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BRITISH DEFENCE HAS STIFFENED AND SOME GROUND IS REGAINED IN PLACES

FRONT IS NOW COMING NEAR

Germans Have Failed To Gai n Objectives and Will Soon Be Forced to Old Tactics of Striking First at One Point and The n at Another.

Be Announced Today.

ened Considerably Under

New Authority.

Ottawa, April 15.-Nothing official

as yet been given out by the Govern-

to the M. S. A. It is generally be-

eved, however, that the Government

roposes to take steps which will mean

GOVERNMENT CAUCUS.

Many Rumors.

tions will be made until after the caucus has been held and the plans have been

submitted to the followers of the Gov-

Preacher Gives Figures and Blames

Magistrates for Part of Trouble.

ent as to the proposed amendments

JEER AT CZERNIN'S NAME APPEALS TO BE SPEEDED

rith appeals.

Washington, D. C., April 15.—The turning point in the battle on the west front is being reached, says the United States war department's review of the military situation for the week ending April 13, published today. The Germans by stubborn and costly thrusts were able to force the French and the Oise, the Allette and the old line stretching from La Fere to Anizy-lement continues, and will soon be forced to resume their old tactics, seeking to gain limited objectives, striking first at one point, then at another, in order to render the Allies' position untenable and give themselves greater security.

"We must bear in mind," the review says, "that the enemy is waging a battle of annihilation to achieve victory. He is fighting today with the sole aim of annihilating the British armies. Thus terrain conquered counts for little.

To give themselves elbow room south of the Oise.

"The German by stubborn and costly thrusts were able to force the French out of the triangular area formed by the Oise, the Allette and the old line stretching from La Fere to Anizy-le-Chataeu.

French Hold Firm.

"The German high command also made desperate attempts to enlarge its gains in the areas stretching from Montdidier to Noyon, but were everywhere repulsed by the French, who hold firm along this important sector.

"Lively shelling took place along the whole Italian front and the Allies executed a number of minor raids on the whole Italian front and the Allies executed a number of minor raids on the Asiago region. The regrouping of forces have a number of minor raids on the Champagne south of Mont Tetu we carried out several raids and brought back prisoners. A German effort north of the Cise.

"The German Little Chemin-des-Dames Stopped.

Paris, April 15.—On the front above Montdidier, the French made a successful local attack last night, taking prisoners, the war office announces. The statement follows:

"In the region of Hangard, the French, who hold firm along this important sector.

"Eleven Montdidier and Noyon and in the Champa

annihilating the British armies. Thus terrain conquered counts for little.

Objects Folled.

"While it must be admitted that German operations since the beginning of the present offensive have resulted in more than a mere plowing up of part of the Allied trench system and the capture of local objectives along a wide front, nevertheless the aim of the German high command to obtain a decisive strategic success by the assaults has not been attained.

"There has been less activity along the southern flank of the Picardy salient. After the bloody battles which have been raging between Montdidier and Noyon, the enemy, fearing a counter-attack, struck repeated blows" the summer of a man of the man and Finnish forces have occupied and passed beyond Tammerfors and hostile units are moving northward with the object of cutting the Russian rail-way through Finland to Sweden.

"In Siberia the situation remains obscure. The Japanese landing at Vladious the summer of a particular of the probability of an enemy ported. The probability of an enemy offensive in this area taking place as soon as the weather becomes more favorable is increasing.

"While no events bearing directly on the general military situation took place in the east, it is to be noted that German and Finnish forces have occupied and passed beyond Tammerfors and hostile units are moving northward with the object of cutting the Russian rail-way through Finland to Sweden.

"In Siberia the situation remains obscure. The Japanese landing at Vladious the summer of the probability of an enemy ported. The prob

BOHEMIANS GATHER VIGOROUS COMBING TO DENOUNCE HUNS **OUT OF CLASS 1 TO** AND CHEER ALLIES

Thousands Take Part in Amendments to M. S. A. May Street Demonstration.

Czech Parties Say They Will And Procedure May Be Short-

Resist Germanizing of Province.

Amsterdam, April 15.—Thousands of persons gathered in the streets of Prague, capital of Bohemia, on Saturday, denounced the Germans, and cheered the Entente and President Wilson, says a dispatch from that city to the Lokal Anzelger of ment and party delegates, together with Slovene and Serbo-Croat delegates, met in the town hall and adopted a manifesto. The crowd cathered in the streets outside the nall in support of the policy of the delegates. The principal demonstration occurred at the close of the meeting. The feeling against Foreign Minister Czernin was shown by the shouts of disapproval with which his name was greeted. The crowds dispersed singing anti-German songs. with Slovene and Serbo-Croat del

man songs.

A conference of representatives of all Czech parties at Dux, the dis-patch says, unanimously opposed the establishment of a German-Bohemian province, asserting the Czech minority in the German-speaking region would resist Ger-manization to the utmost.

MAJ. HUME CRONYN ON COMMITTEE FOR REPORT ON PENSIONS

Hon. N. W. Rowell Likely To Be Chairman.

Ottawa, April 15 .- The special committee of the House named to consider and report upon the pensions board, pensions regulations and the efficiency or otherwise of the relief afforded to the soldiers of the dominion and their dependants, consists of the following members: Hon. N. W. Rowell, Hon. Rodolph Lemieux, Hon. Chas. Murphy, and Messrs. Cronyn, Green, Lapointel (St. James), Nesbitt, Nickle, McCurdy, Power, Parent, Redman, Ross, Suther-and and Turriff. Mr. Rowell will probably be no d chairman of the committee, which will be organized this week. The committee expects to make a report to Parliament before the

JOE MARTIN TO RE-ENTER BRITISH POLITICAL ARENA

Vancouver, April 14 .- Jos. Martin, K.C., who has been attorney-general of Manitoba, attorney-general and premier of British Columbia and member of the British House of Commons for East St. Pancras, and who has practised law in Vancouevr for the last few years, is going back to London to re-enter British political life. Announcement to this effect was made press it."

Dr. Hart blamed the magistrates, to some extent, because some of them adopted the Parisian view that the social evil is a necessary evil.

Arkansas is moving slowly normeastward.

Showers have occurred in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia. Eisewhere the weather has been fine.

FRENCH TAKE **PRISONERS IN** RAIDS; ENJOY SOMESUCCESS

German Effort North of the

"Between Montaidier and Noyon and in the Champagne south of Mont Tetu we carried out several raids and brought back prisoners. A German effort north of the Chemin-des-Dames, southeast of Corbeny, was without success. There were intermittent bombardments at several points on the front."

CARDINAL LOGUE OF IRELAND DENOUNCES CONSCRIPTION PLANS

Advises Passive, Not Active. Resistance to Act.

Cillaloe Prelate Says Is Is For Nation To Decide Course.

Dublin, April 15 .- Large meetings to Armagh, Limerick, Tullamore, Omagh, Carlow, Capsel and other places. They were not interfered with and there was

Cardinal Logue, primate of Ireland. preaching at Dungannon, said the conscription proposal for Ireland was the gravest blunder the Government had made and would lead to the utmost disorder and would be met with the most strenuous passive resistance. Anything in the nature of organized physical resistance was to be deprecated and would not be favored by him. The cardinal said he had called a meeting of Irish bishops for next a meeting of Irish bishops for next Thursday when resolutions would be

proposes to take steps which will mean that the majority of men of Class 1 of both first and second medical categories are likely to be in uniform at no very distant date. In other words, there is likely to be a most vigorous combing out of all unmarried men and widowers without dependents between the ages of 20 and 34 years. It is considered unlikely that the second class will be called until this combing process as taken place in the first Advises Resistance.

The Most Rev. Michael Fogarty, is bishop of Killaloe, publishes his view that the people are entitled to resist, adding that it is for the nation to decide the most effective form of such resistance. Bishop James Naughton, preaching at Ballina, said, having regard for agricultural requirements, Ireland had already given more than the first portion for the army, and that the numbers would have been larger but for the unsympathetic policy of government. Advises Resistance. process us taken place in the first class. Every effort will be made to speed up the hearing of appeals before the appeal tribunals, and authority may be taken which will materially shorten the procedure in connection with appeals

CONDEMN OPPOSITION. There is some expectation that the Government may give notice today of its proposed amendment to the military Chattanoga, Tenn., April 15.—Resolutions protesting against the opposition of Irish Nationalist leaders to conscription in Ireland were adopted here today in a mass meeting of Irishmen and citizens of Irish lineage.

BOLSHEVISM IS GIVING NORWAY MUCH TROUBLE

GOVERNMENT CAUCUS.
[Special to The Advertiser.]
Ottawa, April 15.—The Government intends submitting to full caucus of all its supporters assembled tomorrow the results of its deliberations over the week-end and to seek advice on the matter of proposed amendments to the military service act. Meantime, complete secrecy is being maintained as to the intentions of the Administration on the whole question. The caucus promises to be a lengthy one, and there are bound to be some frank expressions of opinion. Stockholm, April 14.—Anti-military demonstrations which began in the Sulitelma mining district where the Bolsheviki found excellent ground for propaganda, have now spread over the whole of Northern Norway. The anti-militarists are armed and the situation facing the Government is considered. This morning all sorts of rumors are circulating as to the methods which the Government contemplates in speeding up the military service act. The abolifacing the Government is considered

THE WEATHER

up the military service act. The abolition of all exemptions under Class A (excepting for medical reasons), the calling out of Class Three, unmarried men between the ages of 35 and 45, the doing away with intermediate appeal tribunals and provision for direct appeal to the central appeal judge, the transfer of the administration of the act from the department of justice to the department of militia, all these things are included among the rumors. It is safe to say, however, that no announcement of the Government intentions will be made until after the caucus LOCAL TEMPERATURES. Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night: Highest, 67; lowest, 29.

The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 53: lowest, 29. Highest, 53: lowest, 29.

TOMORROW-SHOWERS ately warm.
Tuesday—Easterly winds; fair until Tuesday—Easterly winds; hair until night, then showers.

Temperatures.

The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

Stations. High. Low. Weather. Victoria. 48 38 Cloudy Calgary. 52 28 Fair Clear

MONTREAL REALLY BAD

GENERAL FOCH COMMANDS ALLIED ARMIES



GENERAL FERDINAND FOCH, commander-in-chief of the Ailled armies was French military member of the inter-Ally Supreme War Council at

FOR TRIAL; ACTS AS JOVIAL SCHOOLBOY

ppose conscription were held today in Alleged Gunman, Arrested Here, Smiles in Court.

DID SHOT HIT PRISONER?

Counsel's Cross-Examination Leads to This Belief of What Defence Will Be.

Toronto, April 15.—Smiling the smile of a school boy on summer holidays, Jack Roberts, the alleged gunman, arrested in London, who is accused of trying to shoot Detective John Stewart

rested in London, who is accused of trying to shoot Detective John Stewart in front of the Toronto City Hall on November 16 last, came up in police court today and cheerfully took his committal for trial at the hands of Magistrate Kingsford.

Some inkling of the line of defence likely to be adopted by his counsel, T. C. Robinette, K.C., was furnished by the latter's cross-examination of the accusing officer.

Drew a Pistol

The detective told how, when leading Roberts by the sleeve to the eastern entrance of the city hall, the resourceful prisoner suddenly leaned forward, doubled up as if in pain, and said: "My God, get me some whiskey." The prisoner, who had his hand inside his vest, suddenly drew a revolver and with the butt end, hit the detective behind the left ear. As the officer lay prostrate, a shot was fired.

"Will you swear that he shot at you?" asked Mr. Robinette.

"The gun was pointing at me at the time."

"Will you swear that he shot at you?" repeated counsel.

"I will swear that such was his in-

repeated counsel. "I will swear that such was his intention at the time," replied the witess.
"How do you know my intentions?" demanded the prisoner.
Counsel will probably try to prove that the bullet, which the detective declared he heard whistle past his ear, actually wounded Roberts himself in the leg.

THREE MILLION ACRES MORE GRAIN CROPS IN

Estimate Made Is Promising, and Bet

ter Yields Anticipated. Montreal, April 15.—The estimate is made in authoritative quarters that the acreage of grain crops in Canada will be approximately 36,000,000 acres against about 33,000,000 in 1917.

Considering labor conditions, that can be regarded as a decidedly encouraging outlook. In addition to the large a careage there is reason to hope for a larger yield per acre provided weather conditions are at all normal through the spring and summer. The heavy snowfall of the winter has left admirabel soil conditions.

In the west seeding operations have been carried well up to the northern parts of the provinces and cultivating operations are getting well under way

BISHOP MORE WARLIKE ROBERTS COMMITTED JAPAN WATCHES **GERMAN MOVES**; ACT IN SIBERIA IF NECESSARY

Viscount Ishii Says Needs of **Entente May Dictate** Expedition.

FOE LOOKS FOR BASES

And Drive Through Siberia Might Establish These On Pacific.

the landing of Japanese troops at Vladi-

ANOTHER SHIPLOAD OF RETURNING MEN **ARRIVES AT HALIFAX**

DOMINION DURING 1918 Over 600 Women and Chil-

Majstrates for Part of Irvan.

Mantreal April 15.—There are from 2.000 to 5.000 public prostitutes in this course of an address of the American Prestylerian Church here is at might in the course of an address in the asset.

OFFICES BURNED DOWN

Practically nothing is being done to encourage and protect vice is now highest over the farm in the east.

Montreal April 15.—About 10 or behalf of Gabriel Fauteux, a Montreal student of pharmacy. "There is no vidence pusitifying the conclusion by the central appeal judge," the judgment reads, "that the existing supply of drusgists will not sufficient to provide the changila during the central appeal judge," the judgment reads, "that the existing supply of drusgists will not sufficient to provide the changila during the central appeal judge," the judgment reads, "that the existing supply of drusgists will not sufficient to provide the changila during the central appeal judge," the judgment reads, "that the existing supply of drusgists will not sufficient to provide the changila during the conclusion of the control of the provided the changila during the conclusion of the control of the provided

SEVEN FIERCE ATTACKS BY ENEMY IN MERVILLE SECTOR ALL REPULSED

THE WAR SITUATION

The British lines on the Lys front, near the Franco-Belgian border, are holding well against the terrific drives which the Germans are continuing to Make upon them.

All around the sweeping semi-circle created by the enemy attacks to the southwest of the Messines Ridge positions he was fought to a standstill yes-

trons he was fought to a standard yes-terday and last night and in some local-lities the British positions were improved by counter-strokes, at only one point did the defence give way in the least. This was at Neuve Eglise, on the ex-treme lower edge of the Messines spur, where the British finally withdrew from the village after heating off attack after the village after beating off attack after

the village after beating off attack after attack.

The probabilities seem to be that the German tenure of even this small bit of ground will be a short-lived one. The village has changed hands repeatedly during the fighting of the past few days, and the British were once before definitely out of it, only to recapture it again in a counter-attack. This morning the British again were back at the Germans here and were reported to be giving here and were reported to be giving

here and were reported to be giving them a hard pounding.

Large results hinged on the battle further within the salient, in the Merville sector, where the Germans have effected their furthest westward penetrating. They are pushing here for Hazebrouck, occupation of which would cut off important rallway connections of the British and make the holding of the line northeast extremely difficult.

The Germans displayed their appreciation of this by attacking no less than ciation of this by attacking no less than beven times in the Merville region, the desperation of their attack being evidenced by the fact that one assault was carried out by troops in five waves. This was the only attack that bent the Britzien line in the slightest and the nosl.

tion here was speedly restored in its entirety by a counter-attack.

The Germans similarly have been foiled in their efforts to push in further in the Bailleul region, and this important town is still in British hands. Far to the southwest on the Lys from Far to the southwest on the Lys front they have failed likewise, in their attempt to drive in back of Bethune. The British in local operations here have advanced their lines and pushed the enemy back from the Clarence River. They took 150 prisoners and some machine guns in one of these operations.

Fighting heroically in hand-to-hand engagements British troops have checked the German drive in the region west of Armentieres, and this enemy effort. like the one in Picardy.

checked the German drive in the reg-ion west of Armentieres, and this enemy effort, like the one in Picardy, seems almost definitely stopped. The Germans have spent thousands of lives in reckless and insistent attacks to break through the British lines, but the effort has been without the result About Neuve Eglise and before Bail-leul, Field Marshal Haig's battered divisions have been putting up a desper ate resistance to the Germans. Neuve

Eglise has changed hands several times in furious fighting, and is now held by the Germans, after a fight in which the enemy suffered grievously. It is an important strategic point, as it is one of the outposts of the Messines Pides A Pacific Port, April 15.—Viscount Ishii, Japanese ambassador to the United States, arrived here today en route to Washington. Discussing suggested Japanese activities in Siberia, Ambassador Ishii said that if the imperial Japanese Government deemed it necessary to undertake the sending of a military expedition into Siberia, such intention would be for the benefit of the Entente Allies and not for Japan. He declared any suggestion of a Japanese German alliance to be absurd.

"Germany may establish bases in Pacific waters by a successful drive through Siberia," said Ambassador Ishii.

"In this event," he continued, "it would be up to Japan to sweep them away. We cannot guarantee that Japan could do this, but we would try our best, and we must not relax our vigilance."

Ambassador Ishii would not discuss

for artillery duels.

Against the American sector south of Verdun, German storming troops hurled themselves Sunday. American infantrymen beat back the enemy. The enemy withdrew to his trenches with the loss of nearly 100. Northwest of Toul, the Germans have not repeated the attacks which cost them 400 casualties. Two American aviators have brought down two German flighting airplanes, the enemy fliers being cap-

Count Czernin has resigned as Austro-Hungarian foreign minister and Emperor Charles has accepted the resignation. The steps leading to the Over 600 Women and Children On Boat.

Halifax, April 15.—A steamer arrived here yesterday bringing some 1,800 passengers. Of these 124 are returning officers and 1,068 are soldiers of the C. E. F., and 608 are women and children on Boat are included the steps leading to the count's act are not disclosed as yet, but the publication by the French Government of the emperor's peace offer letter to France early in 1917, probably hastened his withdrawal. Semi-official attempts are still being made to deny the letter, but neither the emperor nor Count Czernin has denied flatly the existence of the letter, which was not in only a peace move, but divulged damaging evidence concerning intrigue

sengers. Of these 124 are returning cers and 1,068 are soldiers of the E. F., and 608 are women and chila. The ship did not dock and bably will not do so until tomorrow Wednesday.

RUGGISTS TO GO,

SAYS APPEAL JUDGE

SAYS APPEAL JUDGE

SAYS APPEAL JUDGE

SAYS APPEAL JUDGE

only a peace move, but divulged damaging evidence concerning intrigue against Serbia.

The fallen minister is a close friend of Count Berchtold, the political instructor of Emperor Charles. Berchtold was forced out as foreign minister by the pan-Germans after he had played a prominent part in starting the war, and it is probable Count Czernin has fallen victim to the same influence, his usefulness having ceased because of his clumsy diplomacy. Count Czernin remains in office until a successor is announced.

British Have To Withdraw From Neuve Eglise After Resisting Numerous Assaults.

LINE PENETRATED NEAR BAILLEUL

But Germans Driven Out by C ounter-Attack and the Front Restored—British Positio ns South of the Somme. Near Hangua rd, Restored.

London, April 15.—Seven attacks by the Germans in the Merville sector of the northern battlefront have been repulsed by the British, who inflicted heavy losses on the the enemy, it is officially announced.

The British have lost Neuve Eglise. Southwest of Bailleul the Germans temporarily pene-

trated the British positions, but were driven out by a counter-attack. The statement follows:

'Severe fighting continued all day yesterday around

Neuve Eglise. After beating off numerous attacks, our troops were in the end compelled to withdraw a second time from the village. ARTILLERY GOT THEM. "Strong attacks were made by the enemy yesterday afternoon at a number of other points on the battlefront

Northwest of Merville fierce fighting took place, as a result of which the attacking German infantry were driven back with great loss. The hostile infantry, advancing along the northern bank of the Lys, were caught by the fire of our artillery and were unable to develop their attack.

"In the course of the day no less than seven attacks were delivered by the enemy in the Merville sector, all of which were repulsed with heavy loss to his troops In one case the enemy advanced to the assault in five waves. Under the weight of this attack our line was bent back slightly, but was completely restored by counter-attack.

SOON DRIVEN OUT. 'Southwest of Bailleul parties of the enemy succeeded temporarily in penetrating our positions, but were driven out by our counter-attack, and our line was

'Successful minor operations were carried out by us during the night east of Robecq. Several machine guns and 150 prisoners were captured by us.

"Fighting took place also early this morning south of the Somme, in the neighborhood of Hangard. Our position in this sector has been improved and a number of prisoners have been taken. The hostile artillery was active last night in the neighborhood of Bouquoy.

N. W. ROWELL WILL SAY NOTHING ABOUT PERRY RESIGNATION

May Make Statement Regarding R. N. W. M. P. Later.

Ottawa, April 15 .- Hon. N. W. Rowell, president of the Privy Council, when questioned today regarding the resignation of Commissioner Perry of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, said he had nothing to say in regard to the matter, but intimated that he would constitute the provided the resignation of the Privy Council, when the success of Saturday when they bushed the Germans back from Robecc on the Clarence River.

Local counter-thrusts delivered on the German positions 3,000 yards to the east of this town were completely successful and the green matter, but intimated that he would probably make a statement later on.

Mr. Rowell would not comment on the dispatch from Regina, stating that it was Commissioner Perry's desire to and Clarence rivers.

CASUALTIES FROM **RECENT FIGHTING IN**

take the mounted police overseas.

The last issued annual report on the mounted police force contained some correspondence between Sir Robert Borden and Commissoner Perry dealing with the desire of the latter to take a mounted police wife correspondence.

ATTACKS FRUITLESS.

British Headquarters in France, April 15. (Via Router's Ottomark) These operations indicate that me de Borden and Commissoner Perry dealing with the desire of the latter to take a mounted police unit overseas. Sir Robert in a letter to the commissioner said that the Government had been advised by the imperial authorities that no additional cavalry forces were required, but that if cavalry was wanted later on a mounted police unit would be a withdrawal of our line but our same a withdrawal of our line but our same as well as withdrawal of our line but our same as well as withdrawal of our line but our same as well as on a mounted police unit would in all probability be sent. In this connection it is recognized here that no matter how agreat the need of men at the front, a mounted police force must be maintained in the west to patrol the boundary, keep an eye on the districts where afternoon we pushed out our line of the majority of the settlers are of enemy origin and to enforce law and order in the Yukon and the unorganized territories.

One of these was attacked by a strong party of the enemy, the final result being that one officer, five men and three ing that one officer, five men and three machine guns were left in our hands.

Late in the evening the enemy again determinedly attacked Neuve Eglisel and a heavy struggle developed. Our guns are reported to be shelling the ruins of the place this morning, surgesting that the enemy has once more FRANCE COMING NOW

The string of the place this morning, sugesting that the enemy has once mora gained a footing, though probably we are counter-attacking.

Prisoners state that the enemy's effort toward Bailleul is to be resumed this morning. We have retaken the hamlet of Reizdu-Vinage, three thousand yards east of Robecq, taking 150 prisoners and 6 machine guns.

Givenchy and Festubert have been heavily shelled by the Germans, who are using ammunition lavishly. On the extreme south of our line we made a minor attack with the French, improving our positions north and east of Hangard Wood.

BATTLE STILL RAGES.

With the British Army in France, April 15-(By the Associated Press) .--

The battle about Neuve Eglise, near the Belgian border, which has been re-taken by the Germans, continued to rage this morning with the same in-

ensity that has marked it for days, and he British are pounding the Germans

Another assault on Bailleul, four dies west of Neuve Eglise, is expected

momentarily.

The latest reports this forenous showed that the British line was being strongly held as a whole in this northern zone, and in some instances had been considerably improved by counter-strokes.

The British last evening followed was

The British last evening followed up