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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, APRIL, 20, 1917

TWELVE PAGES—ONE CENT

French Drive On; The British Too Envelopment Lines Creeping Nearer to Laon — Germans Desperately Try to Stay Advance But All in Vain

The French made further progress last night in the great battle along the Aisne and in the Champagne. This is notably true of the region northeast of Soissons, where the lines of envelopment are gradually being drawn nearer to the important railway centre of Laon, the strategic objective in this division of the front.

The French here gained ground in the vicinity of Laifaux, the advance being characterized in the official statement as "considerable." The Germans reacted strongly on this front, but were unable to make any impression on the new French lines.

General Nivelle's pressure here is calculated to force the Germans speedily out of the salient to which they have clung, projecting toward the Aisne in the direction of Conde.

The advance towards Laon also was continued on the Rheims-Laon Road. On the plains north of Rheims, where the French are pushing stubbornly to their strongly entrenched positions, several of their trenches near Courcy were carried in grenade attacks. Headway also was made east of Loivre in this sector.

In the Champagne, notably near Moronvilliers, the Germans launched their expected violent counter-attacks, which the French troops, their artillery brought up, were amply prepared to meet. The artillery and machine guns cut loose on the advancing columns, reinforced by the fresh contingents recently thrown in from other fronts and from the reserves. The result was that the Germans, although their attacks had been prepared by heavy bombardments, were badly cut up and failed to attain their object.

BRITISH ALSO

Signs of renewed activity also appeared yesterday on the British front in the Arras battlefield, where some gains in the Lens region and east of Fampoux were reported, extending last night to the district northwest of St. Quentin. London today reports British progress in the neighborhood of Villers Guislain, midway between St. Quentin and Cambrai.

FRENCH FURTHER ADVANCE

Paris, April 20.—(Noon)—The war office announces that violent fighting continued during the night, in the course of which the French made further gains in the regions of Laifaux and the Vaucleurs Plateau. Several lines of trenches east of Loivre were captured.

Heavy counter-attacks by the Germans in the Champagne were repulsed, severe losses being inflicted on the enemy.

BRITISH GAIN

London, April 20.—"We gained ground during the night in the neighborhood of Villers Guislain," says today's official statement. "Elsewhere there was nothing especially interesting."

CHAVONNE BEING ENVELOPED

Paris, April 20.—The uniform failures of the Germans to resist the steady and methodical pressure of the French is the outstanding feature of the operations to date in the great offensive on the Aisne and in the Champagne. It is clear that General Nivelle's armies are in no danger of losing the initiative and that gradually but surely all the salients along the Soisson-Aubeville front are being crushed.

The principal salient to which the enemy had clung formed an angle where the front, running south from St. Quentin, kinked to the line running eastward toward Rheims. Caught as it was by the troops advancing northeast from Laifaux and northwest from Vailly and Chavonne the angle collapsed and Fort Conde was captured. Substantial progress was made in the centre, ground being won east and west of Conde, which is gradually being enveloped.

In the Champagne section, on the right, strong positions still held by the enemy are falling one by one. All this work could have been done only at a heavy cost in life under former war conditions. It is being carried out with comparatively small loss now, thanks to the new tactical methods used by the French.

Paris, April 20.—The French official statement says: "South of St. Quentin the enemy's artillery kept up a heavy fire to which our batteries replied vigorously. During the night patrol Urvilliers, in the region of Laifaux, we made appreciable progress and took fifty prisoners. We repulsed several counter-attacks by the Germans in this sector. "On the Vaucleurs Plateau and south-west of Courcy we carried out a series of attacks with grenades. East of Loivre a heavy counter-attack was repulsed, the Germans in the region of Moronvilliers. Our curtain of fire and our machine guns completely negated these efforts, which cost the enemy very heavy losses. A score of prisoners remained in our hands. Everywhere else the night passed in quiet. "On April 16, the German airplanes and two captive balloons were brought down by our pilots in aerial engagements."

Washington, April 20.—Broad government powers to control food production, distribution and possibly even prices were provided in legislation drawn today for presentation to congress. Authority to establish a virtual food dictatorship if necessary may be asked by the administration.

Mexican snipers shoot at American sentry at El Paso, Tex., April 19.—Snipers who fired at an American sentry station in the district in the suburbs of this city, were fired upon in return by a squad of United States soldiers late today. One Mexican was seen to fall.

When Mexican Consul Bravo reported the affair to Brigadier-General George Bell, Jr., General Bell informed the consul that the American sentry, had been fired upon and had obeyed orders in returning the fire. "I have ordered the outposts to shoot to kill when fired upon," said General Bell later. "I will court-martial a man who fires across the border first, and I also will court-martial one who fails to return the fire when he is fired upon."

This news concerning the young lieutenant will come as a great relief to all his friends; for it was feared his wounds might be severe.

YORK COUNTY DELEGATION
Alexander Brewer, a member of the York county council, and Commissioners Thomas F. Griffiths and Walter Walker of York county, who were in the city yesterday looking over the Municipal House, left this morning for Northumberland county on a similar mission. They were greatly impressed with the comfort of the persons in the local institution and with the efficiency of the administration. They are securing information preparatory to reporting on the desirability of erecting a home for aged boarders by the municipality in private homes.

DEATH OF THOMAS CLERKE
Many St. John people will have kindly recollection of Thomas Clarke and will regret to learn of his death, which took place yesterday at his home in Lynn, Mass. The sad news came to his brother, Robert Clarke of H. M. Customs, in a telegram received last midnight. He had been ill but a few days, with pneumonia. Mr. Clarke was born in St. John some sixty-five years ago. In young manhood he was with David H. Hall, shoe manufacturer, and later was foreman with the Sussex Boot and Shoe Company. About thirty years ago he went to the United States and settled in Lynn. He is survived by his wife, two children and three grandchildren. Robert Clarke will leave for Lynn this evening to attend his brother's funeral.

STILL BOASTING BUT GET IN WORD "PEACE"
Amsterdam, via London, April 20.—A Berlin despatch says that a resolution was passed at a meeting of the Progressive People's Party denouncing President Wilson's attempt to sow discord between the Kaiser and the German people. The resolution declared "that the Kaiser and the German people belong inseparably to each other, and with the combined strength of themselves and their allies, will attain a victorious peace guaranteeing their future."

BERNHARDT BETTER
New York, April 20.—The condition of Sarah Bernhardt, who was operated on here on Tuesday night, showed improvement today. A bulletin issued before noon read: "Madame Bernhardt's condition is distinctly improved and the outlook is better."

WEATHER REPORT
Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Starp, director of meteorological service
Synopsis—The area of low pressure west of the Great Lakes has remained almost stationary and is now centred in Iowa. The weather has cleared and is becoming warmer in the western provinces, while in Ontario it is warmer and showery. Saturday, warmer and unsettled, with occasional showers.
Shorewise.
Maritime—Moderate variable winds fair and mild, Saturday, easterly winds, becoming showery.
New England—Probably showers tonight and Saturday, warmer, fresh south-wind.

SPANISH PREMIER RESIGNS
Madrid, April 20.—(Via Paris)—Count Romanones, in tendering his resignation to King Alfonso, said he was convinced that the defence of the lives and interests of Spaniards could not be assured if the government policy continued bound by the limitation hitherto existing. The premier declared that he felt compelled by his conscience to resign. He added that he was influenced by the consideration that Spain would lose its position as a moral leader if she and the races issued from her appeared to be divided at a time decisive for the future.

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DONALD FRASER OF CARLETON IS DEAD IN WAR

Sad News From Ottawa Comes To His Mother

Sgt. MAJ. J. WHITEHOUSE ALSO LATER A SOUTH AFRICAN VETERAN—LIEUT. GUY YERXA OF FREDERICTON KILLED IN ACTION—SEVERAL ST. JOHN MEN ARE WOUNDED

That death on the battlefield has claimed their second son, was the sad news received this morning by Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Fraser of Duke street, West St. John. The official bulletin from Ottawa brought the announcement that Sgt.-Major Donald Drummond Fraser had been killed in action on April 12. Sgt.-Major Fraser was twenty-one years of age, having enlisted when he was but eighteen. Previous to enlisting he had been a clerk in the Royal Bank of Canada in this city, and he had many friends throughout the city who will learn of his death with deep regret. In their able assessment the parents will have the sympathy of the entire community.

Both boys enlisted in the same unit, a mounted infantry regiment and went overseas together. On the other side they were drafted to different infantry battalions. On the day that Donald was entering the trenches for the first time, he met his brother who had been wounded and who was being carried out on a stretcher, and they stopped and chatted for a few minutes. In due time the parents received word that this son, Pte. Murray Fraser, had been reported wounded and missing, and that he was unable to return to his home, despite diligent inquiries. Finally came the announcement that, in absence of other information, he was officially declared dead.

Berlin munitions men refuse to resume work

Amsterdam, April 19.—The Berlin Vorwaerts says that the male workers of the Deutsche Waffen und Munitionsfabrik von Berlin decided on Wednesday to continue their journey to London from Australia, but to send a deputation to the chancellor. The result of the interview with him was to have been communicated to a meeting of the workers today. The Cologne Gazette reports various strikes in Leipzig, also that a large meeting was held in Stuttgart, Saxony, for discussion of the scarcity of food and that after the meeting the participants marched in procession through the town. The audience of several thousand persons responded to his fervor by singing successively "The Star Spangled Banner," "God Save the King" and "The Marseillaise."

HEARTY RESPONSE TO SHACKLETON'S FERVOR

San Francisco, Cal., April 19.—Lieut. Sir Ernest Shackleton, Antarctic explorer, who will leave San Francisco today to continue his journey to London from Australia, was accorded an enthusiastic reception last night at a meeting in the city auditorium at which he spoke under the auspices of the Bohemian Club. "It is not the allies any more, it's us," he said at the conclusion of his address. The audience of several thousand persons responded to his fervor by singing successively "The Star Spangled Banner," "God Save the King" and "The Marseillaise."

OPPOSED TO REFORM IN GERMAN PARLIAMENT

Amsterdam, via London, April 20.—In the Berlin Tagblatt Major Ernest Bassermann, leader of the National Liberals in the Reichstag, declares that the national liberal party, like himself, is opposed to parliamentary reform. "The limitation of the emperor's power, especially after a victorious war," he says, "could only be wrested from the monarch after a conflict of the sharpest kind."

PAIR OF SILVER FOX SKINS BRING \$1,000

St. Louis, Mo., April 20.—A matched pair of silver fox skins has sold for \$1,000 at the international fur auction here today. A single skin sold for \$750. Buyers from Milwaukee, Cleveland, Buffalo and St. Paul were notable in the buying. Up to noon yesterday the silver fox sales totalled \$30,000.

RUSSIANS SUBSCRIBE FREELY TO WAR LOAN

Petrograd, April 20.—Although the subscription lists to the "liberty loan" opened only yesterday, the public is already contributing freely. In two hours after the lists were opened 2,500,000 roubles were received.

IRISH HORSES AT WOODBINE

Toronto, Ont., April 20.—Among the arrivals at the Woodbine are six imported Irish race horses, including Iron Cross, a frequent winner as a two-year-old in Ireland and Never Fear, which has won many races over the jumps in the Emerald Isle.

PHILIZ AND PHERDINAND

Mrs. Charles K. Cowan of Wellington road, received a telegram from Ottawa yesterday informing her that her husband, Gunner Charles K. Cowan, had been admitted to No. 3 general hospital in Boulogne on April 18, suffering from a gunshot wound in the left leg.

Pte. A. Ricker, of this city, who was engaged at longshore work. He has a siege battery unit and he participated in the big drive at the Somme.

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Private Abraham Kicker of this city has been admitted to No. 3 general hospital in Boulogne, suffering from gunshot wounds in his side, received on April 10. The news was received by his wife, who resides at 72 Hawthorne avenue. Before enlisting in an infantry unit here, Private Ricker was employed with the St. John Ice Company.

Pte. B. F. Ramsey.
Mrs. Louise F. Ramsey, of 27 Murray street, received word this morning from Ottawa to the effect that her son, Private Berton Frederick Ramsey, a mem-

WHEAT AGAIN TAKES LEAP TOWARDS SKY

Sensational Advance in The Chicago Market

ONE JUMP OF 13 CENTS

Great Nervousness and Many Fluctuations—Flour \$14.50 a Barrel in New York—Abnormal Buying by Panicky People

Chicago, April 20.—Another sensational advance distinguished the wheat market today based, it was said, on heavy purchases of September for the allies. Upward flights of values surpassed all previous records. The September delivery in particular soared nearly 13c at one time from a low point reached on a temporary setback. Traders seemed to have gone wild over reports of big purchases of that option for the Entente Allies and the prices went to 1.89 against 1.79 to 1.79c at yesterday's close.

Opening prices, which ranged from 3c decline to 3c advance, with May at 28 3/4c and July at 20c to 20 1/2c, were followed, after considerable interval, by a jump of \$2.48 for May and 2.11 for July. Great nervousness and many quick fluctuations ensued, chiefly setback.

New York, April 20.—Flour today is selling here at \$14.50 a barrel. The Tuesday, when it jumped from \$13.50. Abnormal buying is the cause of the increase, according to the large retail grocers here. They say people are buying in unprecedented quantities, ordering fifteen and twenty barrels.

WHY PRICES ADVANCE

A St. John firm wired Chicago to ask what was the cause of the unnecessary advance in the price of wheat and flour.

"Unreasonable panic on the part of buyers." In their market circular of April 14, the American firm says: "Panicky hysteria prevails. United States does not face a famine. Many staple articles are being hoarded up with flour and foodstuffs." "And of course this hysteria has caused prices to go up."

ber of a local infantry battalion, had been wounded in the right shoulder by gunshot on April 11, and had been in hospital at No. 14 general hospital at Wauwreux. On Monday Mrs. Ramsey received a letter from her son to the effect that he had just come out of the hospital and was returning to the firing line. The letter was dated March 28. He did not state the cause of his being in hospital. Private Ramsey is about twenty years old. Prior to enlistment he was in the employ of T. McAvity & Sons, King street, St. John.

The Late Lieut. Mullaney.
At a meeting of the St. John Council Knights of Columbus last evening, the following resolutions were adopted: "That the grand knight, Dr. W. W. ... be elected to the position of grand knight, and that the death of Lieut. M. Mullaney, who was a member of the council, Dr. Brodbeck paid a high tribute to the worth of the young officer."

The Late Captain Goossens.
Captain Frank W. Goossens, whose death in the war was announced yesterday, was a graduate of Edinburgh University and was practicing his profession as a civil engineer in Winnipeg before he enlisted. He was married in 1911 to Miss Edith Wilcox, of Lincoln, who is at present residing in Winnipeg. One sister, Miss Leslie Stewart, of Fredericton, had been wounded and was seriously ill with pneumonia. She later received word from Ottawa today that her brother had received a high tribute to the worth of the young officer.

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STARS AND STRIPES OVER WESTMINSTER; UNIQUE IN HISTORY OF ENGLAND

Foreign Flag Was Never Displayed There Before

GREAT VICTORY OVER THE TURKS

London, April 20.—General Maude, commanding the British forces in Mesopotamia, has forced a passage of the Spati-El-Adhem, attacked the Turkish main positions and completely routed the Turkish forces. So far 1,244 Turks have been taken prisoner.

London, April 20.—The general officer commanding the British forces in Egypt reports that on April 17 the British advanced north of the Wadi Ghuzze in southern Palestine and captured the Turkish advanced positions along a front of 6 1/2 miles. The attack was assisted by the fire of warships and the position gained was consolidated. Fighting was still proceeding at the time the report was sent.

WILL MISSING

Interesting Development in Probate Proceedings Relative to the Late Wm. Rafferty's Estate

In the Supreme Court Chambers this morning, with His Honor Chief Justice McKeown presiding, Stephen B. Bustin, acting on behalf of a legatee under the will of William Rafferty, had Francis L. Peterson, the executor under the will, examined as to the whereabouts of the will, which has never been probated. Mr. Peterson in his evidence said that although he was named executor, he never probated the will, and had no knowledge where the will was at the present time. He said that immediately following the death of Mr. Rafferty, which occurred some years ago, the lawyer who drew the will gave it to Mr. Rafferty's widow. The will was read over in the home of Mr. Rafferty in the Marsh road, and that the terms of the will, according to his best recollection were as follows:—That he was to act as sole executor, and that one-half the property was given to Francis Rafferty, a son of William Rafferty, to hold for life, and on the death of Francis Rafferty, his share to go to James Rafferty, a nephew of the witness; the other half was to go to William Rafferty, also a son of William Rafferty, to hold for life, and on his death to go to two children of the witness. The widow was to be given an annuity of \$100.

Annie L. Peterson, wife of Francis L. Peterson, also gave evidence and said that she had no knowledge of the whereabouts of the will. She said that she heard the will read over in the home of William Rafferty, who was her father. Mr. Bustin said that he would like to have another witness examined, and His Honor said that it would be necessary to make a new application. Mr. Bustin intimated that some of the property provided for in the will had been sold. U. J. Sweeney appeared for Mrs. Peterson.

ONTARIO FLOUR 50 CENTS HIGHER

Ontario flour advanced once more this morning. A fifty cent increase brought the price to \$12.85 for the Ontario, while Manitoba remained firm at \$12.60. May wheat this morning reached \$2.44.

TODAY'S BALL GAMES

Baseball schedule:
National League
Boston at New York, cloudy, 3:30 p.m.; Brooklyn at Philadelphia, cloudy, 3 p.m.; Chicago at Pittsburgh, cloudy, 3 p.m.; Cincinnati at St. Louis, partly cloudy, 3 p.m.

American League
St. Louis at Chicago, partly cloudy, 3 p.m.; Detroit at Cleveland, cloudy, 3 p.m.; Philadelphia at Washington, clear, 3 p.m.; New York at Boston, rain, 3 p.m.

International League—Buffalo at Newark, rain, 3:30 p.m.; Montreal at Providence, cloudy, 3:15 p.m.; Toronto at Baltimore, fair, 3:35 p.m.; Rochester at Richmond, clear, 4 p.m.

U. S. AMBASSADOR IN CONSTANTINOPLE VERY ILL
The Hague, April 19.—Via London, April 20.—United States Ambassador Elkus is seriously ill in Constantinople, with spotted typhoid, according to a despatch from Berlin. The Vossische Zeitung says a German specialist is assisting the embassy physician.

GERMAN RAIDER REPORTED OFF COAST OF MONTEVIDEO
Buenos Aires, April 20.—A German raider has been sighted off Montevideo, according to reports in maritime circles. The commander of a steamer which has reached here, declares that he sighted a suspicious looking craft during a voyage from Rio Janeiro to Montevideo. The delay in the arrival of several vessels has given some concern. The minister of marine has discussed the reports with the president.

WORD OF SOLDIERS
The following are requested to communicate with the office of the Western Union Telegraph Co. here: Thomas Williams, next of kin of No. 792286, Pte. Roger Bernard Williams; Charles Vail, formerly of Partridge Island, and next of kin of No. 444879, Pte. Joseph Gerow; Mrs. Elizabeth Johnston, formerly of No. 72 Portland place, who is next of kin of No. 684980, Pte. Harry Johnston.

NEXT WEEK
The Bullock fire investigation has been postponed for another week.

MEN IN KRUPPS' REPORTED ON STRIKE

Amsterdam, April 20.—(Via London)—Strikes have broken out in various munition factories in Germany, including the Krupps. The Telegraaf says it has learned this from German sources.