

THE WEEKLY ONTARIO

AND BAY OF QUINTE CHRONICLE

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1917.

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Conspiracy to Murder Lloyd George

CANADIANS DEMORALIZE ENEMY IN TWO DASHING TRENCH RAIDS

Nova Scotia and Ontario Battalions Win Distinction by Remarkably Successful Operations—Take Hundred Prisoners in Second Attempt.

LONDON, Jan. 31.—The following communique was issued last night by the Canadian war records office and covers the operations of the Canadian corps from Jan. 17 to 23:

Two very successful raids form the outstanding features of last week's operations. It had been intended to undertake them as a simultaneous operation, but conditions rendered a change advisable.

The first raid was made at 4.30 p.m. by a New Brunswick battalion. A mine was successfully exploded close to the German trenches, and the attacking parties advanced under cover of an intense barrage and a screen of smoke. The flanks of our men penetrated the support line, meeting with no resistance. A party of about 30 Germans were met in a communication trench and chased to their dugouts, from which they refused to emerge. Had they done so their lot would have been happier, in a raid there is no time for persuasion, and the dugouts were destroyed by explosives.

The enemy's trenches were found in a much damaged condition as a result of the mine explosion, and our artillery fire, and there were gruesome evidences of the accuracy of our shooting. No prisoners were brought back. A party of four Germans taken by our men were killed by a shell while being escorted across No Man's Land. The raiding party returned to our lines at 5 p.m.

The second raid took place at 7.45 o'clock the following morning and was carried out by troops of two battalions from Ontario. The operation was similar in most respects to the previous day's, although on a somewhat larger scale. The enemy's trenches were penetrated on a front of 800 yards to a depth of 300 yards. The conditions were by no means ideal. The enemy's wire entanglements were exceedingly strong and the wind was not in the most favorable quarters for the use of a smoke screen. On the flanks lastly, the ground was snow covered and the khaki uniforms of our men stood out in clear relief on the white background.

FRENCH PREPARE DRIVE ON IMMENSE FRONT

Complete Arrangements to Begin Attack Against Two Hundred Miles of German Line Between Verdun and Belfort.

LONDON, Jan. 31.—According to the correspondent of The Times, a huge drive is being prepared and is even now ready to start against the German forces along a 200-mile front.

"In the case of all previous great offensives, French or British, on the western front the Germans knew beforehand exactly when and where the attacks would be delivered," he writes. "The immense preparations which are indispensable before a big advance can be attempted, necessarily gave away the secret. The work of defending prepared positions, in any case less costly than an attack, was still further simplified by the almost total elimination of the element of surprise.

"This is what happened at Loos, in Champagne, and on the Somme. It was true to a much less extent of the two last and highly successful French offensives on the Verdun front. In all other cases the Germans were ready or we should have gone further than we did. At Verdun the only warning the enemy had was the preliminary bombardment. There was no unusual concentration of troops, because they were already on the spot. To that extent the important element of surprise had been established.

"During the last three months I have been able to visit practically the whole French front from Verdun to Belfort. The conditions are such as make it possible for the French high command to launch an attack wherever and whenever it chooses without giving the enemy more warning than that of the increased number of rounds fired beforehand by the artillery at a given point before the attack. A simultaneous bombardment along the front would puzzle the most accomplished strategist the Germans possess.

"The French are now in a position everywhere to do what the Germans, as a result of disregarding treaties and the neutrality of Belgium, were able to do in the first three weeks of the war, but have been unable to do since. The French have made such vast preparations behind every part of the line, have accumulated such vast stores of ammunition and material, have constructed such immense lengths of new roads and railways that they are now in a position whenever they choose to prepare an attack on a big scale without showing their hands until the last moment."

EXPERT CHEMIST AND SUFFRAGETTES ACCUSED OF AIMING AT THE PREMIER

Conepirators Held For Trial—Alleged Method by Poisoning.

LONDON, Jan. 31.—On the charge of conspiring to murder Premier Lloyd George and Arthur Henderson, M.P., Mrs. Alice Wheeldon, Miss Hetty Wheeldon her daughter, Mrs. Winnifred Mason, another daughter and Alfred Mason, husband of the last named, have been arrested and held for trial at Derby, the women are supposed to be Suffragettes. The man is an expert chemist and known as a conscientious objector to war and war service. Further details are yet unknown, but it is understood the conspirators aimed at causing the Premier's death by poison.

GEN. HUGHES HOT ATTACK

Former Minister Blames Both Parties for Decline in Recruiting and Accuses White of Planning His Overthrow — Finance Minister Makes Reply to Charges.

Ottawa, Jan. 31.—The stairways and corridors of the Victoria Museum Building now in use as a temporary quarters of parliament, were filled an hour before the house opened this afternoon, by a crowd numbering nearly 1000 people. Only a fraction of them were admitted to the gallery of the house, but they taxed its space to the utmost capacity many persons standing throughout the afternoon. The floor of the house was also crowded in anticipation of the much-heralded speech of Lieut.-General Sir Sam Hughes.

The general was present when the doors were opened, but did not obtain the floor immediately as Mr. E. B. Devlin, Liberal member for Wright, had first to conclude his speech upon the address. When Sir Sam rose about half past three to speak eager interest was everywhere manifested. His former colleagues tapped their desks perfunctorily, but except for that there was nothing from the government benches at all resembling applause.

The speech was on the whole a disappointment to those who expected anything spectacular or anything in the way of a break between the minister of militia and the Conservative party. Indeed, Sir Sam, said that it would give him almost as much pain to leave the Conservative party as it would to lose the war. He made no reference to the prime minister, but took an occasional rap at the minister of finance, intimating that Sir Thomas White had inspired the attacks made upon him by The Montreal Mail, the Montreal News and The Toronto Telegram. On the whole the speech was a review of the general's career as minister of militia. He defended himself against the various charges that had been made against him of extravagance, insubordination and autocratic behavior.

The Liberals were disappointed although they extracted an occasional

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APPEAL FOR HOME FORCE; SUBS. CROSSED ATLANTIC

Berlin Reports Russian Defeat on the Aa River—No Naval Base Maintained in Brazilian Waters—Hun Press Will Encourage President Wilson to Continue His Efforts Towards Peace—British Columbia Laborites Rejected President's Recommendation in Favor of National Service.

BRITISH CASUALTIES IN JANUARY.

LONDON, Jan. 31.—The British casualties reported in the published lists during January totalled 960 officers and 31,394 men.

GERMAN SUBMARINES CROSS ATLANTIC.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan. 31.—The minister of marine in a newspaper interview confirms the report that German submarines have crossed the South Atlantic. He denies that a German naval base is being maintained in Brazilian waters.

KING APPEALS FOR VOLUNTEER FORCE.

LONDON, Jan. 31.—King George has sent a letter to the Lord Lieutenants of counties throughout the country appealing to men over military age to enroll in a volunteer force for home defence.

HUNS FAVORABLE TO WILSON'S EFFORT SO AS TO ENCOURAGE HIM.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 31.—The German newspapers intimate that Germany will acknowledge President Wilson's speech in such a way as to encourage the President to continue his efforts in favor of peace.

BERLIN REPORTS RUSSIAN DEFEAT.

BERLIN, Jan. 31.—An official statement says that on the east bank of the river Aa German troops stormed a Russian position, capturing fourteen officers and more than 900 men.

B.C. LABOR FEDERATION REJECTS NATIONAL SERVICE.

REVELSTOKE, B.C., Jan. 31.—The British Columbia Federation of Labor in annual convention here rejected President McVell's recommendation in favor of National Service.

FRENCH TRANSPORT SUBMARINED, 140 LIVES LOST.

PARIS, Jan. 31.—The Admiralty announce that the French transport Admiral Mago, carrying troops to Saloniki has been torpedoed by a submarine and 140 lives lost.

BERLIN ADMITS RUSSIANS PENETRATED POSITIONS

BERLIN, Jan. 31.—An official announcement admits that the Russians penetrated German positions southwest of Kimpolung.

EVIDENCE GIVEN BY ROGERS NOT FOUND RELIABLE

Justice Galt Makes Report on Manitoba Agricultural College Contracts—Cost Was Enormous—No Credence Given Rogers' Version of Various Conversations.

WINNIPEG, Jan. 31.—An interim report made by Justice Galt in his capacity as a commissioner investigating the Manitoba Agricultural College, was tabled in the legislature last night. In 75 typewritten pages the commissioner reviews the great amount of evidence taken and gives his findings.

The commissioner states that the original estimate of the cost of the buildings was \$957,000, whereas he finds that the actual cost, as completed was \$3,375,000.

"I cannot accept Mr. Rogers' statement that his telephone conversation with Mr. Carter took place within a week or 10 days after Carter's original tender had been accepted by the government, and that this conversation took place upon the advice of Samuel Hooper, provincial architect, then present with Mr. Rogers at the latter's office during the conversation, because it was shown by the telegraphic record and admitted by Mr. Rogers that he was absent from Winnipeg from July 28 (on which date he was in Kenora) until the night of Aug. 12.

"In the usual course of events the original contract would take at least a day or two to prepare, and then it would be sent to the Carter Co. for execution.

"I can give no credence whatever to Mr. Rogers' fourth and final statement that 'if by any chance I used words that Mr. Hooper was present at the time the telephone rang that might be incorrect, because I am not clear on that. If I used these words I want to say I would want to correct it. I am not sure that I did.'

"In the previous portion of Mr. Rogers' evidence he had said again and again that Mr. Hooper was present with him in his office when he telephoned to Mr. Carter, and that he acted wholly upon Mr. Hooper's advice in granting the increase."

NO WORD YET OF J. PICKELL

International Agency of Prisoners of War at Geneva Have Taken Up Case of Missing Belleville Soldier.

Mrs. Josephine Pickell, 319 1/2 Church street, Belleville, whose son, Isaac J. Pickell was reported missing early last June has written the International Society of the Red Cross at Geneva, Switzerland and has received the following reply:

Comite Internationale de la Croix-Rouge
Agence Internationale des Prisonniers de Guerre,
Geneve, Jan. 8th, 1917.

Inter Arma Caritas
Mrs. Josephine Pickell,

Dear Madam—We very much regret we are unable to give the desired information respecting your son Isaac J. Pickell, Pte. No. 413027 Canadians. We have not yet come across his name on the German lists up to now and fear that for the present we can do nothing more than carefully examine the future lists as they reach us, in the hope that we may find it. Should we in the meantime obtain a clue of any importance, we shall gladly follow it up and always be ready to do our utmost to help you, should it be in our power to do so.

We are Dear Madam,
Yours very faithfully,
Comite Internationale de la Croix-Rouge
Geneve, P.C.
Agence des Prisonniers de Guerre
Please refer to A. 13756.

IN MEMORIAM

HOLBERT—In loving memory of our dear son, Murney Holbert, who passed away Jan. 24th, 1816, at Thomasburg, Ont.

"We have to mourn the loss of one, We did our best to save, Beloved on earth regretted gone, Remembered in the grave. Weep not for me I'm free from pain, My earthly sufferings o'er I hope to meet you all again. OOn the eternal shore."

—Father and Mother
Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Holbert,
Thomasburg.

Col. Allen of the 254th has returned from Pieton.

"PAT" BOLAND WRITES HOME

The following letter has been received by Mrs. Boland from her son Pat—

Somewhere in France,
Dear Mother:—

I suppose you wonder what has been wrong that I have not written sooner. Well I have been very busy during the past three weeks. At the present time I am in the best of health and enjoying myself fine out here.

I left France on Dec. 22nd, for "Blighty." I had ten days' leave and believe me I had one real good time. Some change after being in the trenches for nearly seventeen months. Did you get my wire I sent you from London. I was thinking of "home and mother" Xmas Eve so I just thought I would let you know by cable that I was on furlough.

I got the boxes a day or two before I went on leave. One was from Harry with tobacco and cigars, the second was from home with my Xmas cake and Xmas stockings, and the third was from Joe and Alf. I sure enjoyed the "eats."

When I arrived back after my trip there were three more waiting for me. One from home which I am saving until I go up the line. One from the pupils and teachers of St. Agnes and the third was from the Ladies of the Argyll Chapter I.O.D.E. I intend sending a line of thanks for the above boxes which I enjoyed immensely. You could never realize how grateful we are out here for a parcel. It cheers us up a bit I can tell you when we know that we're not forgotten by the folks over home.

Mother I am almost sure this war will be over in four or six months' time at the outside. That's not very long to wait you know.

I don't know of anything else to say just now so will say goodbye with love to all at home and best regards to all my friends.

Your loving son
Pat.
20th Canadians.

AGAIN TAKES OVER HOTEL

W. H. Vanalstine, for some time the popular owner and manager of the Globe Hotel, Pieton, but who for the last few years has been living on his farm near Milford, has again taken over the management of this hotel.

In this world-wide nation of a lifetime or have missed it. When I have heart cause and know longer you would

ish to extend the to Mrs. Sprague, ly and trust that out of the ultimate as we who are

ternally
scoe Vanderwater.

MISS BRONK
the late Miss Han-
flow took place this
sars. Tickell and
S. C. Moore of-
fials were taken to
rault until inter-