under unknown conditions of navigation. There was a high development of the smoke attack. The object, the first lord continued, was to block the entrances to Ostend and Zeebrugge. Monitors were used in the operation in addition to the storming parties and the blockading ships.

While the operation was in progress Sir Eric announced, British parties were landed to distract the enemy. The officer who developed the scheme of attack was killed. Storming parties were landed on the mole from the cruisers Vindictive. The casualties to the personnel, said Sir Eric, were heavy in proportion to the number engaged. An enemy destroyer was torpedoed at Zeebrugge.

Two of the blockading ships were sunk and blown up at the entrance to the Bruges Canal. The piling beside the mole at Zeebrugge was blown up by an obsolete submarine filled with explosives. Casualties to British craft, Sir Eric said, were one destroyer and two coastal motor boats sunk

and two launches missing. At Ostend two of the blockading ships were run ashore and blown up.

Supplementary Report. London, April 23.—Sir Eric Geddes, first lord of the admiralty, in supplementing the admiralty report on last night's raid against Zeebrugge and (Continued on page 2)

INSANE MAN KILLS TWO AND INJURES ANOTHER

Assyrian From United States Slays 19 Year Old Sister and Her Baby Boy in Montreal.

Montreal, April 23.—Hebeeb Maker an Assyrian, aged 30 years, in an insane frenzy, this afternoon killed his sister, Mrs. Joseph Sayfar, 18 years of age and her baby boy three months old, by pounding them over the head with a hammer. He tried to kill Mrs. Malouf with the same instrument, but only wounded her in the head. He hit himself in the head with the hammer, but not hard enough to cause much injury. The scene of the double murder was the home of Mrs. Sayfar, 703 Notre Dame Street East, where Maker had been boarding for about a month. He came to Montreal recently from the United States. He appeared to be insane when arrested, after his bloody work.