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HALF DOZEN ZEPPELINS OVER GREATER PART OF ENGLAND; RUSSIANS EXTEND VICTORY INTO FERTILE TURKISH REGION

MAY MAKE PLACE FOR BENNETT IN THE CABINET

Member for Calgary Slated for New Portfolio—Minister Munitions

CHANGE LIKELY IN PRESENT CONDITIONS

Government Not Satisfied With Imperial Control of Output of Shells and May Take It Into Its Own Hands—Sir Sam Eager to Go to the Front in the Spring if New Plan Goes Through.

THIS WEEK WILL SEE 200 INFANTRY BATTALIONS IN THE CANADIAN ARMY.

Ottawa, Jan. 31.—One hundred and ninety-five battalions have now been authorized for service overseas, and it is expected that the number will have reached or passed 200 before the end of this week.

This means that well over 200,000 men have been provided for in the authorized infantry organization, without taking into account the army service corps, artillery, engineers, and other units which make up the various branches of the service.

(Special to The Telegraph)

Ottawa, Jan. 31.—While a local paper here today, to the effect that J. A. Vallancourt, of Montreal, has resigned from the imperial munitions board, owing to friction with Chairman J. W. Flavelle, is officially denied by Mr. Flavelle, there is a steadily growing feeling that the rumors of impending changes in the constitution of the board, will take effect before long.

It is known that the government has under consideration a radical change in regard to the whole question of the control and output of munitions in Canada. Under present conditions the whole matter is technically under the control of the imperial ministry of munitions. The business has grown to be, by all odds, the greatest in Canada, and in importance, ranks probably next to the work of the department of militia itself.

At present, Canada gets all its supplies of shells and artillery through the war office, and the prices charged up to the dominion for adjustment later as those which the war office itself pays. It is quite possible, the Canadian government would like to have some better arrangement whereby it would be more directly in control of the munitions output in Canada, and of the supplies sent to the Canadian troops, as well as of the cost of those supplies. It would also like to have a position in regard to the work of the munitions board, now that the initial mistakes and scandals are presumably fairly well past. For these reasons, it is believed that the government is contemplating the onus on the old shell committee, "the creation of the imperial ministry of munitions."

R. B. Bennett the Likely Man.

The man selected for the new department of munitions, if it is decided to go ahead with it, is R. B. Bennett. Mr. Bennett, who accompanied Premier Borden to England last summer, is in pretty close touch with the situation, and has for a considerable time been in training for the cabinet. He is also said to be persona grata with Major-General Sir Sam Hughes. They have had several conferences together of late.

Mr. Bennett has energy and large ideas as to the duties of the government in grasping more boldly the responsibilities, and the opportunities of the war, both in regard to industrial development and in regard to the solution of the many economic problems which will have to be faced when the troops come back.

On the other hand, it is known that Major-General Hughes has for a long time wanted to be in a position where he could spend more time in the actual fighting at the head of the men he has mobilized and trained. In his speech in the commons last week, he said that his chief ambition was to be at the front leading his men. If he could go over to France in the spring, Mr. Bennett would be the natural man to take his place here in keeping up the supplies both of men and munitions.

Mr. Bennett, like Sir Sam, has "driving force" and it is stated in well-informed circles that Sir Bennett thinks the member for Calgary knows more about the situation and its requirements, both in regard to the industrial and the recruiting side of the war, than any one else on the conservative benches. Mr. Bennett does not deny that there is a likelihood of his coming into the government, if the war is to last for some time.

It is not improbable that the spring will find Sir Sam Hughes leading the Canadian side at the front, and Mr. Bennett looking after the minister of militia's work in Canada, as well as the responsible head of the Canadian munitions department.

Mr. Vallancourt, president of the Bank of Hochelaga, who still a member of the munitions board, has taken three months leave of absence, and will go south for his health, where General Borden preceded him some weeks ago.

RUSSIANS CRUSHING TURKS' RIGHT WING

First Coup Against Centre in Caucasus Followed By Turning of Right in Fruitful and Well-populated Country

British Report Successful Invasion of German Trenches by Small Party—French Giving Germans in Captured Trenches Little Rest—British Deny Loss of Camels in Mesopotamia.

London, Feb. 1, 4.24 a.m.—The Athens correspondent of the Daily Mail learns that the Turkish first army corps has been sent to the relief of Erzerum. It cannot reach that city, he says, in less than a fortnight.

Petrograd, via London, Jan. 31, 11.05 p.m.—The war office communication issued today says:

"The German artillery has bombarded Shioh and opened an active fire in the region south of Lake Babit. The enemy fired on our trenches near Oger (region of Mitau) with explosive bullets from machine guns.

"North of the Poniwesch railroad, and between the lakes Medmouk and Demmen, the enemy opened a violent artillery fire.

"On the Middle Strip, our scouts surrounded an Austrian detachment of rural guards. In the hand-to-hand encounter that ensued most of the Austrians were bayoneted. The others were captured.

"A great increase in the number of enemy deserters has been observed recently.

"In the Caucasus the operations during the past fortnight against the Turkish front justified our expectations. After developing the first coup against the Turks' centre into an important success, General Yoderovich pursued the enemy and threw their advance guards on the fortifications of Erzerum. At the same time Russian troops, by an impetuous advance against the Turkish right wing, compelled the Turks to evacuate the region of Molaguerh and Khnyvskalsk and retreat on the Mush Valley. These operations have had the effect of dislodging the enemy from a region sixty versts (about forty miles) long which had previously been fortified and organized.

"We now descend from the mountainous regions, with their rigorous climate, into regions well populated and easily accessible, and favorable for the encampment of our troops for the period of the winter.

"In the course of these operations we took numerous prisoners of Turkish officers and Askaris and guns, machine guns, great quantities of artillery and engineering material.

"On the 29th our scouts pursued the Turks falling back in the region of the (Tobruk) river and took many Askaris prisoner and seized a number of cattle."

This in Canadian's Territory.

London, Jan. 31, 11.35 p.m.—The British official statement on the campaign in France, issued tonight, reads:

"Last night a party entered the German trenches about the Kennel-Myt-schuetz road. These trenches were found to be full of men. About forty casualties were inflicted on the enemy, three prisoners were brought back and two of their machine guns were destroyed.

"During the day there has been considerable artillery activity around Pricourt, north of Loos, and north of Wulverghem."

"The recent Turkish report (Mesopotamia) had been compelled to retreat with the loss of 100 dead, 100 camels and 100 tents, is untrue. The only incident to which it could refer was a reconnaissance near Shatra, where, attacked by hostile Arabs, a reconnoitering force suffered a few casualties and inflicted heavy loss on the enemy."

Austrians Have of Day.

Vienna, via London, Jan. 31, 8.59 p.m.—The following official communication was issued today:

"There is nothing of importance to report in any of the war theatres."

Turks Captured by Landing Crew.

Constantinople, Jan. 31, via London, Feb. 1.—The war office communication issued today says:

"On the Ink front there has been an important infantry and artillery fighting. The situation at Kut-el-Amara is quiet."

"On the Caucasus front there have been unimportant encounters.

"On the Anatolian coast Wednesday night an enemy warship landed a detachment between Fenik and Merik, near the village of Endesh, opposite Castellorio. Thursday morning the village was surrounded and some of the officials and some of the inhabitants were taken prisoners aboard the war vessel."

Small Engagements.

Rome, via London, Jan. 31, 9.02 p.m.—The following official communication was issued today:

"There have been small engagements in the Lagueria valley, north of Meri, and artillery duels of particular intensity along the Isonzo front."

German Report Attacks.

Berlin, Jan. 31, via London, 8.00 p.m.—The French have been making repeated attempts to regain the ground recently lost by them near Neuville, army headquarters announced today. Today's official statement says:

"Western theatre of war. Our new

of the Canadian munitions department, Mr. Vallancourt, president of the Bank of Hochelaga, who still a member of the munitions board, has taken three months leave of absence, and will go south for his health, where General Borden preceded him some weeks ago.

WAR SUMMARY

Russians Well-launched In-to Turkish Territory, Settle Down in Winter Quarters

Austrian Detachment Wiped Out on Eastern Front Where Guns Do Battle—Several English Counties Under Zeppelin Fire.

A Zeppelin air raid on the eastern, northeastern and midland counties of England has followed closely the attacks on Paris by German dirigibles. The British war office, which now controls the defences of London against air attacks, announces that six or seven aircraft took part in the latest raid, but the towns or villages visited and the nature of the damage inflicted have not been made public.

After having driven the Turks from a region about forty miles in length in Asiatic Turkey, to the west of Lake Van, and putting them to retreat down the Mush Valley, the Russians seemingly have ceased their operations in this particular vicinity for the winter.

It is announced by Petrograd that the Russians here will be able to make a winter campaign in the Caucasus and descend into the plains "which are favorable for the encampment of our troops for the period of the winter."

The numbers of prisoners were taken by the Russian in their drive of the Turks, in addition to heavy guns, machine guns, and other war material, were considerable.

The Russian official communication confirms previous statements that the Turks to the southwest of the region have been driven to the fortifications of Erzerum.

There has been little fighting of great moment anywhere in any of the war theatres, except by the artillery of the Italian army on the frontiers of the Somme.

German positions at Steenstraete, to the south of Rye, and to the north of St. Eloi, have come under the guns of the British Allies on the western line, and considerable damage has been done.

The latest French communication does not mention fighting in the vicinity of Neuville or south of the Somme, where positions recently were captured by the Germans. The Berlin report, however, says these positions have been held against repeated French attacks.

From northwest of Riga to the Middle Strip, there has been a considerable bombardment by the Germans of various Russian towns and positions. Petrograd reports the surrounding by the Russians of an Austrian detachment in the Middle Strip, and the annihilation of most of the Austrians, the remainder being captured.

The Italians and the Austrians have opened another fierce artillery duel along the Isonzo front of the Austro-Italian line. No reports have been received from the Balkans, their situation being held to be of the utmost importance.

"Balkan theatre of war: Russian attacks against the church yard at Wisman, on the An river, west of Riga, broke down under our infantry and artillery fire."

"The position is unchanged."

GERMANS COURT MARTIAL AND SHOOT BELGIAN AS SPY NEAR ANTWERP.

Amsterdam, Jan. 31, via London, 8.32 p.m.—Paul Louis Mertens, of Lier, near Antwerp, was court-martialed and shot as a spy at Lier, Belgium, on January 26, according to a despatch to the Telegraph from Maastricht.

ENGLISH COUNTIES UNDER BOMB FIRE

Six or Seven Zeppelins Raid Eastern, Northeastern and Midland Counties, But Do Little Damage

Attack on Paris Reprisal for Freiburg Raid, Says Berlin—British Steamer Appalachee and Another Reported Lost—Bad Risk on Overdue List.

London, Feb. 1.—A raid by six or seven Zeppelin airships took place last night over the eastern, northeastern and midland counties of England, according to an announcement of the war office.

A number of bombs were dropped, but up to the present no considerable damage has been reported.

A re-annihilation of the Zeppelin raids on London and the east coast of England was expected by the British authorities, and on January 26 a special warning was sent out by the police, which, after referring to the increase of the offensive protection against hostile aircraft recently provided in the metropolitan district, advised the public on the occasion of air raids to take cover.

The last raid on England by German Zeppelins occurred on January 23 and 24, when hostile aeroplanes dropped bombs along the east coast of Kent, killing or wounding a few persons, and an aeroplanes attacked the station, barracks and docks at Dover.

Only recently the defense of London from air attacks has been placed in the hands of the war office; previously the admiralty had charge of this matter. Both these departments, however, have been co-operating harmoniously.

Prior to January 3 there was an interval of several months during which England was immune from air attacks. From June 15 until October 15 there were six Zeppelin raids on London and the east coast of England, in which 121 persons were reported killed and 813 injured.

After the Zeppelin raids on Paris Saturday and Sunday nights the view was expressed by the French authorities that these attacks were doubtless merely reprisals for a more extensive movement by German aircraft and the fact that six or seven machines have taken part in the new raid on England would indicate a well considered plan by the Germans to increase the activity of their dirigibles and probably bring into play the new Fokker machines, which are reported to be very effective engines of war.

Suggestions for Defence.

Discussing the possibility of serious damage to London from a Zeppelin attack, the Times says:

"Any raid intended to do serious damage to London, the defence of which is still in process of development, is not likely to be of the haphazard nature of the Paris raids. It remains for us to provide a really serious reception."

"Hitherto London's principal efforts in this direction consisted chiefly of guns largely manned by chery, but inexperienced and ill-equipped amateurs. No one who witnessed the raid on London last autumn can have failed to have been impressed by the inadequacy of the defensive preparations. Since then considerable progress has been made, but we should be better satisfied if we had also sufficient aeroplanes to attack the raiders."

Reprisals, Say Germany.

Berlin, Jan. 31, via London, 8.30 p.m.—The attacks by German Zeppelins on Paris Saturday and Sunday nights, were reported by the French as a reprisal for Freiburg last week, army headquarters announced today.

"The statement on this subject says: 'In reprisal for the dropping of bombs by French aeroplanes on the open town of Freiburg, which is outside the field of operations, our dirigibles during the past two nights attacked the fortified town of Paris with satisfactory results.'"

Two Steamers Probably Lost.

New York, Jan. 31.—The White Star freight steamer Boyle reported on her arrival here today from Manchester that she had picked up wireless messages indicating that two steamships have been recently lost at sea heretofore unreported. One was the Appalachee, a British tanker in the government service, the other an unknown steamer whose crew was rescued by the steamer Finland.

Reports that the Finland was standing by a steamer in distress were received by wireless at Halifax on January 26, relayed from the Finland by the steamer Rochambeau. The message did not furnish any other details, nor did the Rochambeau, on her arrival here Saturday, have any further information.

The captain of the Boyle said that the wireless messages he received as to the loss of the two steamships lacked detailed information.

The movements of the Appalachee have not been reported since she entered the New York harbor. She was owned by the Anglo-American Oil Company, of Newcastle, was built in 1894 and was a ship of 3,767 gross tonnage.

Seized and Released.

London, Jan. 31.—The Danish steamer Vidar, which was seized by a German submarine off Elmore Strand while

U.S. NAVY READY FOR WAR; PLANS "MEAN BUSINESS"

Wilson Has Answer For Roosevelt's Fiercely Speech, Saving America "Cruelly Misjudged"

"SPREAD TINDER WHERE SPARKS FALL"

Roosevelt Says American Government Now Haggling With Murderers Over Matter of Dollars—Big Boston Meeting Pledges Support to Allies.

"WILSON WOULD DO MORE IF AMERICA NOT UNPREPARED."

London, Feb. 1, 3.18 a.m.—The Daily Express, in an editorial today, after remarking that the latest Zeppelin attacks are certain to provoke great indignation in the United States, urges on that country the necessity of preparation.

"Former President Roosevelt is trying to push President Wilson into war," says the Daily Express, "but the president knows America is unprepared, otherwise he might do something more than write indignant notes. Great Britain would have been in the same position if the little navy people had their way—we would still be writing notes about Belgium. The United States may be sure of one thing—if the Germans win this war America will be their next object of attack."

"INDEMNITY" AFTER WAR TO BALANCE TEUTONIC EXCHANGE

Hungarian Secretary Says Military Strength Assures Victory—Cutting Down Beer Factories.

Amsterdam, via London, Feb. 1, 12.55 a.m.—The Hungarian minister, M. Telesky, replying today to an inquiry of a member of the lower house as to the reasons for the adverse rate of exchange, said the decline was in consequence of the isolation of the Central Powers, but he added, it would disappear immediately after the war, especially in view of the large indemnity which could properly be expected owing to the military strength of the Central Powers.

The minister declared that the government was preparing to limit rigorously the importation of all articles of luxury, and taking other measures to ameliorate the exchange.

The Worst Has Happened.

Berlin, Jan. 31, via London, Feb. 1, 8.30 a.m.—The Bundestag today ordered a restriction in the allowance of malt and barley to breweries, and also outlined an ordinance limiting the production of canned meats and wurst.

FRIENDS OF THE PROVINCIAL OPPOSITION MEET IN MONCTON

Moncton, Jan. 31.—A number of friends of the provincial opposition met this morning and selected H. C. Charters as convener for organization purposes for the constituency of the city of Moncton. Hon. C. W. Robinson was present and W. E. Foster chairman of the leadership committee. Dr. E. A. Smith, president of the provincial association, and Organizers E. S. Carter, and P. J. Veniot conferred with the Moncton committee afterwards.

Hon. Mr. Robinson assured Mr. Foster and the members of his committee that he would aid them in every possible way in their efforts to secure better government for New Brunswick.

SEAMEN'S HOSPITAL FUND COMMITTEE

Ottawa, Jan. 31.—A committee of the Seamen's Hospital Fund has been organized in Ottawa. Hon. J. D. Hasen, minister of marine and fisheries, is honorary chairman, while the executive committee is as follows:

Admiral Kingsmill, chairman; Geo. Burr, honorary treasurer; and E. F. Houston, K. E. Gilmore, W. K. Spicer, C. Berkley Powell, J. L. Garland, W. A. Allan, B. P. Dewar, Mayne Hamilton, Brigadier General Elliott and P. D. Ross.

(Continued on page 63)

Are you indifferent?
Or is your employer to blame? If the latter, try to show him your duty and get his help.