

# The Semi-Weekly Telegraph

The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1915

VOL. LIV.

NO. 63.

## GENERAL WEAKENING OF GERMAN RESISTANCE ALONG THE WESTERN FRONT DURING THE LAST FOUR MONTHS

### FOSTER "EXPLAINS" HORSE PURCHASES

Tells Committee He and His Friends Acted Out of Patriotism and Without Reward

Conservative Member for Hants Admits His Agents Still Have the Vouchers of the Transactions and, Although He Visited One and Saw Another, Within a Week, in the United States He Didn't Ask Them—Dr. Chipman Admits Passing Spavined Chargers—Plenty of "Skates" Sold to Government, Testifies Another Nova Scotian.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Ottawa, April 12.—It is the most contemptible steal ever pulled off in Canada.

That was Frank B. Carvell's characterization in the public accounts committee this afternoon of the horse deal which A. DeWitt Foster, Conservative member for Kings county, Nova Scotia, purchased for the government.

He had tried out in the saddle those which were to be used for cavalry purposes, and in harness those which were intended for artillery. At Kentville he had passed seven and eighty horses had been submitted for sale. He had been there only half a day, had examined thirty horses, and had passed only eight of them.

For the four days during which he worked at Kentville, Wolfville, Berwick and Kingston he had received \$10 a day, out of which he had to pay his own expenses. At Wolfville over eighty horses were submitted for sale, he had examined thirty and had accepted six. With regard to the spavined, antiquated and generally horses on whom the lives of Canada's soldiers might depend.

The veterinary told the committee this morning that he had not seen any of the horses that had been purchased, and that he had not seen any of the vouchers. He said he had not seen any of the vouchers, and that he had not seen any of the vouchers.

The character of the horses bought had already been made clear in the evidence before the committee. The main thing to be cleared up when Mr. Foster took the stand was at what price the vouchers were actually taken, and what the department's money actually went, and what accounting had been made to the department.

Mr. Foster said that he had seen both Mr. Woodworth and Mr. Keever in Boston a week ago, but had never asked them to give him a detailed statement as to produce the checks and vouchers. He said he did not think that he had seen any of the vouchers, and that he had not seen any of the vouchers.

There were some other equally significant phases of the plot. Mr. Foster admitted that he had asked the secretary of the Conservative Association in Kings county, Mr. Oakes, to look after the purchase of horses in Kings, Annapolis and Hants counties, and that the two of them had checked up the receipts shown to them by Messrs. Keever and Woodworth with a view to finding out if the total amounts were all right. Even so, Mr. Foster could not swear positively, but he thought "he was dealing with honest men."

There was also the fact brought out that the checks paid to Woodworth were endorsed by prominent Nova Scotia Conservatives. Mr. Oakes, for instance, although Woodworth had already cashed checks in the same bank in Halifax.

The Conservative members in the committee this afternoon attempted to get Mr. Foster to admit that he had not seen any of the vouchers, and that he had not seen any of the vouchers.

Dr. Chipman testified that he had not seen any of the vouchers, and that he had not seen any of the vouchers.

Mr. Chipman was on the stand all morning. He was looking somewhat frazzled after a session during which he has not yet recovered. There were many things he did not remember but when he finished his evidence at 1 o'clock it was apparent to the committee that

### BRITISH EYE-WITNESS DECLARES ENEMY NOT ABLE TO AVENGE DEFEAT

No Attempt to Retaliate Since the British Victory at Neuve Chapelle—Proof That German Officers and Men Are Worried—It Does Not Mean the Collapse of Their Resistance, However.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

London, April 12.—It is a significant fact that although a month has passed since the action of Neuve Chapelle, the enemy has made no attempt to retaliate in any quarter but has remained inactive while we have established ourselves securely on the ground won.

Looking back over the past four months, it is instructive to note the gradual weakening of the German resistance on our front. Formerly an offensive action on our part was met with an immediate counter stroke. This is the first occasion on which the enemy has made no reply at all. This does not mean, of course, that their resistance is collapsing, but the Germans have come the less admitted that with the troops at their disposal at this front they are unable to avenge their defeat.

Some light has been thrown on the conditions prevailing in the area behind the German lines which served to confirm the impression that the general situation is creating great anxiety.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Referring to the conditions bordering on a panic which prevailed at Lille during the fighting at Neuve Chapelle, this writer goes on to say: "Both officers and men have openly expressed their uneasiness. Apparently a marked change began to occur in the general demeanor of the German troops soon after Christmas. Till then they had been absolutely confident but latterly this feeling has been steadily decreasing. German soldiers have told French civilians they recognize they would be incorporated by the masses of men from Britain upon the British war equally bent on ridding France and that they would grab everything for themselves."

In conclusion, the "eye-witness" mentions the fact that the German war levy at Lille, Roubaix and Tourcoing during March amounted to \$1,000,000.

### GRAFT DISCLOSURES MAKE BRITAIN PAUSE?

Rumor in Ottawa That Home Government Has Cancelled All Buying Commissions Entrusted to Ottawa Authorities and in Future Will Deal With Manufacturers Through Its Own Agents.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Ottawa, April 12.—Serious rumors, as yet unconfirmed officially, are in circulation and formal inquiry will probably be made concerning them in parliament tomorrow. They are to the effect that, following cable news of the revelations of war purchases by the Canadian government, the British government has decided to change the present system of securing some of its war supplies through the Canadian administration.

The reports which are tonight being circulated in Ottawa are that the government has cancelled all buying commissions which it entrusted to the Canadian government. This is not credited in its entirety, but it is regarded as probable that Britain has made official inquiry concerning the parliamentary disclosures and stayed the anticipated placing of additional orders.

This is not taken to mean that Britain will cease to purchase supplies in Canada, but that, hereafter, the British war office will not entrust its purchasing contracts to the Canadian government, but will send out specially commissioned buyers under its direct authority and jurisdiction to deal directly with Canadian and United States producers and manufacturers.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Ottawa, April 12.—Six hundred and eighty-three names, including twenty-three who were killed, were added today to the previous casualty lists of the losses in the fighting at Neuve Chapelle last month. This list brings the total casualties in this engagement to 7,244. Of this number, 2,074 were killed.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

London, April 12, 9:27 a. m.—In a despatch from Rotterdam the Daily Telegraph's correspondent says: "I am officially informed that the British steamer Harpalycus, under charter to the American Commission for Relief in Belgium, which was sunk several days ago in the North Sea by a torpedo or a mine, was actually carrying papers issued by the German minister at The Hague. These took the form of a safe conduct, and were intended to protect her against attacks from German submarines while returning to the United States."

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Ottawa, April 12.—Thirty men of the Patriots, invalided from the front, arrived at Folkestone yesterday. Most of them are suffering from severe attacks of rheumatism. They will be returned to Canada shortly.

### STEAMER'S CAPTAIN, WITH RIFLE WARDS OFF AIRSHIP ATTACK

(Special to The Telegraph.)

London, April 12.—Armed with a rifle, Captain Sharp, of the British steamer Serula, which has arrived here, successfully repulsed an attack made upon his steamer by a large German hydroplane and a small aeroplane of the Noord-Flak Lightship, says Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent.

The aeroplane first approached the ship, dropped bombs, which fell into the sea. As it retreated the attack Captain Sharp fired upon it with a rifle, hitting the machine several times and damaging one of its wings. Then the hydroplane took up the attack, but it also was driven off. Captain Sharp says he is convinced the aeroplane was so badly damaged that it was unable to reach Zeebrugge.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

London, April 12.—Sir Max Aitken, M. P., official eye-witness for the Canadian expeditionary force, has been compelled to return to England from the front owing to ill health and the probability is that he will be unable to resume his duties for some time at least. Mr. W. L. Griffith, secretary of the high commissioner's office, is about to leave for a visit to the front and this, together with the fact that the last report from the eye-witness was handed out from that office is taken to suggest that the trip is being made owing to the breakdown in the health of Sir Max Aitken.

Richard Reid, agent-general for Ontario, is also proceeding to the front. He will go on behalf of the provincial government for the welfare of the Canadian troops.

Lady Drummond, of Montreal, will perform the christening ceremony on Tuesday at the ferryboat wharf for the Canadian government for the Prince Edward Island service by Armstrong-Whitworth, Newcastle-On-Tyne, will be launched.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Ottawa, April 12.—The casualties among the members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force announced by the militia department this morning are as follows: FIRST BATTALION. Killed in Action.

Private James Fairbairn, March 19 (formerly of Ninth Battalion). Next of kin, Miss Laura Fairbairn (sister), Royal Crescent, Edinburgh, Scotland. SECOND BATTALION. Wounded.

Private K. Kubatsek (formerly Ninth Battalion), on March 30. Returned to regiment duty April 2. Next of kin, Peter Volynak, Post Office Cove, Russia. FOURTH BATTALION. Killed in Action.

Private George Edward King, March 31. Next of kin, Martha King, Gorleston-on-Sea, England. FIFTH BATTALION. Death.

Private Frank H. M. Robertson, April 12, No. 10 Stationary Hospital, St. Omer, carter's spinal meningitis. Next of kin, J. S. Robertson (father), No. 1 Perham Road, West Kensington, London (Eng.). Seriously ill.

Private Kenneth Aiken, acute mastoid. Next of kin, Mrs. R. W. Eaton, Kentville (N. S.). NO. 2 CANADIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL. Death.

Private Edward Curtis, April 11, at Salisbury Infirmary, with jaundice. Next of kin, Daniel Curtis, No. 514 Talbot street, London (Ont.). STRAM TRAWLERS MULES. FISH TWELVE MILES FROM CANADIAN SHORES.

Ottawa, April 12.—An order-in-council has been passed in regard to the regulations governing the clearance of steam trawlers from Canadian Atlantic ports. It is provided that the master of every steam trawler calling at any port on the Atlantic coast of Canada shall, before departure, come to the collector of customs, or other proper officer and deliver to him a report as to the destination of the vessel, the number of the crew, and any other particulars which shall be required. This report must be accompanied by an affidavit from the master, stating that in consideration of clearance papers, he will undertake to restrict all fishing operations to waters which are at least twelve miles distant from the nearest Canadian shore.

The penalties provided are the same as those which obtain in the case of any contravention of the customs regulations. HUNS CLASS BRITISH SUBMARINE PIRATES.

London, April 12, 1:30 p. m.—A despatch to Reuter's Telegram Company from Amsterdam says: "The German government has decided to make reprisals against British officers prisoners for the treatment that is being accorded the prisoners of German submarine boats in England. For each prisoner of a submarine crew, and for the duration of his harsh treatment, which is in contumacious contrary to international law, it has been resolved by Germany to treat likewise a British officer, without distinction of person."

"Accordingly today (Monday) thirty-nine British officers were imprisoned in the military detention barracks."

### RUSSIANS NOW HAVE ALMOST ALL THE MAIN CHAIN OF MOUNTAINS

Enemy, However, Still in Possession of the Uzkok Pass and Are Resisting in Large Numbers—Next Move by General Joffre in the West Awaited With Great Interest.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

London, April 12, 10:30 p. m.—With the capture by the Russians of almost all the main chain of mountains, the battle of the Carpathians, which has lasted upwards of eighty days, is apparently reaching a termination over an extensive front, and the Russians are said to be moving at various points, by railways and roads and along the rivers and streams, down the southern slopes towards the plains of Hungary.

This movement, if it continues successfully, will, in the view of the Russian military authorities, compel the retirement, with little or no fighting, of the Austrians and Germans who are still north of the Carpathians, to the east of Uzkok Pass, and in Eastern Galicia and Bukovina.

The battle which has been thus successfully conducted by the Russians was, from all accounts, one of the fiercest of the war and the manner in which the Russians overcame the difficulties of mountain fighting in mid-winter has been the subject of praise by those who witnessed the operations, or are acquainted with the country traversed.

The first phase of the battle of the Carpathians apparently has come to an end, and interest now centres on the next move of General Joffre, the French commander in his effort to compel the Germans to release their hold on Serbia. The capture of the Carpathians by the Russians included in their wedge. The capture of Les Esparges was, in the opinion of British military critics, a long step in the direction desired by the Allies, but they place even more importance on the capture of the Carpathians toward Thiancourt in the south, as the latter town is a railway centre from which the force at St. Mihiel draws its supplies.

This battle has not, as yet, proved the prelude to a general offensive in the west, as was expected. This is probably due to the fact that, instead of moving troops from other points along the line to assist the army of the West, the Germans have brought their reinforcements from the interior of Germany, or perhaps from the eastern front, and consequently the situation remains comparatively quiet on the western front.

Sank Relief Ship. German submarines have again been stirring activity, and besides the Halpalyce, which, according to one member of her crew and the officers of another steamer, was torpedoed, they have attacked since yesterday night the British liner, Weyfarer, the French steamer, Frederic Franck and the little steamer, Queenstown in a sinking condition. The Franck was towed into Plymouth, and the President was still afloat when her crew of ten left her.

The mystery of the North Sea firing on Wednesday night last remains unsolved, so far as the general public is concerned. The fighting in the East.

Petrograd, via London, April 12.—(Midnight).—The following official statement from general headquarters was issued tonight: "To the west of the Middle Niemen there were isolated engagements yesterday. Near Osowetz, and in the region of Edzabno, and between the Pissa and Omulef rivers, there were artillery duels. An attack by the Germans against the village of Szaranki failed."

"In the Carpathians, in the direction of Rostok, on April 10, we repulsed our fire at short range, large forces of the enemy which were repeatedly attacking us. We made some prisoners and progress, and in so doing developed a violent battle in the region of Uzkok Pass, which the enemy still holds. We captured here three guns and about 700 prisoners."

"In the direction of the Stry river we repulsed attacks on the Rosochac-Kosowka-Rozanka front, inflicting enormous losses on the enemy."

"In the other sectors there has been no essential change."

Bomb on Nancy. Paris, April 12, via London, April 12.—The following official communication was issued this evening: "At Les Esparges, during the night of April 11-12, after a somewhat severe cannonade and rifle fire, the Germans, at 4:30 o'clock this morning, delivered a counter-attack but were repulsed."

"In the Wood of Ailly, and in the region of Flirey, there were violent artillery actions, but no infantry engagements."

"In the forest of Le Pretre, at about eight o'clock yesterday evening, an attempted attack by the enemy on the northwestern part of the Quatre-En-Rain was easily repulsed."

"In Courcy today we drove the Germans from a section of a trench line which they had previously captured and in which they had succeeded in holding their ground."

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### AN KILLED BY TRAIN AT SUSSEX

Liam Ashe Struck on Crossing by Express Bound to St. John

BODY CUT TO PIECES

Fortunate Man Had Been in St. John All Day and Returned Only a Short Time Before His Death—Worked at Great Salmon River, But Was a Resident of Markhamville.

Friday, April 9.

A shocking fatality occurred at Sussex last evening at 7:40 o'clock, at the street crossing. As No. 1 train, run as the mail express, bound for St. John, for the night, was passing, it struck, and instantly killed William Ashe, who attempted to pass over crossing in front of the train.

Mr. Ashe was about 35 years of age and was employed by the Bay Shore Paper Company at Great Salmon River. He went to Sussex yesterday morning, to St. John for the night, returning to Sussex last evening on the Sussex express. He then went to the Sussex Mercantile Company store, paid a bill, got a light, and this receipt. The only sign of identification. After he left store, he went into J. R. McLean's, paid another bill, and started on his way home. He was walking on the sidewalk, and was struck by the train as it crossed the bridge over the crossing. He was struck between the rails, apparently dazed by the close approach of the engine. He tried to run back, but was unable to do so. The body was left on the tracks, and the body left on the tracks, and the body left on the tracks.

The danger signal at the crossing was not light showing when the train passed. The accident was witnessed by a number of people at the crossing, who were waiting for the train to pass and were pained at the young man taking such a fate.

The train was in charge of Conductor James Coles and Engineer James Moody. While Driver Moody was on the engine at the station he found the young man's hat on the ground. The hat was one of brown felt and had evidently been in St. John yesterday.

Mr. Ashe is survived by his mother, sister, Mrs. Fred Hunter, and another brother, James, who resides at Markhamville. His untimely death has cast a gloom over that community. Coroner W. Wallace was summoned and got to the scene at 8:30 p. m. He had the body taken up to the morgue. A coroner's jury was held, sworn in and after viewing the scene adjourned. The inquest will be held at 10 a. m. The I. C. R. authorities will make an enquiry at Moncton.

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### HELP WITH SOCKS

Soldiers in Great Need of Such Comforts—Some Idea of the Plans—To be Sent to Men at Front.

"Socks sent to the Red Cross Society distributed to sick and wounded, where required, but not to men in trench who receive them through the field forces." That was the text of the program received by the honorable secretary of the Royal Standard Chapter, I. D. E. in St. John yesterday from Mrs. M. Plumtree, of the Red Cross Society in Toronto.

The plan is to send a pair of socks to each soldier in the trenches. The main thing to be cleared up when Mr. Foster took the stand was at what price the vouchers were actually taken, and what the department's money actually went, and what accounting had been made to the department.

Mr. Foster said that he had seen both Mr. Woodworth and Mr. Keever in Boston a week ago, but had never asked them to give him a detailed statement as to produce the checks and vouchers. He said he did not think that he had seen any of the vouchers, and that he had not seen any of the vouchers.

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