

The Evening Times Star

VOL. XIV., No. 170.

ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1918

TEN PAGES—ONE CENT

City Wins Its Fight For Independent Commission On Power Co. Increases

Company's Bill Rejected By Corporations Committee

City Bill Amended To Give Commission Power To Grant A Temporary Increase If Found To Be Justified After Full Investigation—Commission To Consist of Three Members

(Special to Times) Fredericton, N. B., April 23.—St. John wins the Power Company fight. The Corporations Committee meeting in private session this morning, after a lengthy deliberation, decided to recommend the city's bill and not that of the company.

Certain amendments were made to the bill, the chief alteration being the provision that the commission asked for under this bill should be given the power to grant temporary increases in the rates, if they found it desirable to do so. The effect of this will be that the company will not have to wait until the legislature meets next year, if they can substantiate their claims before the committee. On the other hand the city's victory lies in the fact that no increase shall be given at present and not until the company has been able to demonstrate to the commission that there is actual and urgent justification for such relief.

The committee met at ten o'clock with Hon. Mr. Burchill in the chair, and the session continued until one o'clock. During this period the bill was carefully and painstakingly examined and certain minor amendments in the phrasing were made, but the only departure from the principle of the bill was that involved in the amendment giving the commission power to grant temporary relief. Under this section the committee may authorize increased rates, if they are found justified, after evidence to that effect has been laid before the commission. If further investigation shows the justification of higher rates, they may again increase the rates.

On the contrary, if, having made an order authorizing a temporary increase, they find that further evidence goes to show that the temporary increase was not justified, the commission may wipe it off the books.

When they have reached their final decision a report will be prepared which will be presented to the legislature at its session next year, when the findings of the commission will come up for formal approval.

The bill providing for the appointment of a commission of three members and it was agreed this morning that the selection of these commissioners should be left to the premier and the leader of the opposition. Their choice will be ratified by the governor-in-council and the commission will then issue.

It is believed that the commissioners will be able to get to work with very little delay but that considerable work must be accomplished and that considerable time will elapse before they will be in a position to reach their final decision.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY

Naval Parade, Band Music and Very Successful Tagging

That Flag Day, under the auspices of St. George's Society and under the management of the Young Women's Patriotic Association, will be a marked success, is quite evident from the amount which is already known to have been donated this morning. W. C. Rising, treasurer of St. George's Society, who is looking after the counting of the money collected today, said this morning that the amount contained in some of the boxes which were opened was very gratifying. A feature of the day was a naval parade this morning. About eleven o'clock some sixty or seventy naval men who happened to be in port, led by the depot Battalion Band, drew a naval field gun along Prince William street, up King street to King Square, and after circling the square, they came to attention in front of the Imperial Theatre. The band then played the National Anthem of the allied nations. Many citizens turned out to enjoy the music and see the sailors, and the square for about fifteen minutes had the appearance of a band concert night in the summer. The young ladies took advantage of the gathering to do some tagging. Practically every one, who before half past ten, had not made a tag, was seen to be before the bank struck up "God Save the King". St. George's Society last year handed the proceeds of their tag day over to the Red Cross. This year it will be given to the Relief Fund of the Navy League. The headquarters for the N. W. P. A. are in the Trinity church school room. At noon hour St. George's Society had prepared for the taggers a luncheon. All sections of the city are being covered and it is the opinion of those in charge of the day that the \$1,900 mark reached last year will be exceeded.

Flags today are displayed on public and private buildings and on the harbor front in honor of the day.

ON THE RIVER

The steamer Majestic arrived at Fredericton last evening on her first trip of the season. She left again this morning for Idiantown and is expected between five and six o'clock this evening. She will make a return trip to the harbor tomorrow. The steamer Oceano also went up river yesterday as far as Wickham and returned to the city this morning. She carried a fair sized cargo both ways.

ONLY FIVE JURORS SECURED FROM A PANEL OF SIXTY

Another Twenty to Be Summoned for This Afternoon in the Wool Case

In the supreme court this morning His Honor Judge Barry presiding, trial was commenced in the case of Carl Kelly, Stanley Martin, George Drew and Jack Hayes, on the charge of stealing wool from the Colonial Hide Company. This case was previously tried before His Honor and jury, the jury disagreeing. Although sixty jurors had been summoned, many of whom were from the county, owing to the large number of challenges by counsel on behalf of the defendants, only five jurors were obtained by twelve o'clock, and the court was at this hour adjourned until 2:30 o'clock to give the sheriff an opportunity to summon twenty more jurors. Urban J. Sweeney is appearing on behalf of Jack Hayes and George Drew, and E. J. Henneberry on behalf of Stanley Martin and Carl Kelly. W. M. Ryan is appearing on behalf of the crown.

The following jurors were summoned: Walter Spencer, John A. Kennedy, George Giggay, Robert L. Johnston, Charles A. Owens, William S. Clewson, Benjamin Lawton, Samuel J. Holder, J. Firth Brittain, Ernest Graham, John Erb, Herman A. Wheaton, Daniel B. Davidson, Fred W. Dykeman, Charles A. Donnell, Charles McHugh, Robert M. Thorne, William Darling, Wilfred J. McKenna, Samuel Irons, Charles E. Bell, George S. Wannamaker, Walter H. Gamble, G. Heber Arnold, William E. Baxter, Bloomfield B. Jordan, J. G. Lake, Herbert J. Keys, James Seely, William L. Williams, John J. Irvine, Walter E. Almand, Arthur S. Bowman, Samuel McCormick, Frank V. Hamon, Thomas B. Steves, William V. Hatfield, George L. Kinsella, Abraham Poyas, John J. Wood, William Crabbie, M. Marshall Stout, Roy E. Crawford, Gilbert D. Long, G. Fred Sullivan, Fred J. Quinlan, William Mennell, Charles Hamm, Joshua E. Cowan.

The Danish Elections—Copenhagen, April 23.—Premier Zahle and his ministry retain a majority of the seats in the Folkething, according to early returns from the Danish election yesterday.

CRISIS AT HAND FOR HOLLAND?

Relations With Germany Are Much Strained

MAILED FIST RAISED

Rumor That Something in Nature of Ultimatum Has Been Demanded—Pries Anxious—Believes Kaiser Would Not Hesitate to Violate Neutrality

London, April 23.—The Daily News says that the foreign office has learned that the relations between Holland and Germany are very much strained. The chief cause apparently is an old dispute about the supply of gravel from Holland to Germany. The situation is regarded with anxiety in official and diplomatic circles. It is rumored that something in the nature of an ultimatum has been delivered to Holland by Germany. Amsterdam, April 23.—The Dutch press expresses anxiety regarding Germany's intentions toward Holland. The Handelsblad considers that Germany's policy will be determined, purely by what promises to pay best and believes that Germany would not hesitate to use communication through Holland even at the risk of war, if she believed victory could thus be achieved on the western front.

The Handelsblad regrets that so far as known the English powers have begun nothing in the direction of facilitating the movement of provisions and war material to help make the Dutch army strong enough if it should be menaced by an invasion, and explains generally about the British policy toward Holland. The Hague, April 23.—The Dutch cabinet met yesterday in extraordinary session. The Hague, April 23.—The Vaterland says an agreement has been reached regarding one point which has caused friction between Holland and Germany, but that the old dispute concerning the transport of sand and gravel to Germany continues to be a stumbling block. Germany desires to resume the practice of shipping gravel through Holland, but the Dutch government offers objection on the ground that new circumstances have arisen.

BONAR LAW PLANS HIGHER POSTAL RATE

London, April 23.—Bonar Law's new taxation schemes include a proposal to increase the postal rate within the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, India and the other dominions from a penny to three half pence yielding £3,400,000. The postage on post-cards will be a penny. The stamp duty on checks would be raised from a penny to two pence, yielding £750,000. The increase in income tax would yield £11,000,000. There would be no change in the tax income under £200. There would be no increase in the rate on service pay.

German Chancellor Von Hertling is reported to have received General Von Falkenhayn, governor-general of Belgium, at main headquarters.

WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, director of meteorological service

Synopsis.—The barometer continues low over Northern Ontario and Quebec, but is rising over the Great Lakes in advance of a high area now centered north of Manitoba. The weather is fair throughout the dominion.

Lakes and Georgian Bay—Ottawa and Upper St. Lawrence—Fresh west and northwesterly winds, fair, cool tonight and on Wednesday.

Lower St. Lawrence, Gulf and North Shore—Fresh westerly winds, fair today and on Wednesday, not much change in temperature.

Fair and Mild.—Maritime—Fresh westerly winds, fair and comparatively mild today and on Wednesday. Lake Superior—Strong northwesterly winds, fair and cold today and on Wednesday. Western provinces—Fair and cool today and on Wednesday. New England—Generally fair tonight and Wednesday; moderate west winds.

Seven Raids By Canadian Troops

Thousands of Tear Shells Also Sent Over

LIVELY TIME FOR ENEMY

Dominion Forces Furnish a Busy Half Day North and South of Lens—German Gas Net so Effective as Ours and Protection Not so Good

(By W. A. Willson, War Correspondent of the Canadian Press.) Canadian Army Headquarters in France, April 23.—Raided in no fewer than seven places, gassed with thousands of leghymatory and lethal shells, harassed by special artillery shoots, his trenches swept by machine gun and rifle bullets, his front line bombarded by trench mortars, the enemy for the last twelve hours has had a lively time at the hands of the Canadians. From dusk until dawn the whole front has been lively north and south of Lens. The ceaseless hum of our heavy, which are neutralizing hostile batteries by calculated continuous gas shelling has been accompanied by the sharper chorus of our field artillery, carrying out particular harassing fire programmes. Periodically our artillery fire has reached a barrage intensity in support of raiding parties. (Continued on page 2, seventh column.)

REAL ESTATE NEWS

Transfers in real estate have been recorded as follows: St. John County—L. A. Conlon et al to Fred and Carmel Isaac, property in Broadway street. Harriet A. Evans to G. E. Evans, property in Seely street. J. W. Jamieson to Ellen B. wife of C. A. Morgan, property in Celebration street. Terence MacLaughlin et al to Clementine A. A. Barrett, property in Simonds street. L. R. Ross to Georgia, wife of W. F. B. Paterson, property in Courtenay street.

GIRL MISSING

Friends, relatives and employers are searching for a sixteen-year-old girl who on the 17th of this month at ten o'clock in the morning disappeared from her home in this city, leaving her belongings behind her and having given absolutely no hint of any intention to leave. A photograph has been received by Chief of Police Simpson and the police authorities have been searching for her, but so far without avail. The girl is short and stout, being about five feet in height, and talks with an English accent. The suddenness of her disappearance has created a suspicion that there may be foul play.

YOUTH OF 19 IN COURT ON A LIQUOR CHARGE

Alexander George was before Magistrate Ritchie in the police court this morning, charged with supplying liquor. He pleaded guilty. It is said that Harry Nicks and George Hovey, arrested yesterday on charges of being drunk and having liquor in their possession, informed the police authorities that they had secured it from George. The liquor inspectors got out a warrant for him and he was brought in to the police station this morning by his father.

"Do you mean to say that you supplied liquor to both of them?" asked his honor.

"Yes, sir," was the reply.

"You're liable to \$400 or a year in jail for that. I don't know what you were thinking of. How old are you?"

"Nineteen."

The prisoner was remanded. Four prisoners, charged with being drunk, were fined \$8 or two months in jail each upon pleading guilty.

GERMAN IN FRENCH UNIFORM ARRESTED IN STREET IN PARIS

Paris, April 23.—Wearing the uniform of a French infantryman, a German was arrested in a street in Paris yesterday. He said he was born in Alsace and had deserted from the German army after being brought to the western front from Galicia. The police think he is a German officer.

CITY WATER WORK The city water and sewerage department have a crew of men employed today replacing an old wooden sewer in Factory street with a six-inch terra cotta pipe. Men were at work in St. Patrick street all last night repairing a break in the four-inch water main. They replaced the broken pipe and had repairs completed this morning. Several service pipes throughout the city are being repaired, and in some instances replaced by new ones.

British Win Near Albert

Attack on Front of 1000 Yards and Drive In To Depth of 250—Petain Granting Furloughs, An Indication Of Lessening Strain

London, April 23.—A British attack last night north of Albert was carried out on a front of about 1,000 yards. Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters reports that an advance was made to a depth of 250 yards.

London, April 23.—On the Somme front north of Albert, the British last night improved their line by a successful local operation. They took sixty prisoners.

On the Flanders front in the Robecq sector, and near Wytschaete, the British took prisoners.

Paris, April 23.—"The best proof that there is no cause for anxiety is that General Petain has decided to grant furloughs for the first time since the German offensive began," said Premier Clemenceau to Marcel Hatin, editor of the Echo De Paris, on his return to Paris after a long visit to the French and British fronts. "Of course," the premier added, "there can be no question of resuming the system of regular leave to the French soldiers as in normal periods, but the tap has been turned on a little."

Leaves of absence also are to be resumed in the German army beginning with May, according to the Reuter correspondent at British headquarters in France, who obtained this information from German prisoners. The correspondent added that this action suggested that the "enemy anticipates a decision or the abandonment of the offensive by them."

French Report.—Paris, April 23.—Active artillery operations on the Somme front and east of Rheims are reported in today's official communication. The statement follows: "Rather spirited artillery engagements occurred on the Somme front and east of Rheims. German raids between Lesigny and Noyon, northwest of Rheims, and in the Vosges were without result. Prisoners remained in our hands. Everywhere else the night passed quietly."

CHANGE MADE IN GERMAN TACTICS.—London, April 23.—The enormous losses of the Germans inflicted by the British have caused General Ludendorff to change his tactics and he has ordered that no more massed attacks be made by the Germans. The correspondent of the Daily Mail at British headquarters in France reports that General Ludendorff, in an order dated March 30, said: "The idea of forcing success by the employment of masses must be abolished absolutely. It only leads to unnecessary losses. The effective use of weapons, not of numbers, gives the decision."

The German method of advance since then has been to push forward small bodies of troops with light machine guns. Sometimes they are caught in masses conducting an attack but generally they trickle forward in numbers of little streams."

DELAY MEANS HEAVIER BLOW.—London, April 23.—A telegram to Reuter's Limited from British headquarters in France says the Germans are apparently continuing to mass troops on the line of Bailleul and Neuve Eglise, on the north, and around Democourt, on the south. An early resumption of the heavy fighting would not be surprising, but the longer the Germans defer striking the more ambitious their blow is likely to be.

In today's minor fighting operations, the British counter-attacked north of Aveluy Wood and are reported to have quite restored the positions which the enemy attacked last night.

ALLIES MAY GET AUSTRALIAN WHEAT.—Washington, April 23.—Movement of Australia's wheat crop, estimated at approximately 150,000,000 bushels, to the Allies may be made possible through the acquisition of Japanese ships by the United States. Plans are being worked out by the food administration and the shipping board.

Berlin expects Uruguay and Argentina to declare war against Germany at an early date.

Successful Naval Raid on U-Boat Bases On Belgian Coast

London, April 23.—British naval forces today raided the German submarine bases of Ostend and Zeebrugge. Five old cruisers which had been filled with concrete for use in blocking the channels were run aground, blown up and abandoned by their crews.

The admiralty reports that, according to incomplete information thus far received, the raid met with a reasonable measure of success.

The statement follows: "Early this morning a naval raid was made on Ostend and Zeebrugge, which are being used by the enemy as destroyer and submarine bases. Our forces are returning, and the scanty information so far received is to the effect that the raid met with a reasonable measure of success."

"With the exception of covering ships, the force employed consisted of auxiliary vessels and six obsolete cruisers. Five of these cruisers, filled with concrete, were used as blockships, and after being run aground, were in accordance with orders, blown up and abandoned by the crews. A further communique will be issued when reports have been received from the ships, which are now returning to their bases. "No reports of casualties have yet been received."

Interests Washington.—Washington, April 23.—News of the British raid upon the German submarine bases at Ostend and Zeebrugge, and of the attempt to bottle up those harbors, was received with great interest at the navy department. The more was taken as another definite step in the carefully planned campaign against the U-boats which, it has been repeatedly predicted, would begin to show material results about this time.

IN THE SENATE

Alien Enemies and the Dominion Lands Act

Would Bar From Canada Former Residents Who Fought Against King—Language Question is Again Brought Up

Ottawa, April 23.—The position of alien enemies was considered yesterday by the senate, in a bill amending the dominion lands act. Senator Brashby said that many persons of alien origin who had come to Canada before the war and made homestead entries, had left Canada when war was declared and had entered the armies of the countries of their origin and had fought against the British cause. He said such persons should be prevented, hereafter, from obtaining homestead rights in Canada. In fact, he would not allow such persons ever to re-enter Canada.

Sir James Loughheed said the act provided that a person, to obtain a Canadian homestead, had to make affidavit that he had not borne arms against the king. He would be willing to make the provisions stronger, to meet the cases referred to. "The clause was held for further consideration."

The language question again came up when consideration of the railway bill was resumed in committee. Senator Dandurand spoke for his amendment to give the railway board authority to order that certain trainmen on local trains in the province of Quebec might be required to be familiar with both English and French.

Senator Belcourt contended that the clause was in accordance with the rights of the people of Quebec under the provisions of the B. N. A. Act. Senator Robertson, speaking as a member of the government, said that there had been practically unanimous representation against this provision from the organized trainmen of Canada. Sir James Loughheed said the amendment was contrary to the constitution. The B. N. A. act gave the right to make use of either language, but Senator Dandurand proposed to apply compulsion upon certain employees of Canadian railways to have both languages, on the pain of losing their positions. Senator Casgrain asked why the government had put this unfortunate provision in the bill from the Commons last year. Sir James said that the provision had been inserted by a private member, and not by the government. Senator Belcourt said Sir James was taking a narrow view of the question and said it was unfortunate that the leader of a great party in the senate should be so petty, small and unworthy. Sir James replied that he was not accustomed to have advocates of the dual language in the senate school run upon what constitutes generosity on this question. Their attitude did not indicate that they were capable of preaching generosity on the language question. The amendment was declared lost by 85 to 10.

IN HOSPITAL WITH TRENCH FEVER

Mrs. M. Lloyd of 51 Harrison street received word today that her son, Pte. William Lloyd, was in an English hospital suffering from trench fever. Mrs. Harrison is recovering after an operation in the infirmary, and the news of her son's condition has proved a severe shock.

THE CALL TO THE COLORS

Toronto, April 23.—Unarmed men in Category B of the ages of twenty-two to twenty-four, who are being called into the army, are being used by the enemy as destroyer and submarine bases. Our forces are returning, and the scanty information so far received is to the effect that the raid met with a reasonable measure of success.