

# ATTENTION IN FRANCE DRIVE HUNS IN DESPERATE FIGHT

## BRITISH SWEEP OVER THE GERMAN POSITIONS IN TERRIFIC BATTLE

### Army of King George on Day of Patron Saint of England Charges Enemy and Capture Positions in Front of Hindenburg Line.

### 'Sky' Fight for Miles With Flashes of Guns—Heaviest Fighting Along Both Banks of Scarpe and Around Monchy-Le-Preux.

(From a Staff Correspondent of The Associated Press.)

With the British Armies in France, via London, April 23.—The battle of Arras, which had been smouldering for a week past, burst into flaming fury again today and is still raging tonight, with some of the heaviest fighting of the war in progress. The sky is alight for miles with the flashes of guns, with star shells that spread a moonlight pallor over the battlefield, and with varied-colored rockets which flash signals to the opposing artillery. The cold east wind carries the echoes of the reverberating cannonade far back of the British lines. The fighting today covered approximately an eight-mile front, from south of Vimy Ridge to a point well below Croisilles. At the north end of the attack the British swept over German fixed positions, running almost due south from Lens and captured long sections of German positions in front of the Hindenburg line and a great number of prisoners.

Take 1,200 Prisoners.

More than 1,200 prisoners were counted in this sector late today, and others were still coming in. The largest number of prisoners was from the 141st Pomeranian, who surrendered in hundreds after very brief resistance. A battery of field guns was also taken. Between Gavrelle and Croisilles the heaviest fighting occurred along both banks of the Scarpe and around Monchy-Le-Preux, where the British Easter advance had projected a sharp salient into the German lines. Monchy was taken in the first phase of the Arras battle after three days fighting, and has been held against desperate counter-attacks. The Germans always managed to cling to the slopes on either side of the hill on which Monchy-Le-Preux is perched, this being the highest point east of Arras and Vimy overlooking the great broad eastern plain of Northern France.

Threw Full Force.

The Germans today were undoubtedly throwing their full force into their resistance along the Scarpe. They had brought up strong reserves to oppose a further British advance, and had thrown in scores of new batteries of artillery.

The fighting about Guemappes, due south of Monchy, was extremely bitter. The attacking British waves "went over" in the half gray light of dawn. It was still dark enough to make a fiery spectacle of the barrage which crept ahead of them—a veritable wall of exploding shells. Men who have been over several times under the protection of a barrage are apt to grow a bit over-confident in following the shells, and occasionally get hit by bits flying back, although finally every shell clearing the way for the infantry bursts forward with a great spray of shrapnel bullets. A modern barrage, as set up by the British and French gunners, is a terrifying thing to face, and the Germans involuntarily break before it, many of them seeking any dugouts available.

Huns Had To Fight.

Today in many parts of the battle front there were no more dugouts to serve as shelters, and the Germans had to stand and fight, with the result that their casualties were higher and the prisoners fewer in these sections of the line.

The British advanced in nearly every instance from mere half trenches, where they had been lying for the past week awaiting the bringing up of artillery and the order to advance. The Germans opposite them had been digging at every possible opportunity, but they, too, were unable to construct more than sections of an unconnected trench, with machine guns concealed in every possible nook and corner. In the villages which skirted the battle front it seemed as if every building contained machine gun crews. Many machine guns were fired on the opposite bank of the River Scarpe, and it was somewhat difficult to deal with them.

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT.**

Cuban Minister Plenipotentiary at London, England, transcribes a cablegram from Foreign Minister Desvignes of Cuba saying that all the Rebel Chiefs and instigators of the Rebellion in the Island have surrendered, and peace reigns over all the territory of the Cuban Republic.

**NOTICE TO MARINERS.**

Portland, Me., April 20.—Kennebec River, Me.—Ames Ledge Light was lighted for the season on April 18. Abagadasset Rock Buoy, 25, second-class iron spar, was found out of position and replaced on April 18.

## HUNS AGAIN USING GAS

### Stewart Lyon Tells Why British General Holds Back His Men—Would Lose Lives in Facing Barbarism.

Canadian headquarters in France, via London, April 23.—(By Stewart Lyon, special correspondent Canadian Press)—At dawn this (Monday) morning, after a vigorous artillery preparation, an attack was launched upon that part of the enemy line opposite the northern end of the Canadian corps, on the centre and on the extreme south. The attack was speedily successful and our objectives were reached with relatively small losses. At the northern end of the line the enemy developed a tenacious resistance, at the electric station to the west of Avion. Here houses had been transformed into carefully fortified machine gun positions, which were difficult to deal with.

## WOODSTOCK HONORS YPRES ANNIVERSARY

Ottawa, April 23.—(Special to The Standard.) Woodstock, April 23.—Yesterday, the second anniversary of the battle of Ypres, the 66th Field Battery paraded in St. Luke's church, where a special service was held and a sermon appropriate to the occasion was preached by the rector, Rev. A. S. Hasel. Four veterans who took part in the battle were present, Major Evans, Sgt. Hooper, Pte. Wm. Sutton and Pte. J. B. Tompkins. The battery, seventy strong, was in command of Major Evans, with Capt. Berry and Lieut. Ritchie. Flags were displayed quite generally in honor of the occasion.

## HON. WILLIAM PUGSLEY BELIEVES CONFESSION GOOD FOR THE PARTY.

Ottawa, April 23.—(Special to The Standard.) "Fortunately our government did not hold power during a great European war" was the frank admission of Hon. William Pugsley in the Commons this evening.

The member for St. John had been criticizing the government for its shipbuilding policy. He said it had not built ships as it should have done.

Mr. Lalor—"What did your government do in fifteen years with regard to building ships?"

And then Mr. Pugsley made the important admission quoted above. He said it was not a confession, but a statement of fact. He said the government, but the member for St. John passed out without any further allusion to the point which is generally conceded in the Dominion.

## UNITED STATES MAY HAVE PROHIBITION.

Washington, April 19.—A bill to authorize the president during the war to prohibit the sale, manufacture, gift, transportation, importation or exportation of all alcoholic spirits, malt or vinous liquors, or any other intoxicating drink, was introduced today by Representative Howard of Georgia.

## LEONARD FISHERIES COMPANY FORM BIG COMBINATION.

Montreal, April 23.—The Leonard Fisheries Limited have been incorporated with a capital of \$1,000,000 and has taken over a number of firms throughout Canada, among them Leonard Brothers of Montreal. The firm will be one of the largest on the continent.

## THE SOCIALISTS IN PRESS IN DENMARK ASK PEACE

Copenhagen, April 23, via London.—Peace within two months and a half is predicted by the Copenhagen correspondent of the Danish Socialist Press who confirms the reports of unofficial negotiations between Russian and German Socialists, as against the diplomatic demure in the Socialist newspapers here and in Berlin.

The first negotiations, says the correspondent, who is a Socialist member of the Danish Parliament, were broken off, enabling two papers to launch a denial that they were in progress, but they were immediately resumed and are being prosecuted vigorously. The correspondent then enters into a discussion of peace terms, in which he expects to take German Socialist expectations and hopes for the Government policy.

"I am assured from an absolutely trustworthy source," he says, "that Germany is ready to restore Belgium and Serbia, evacuate France and, with Turkey, arrange an agreement with Russia over the free navigation of the Dardanelles. An agreement is also possible of the Polish question, as the Russian Government knows."

The correspondent pictures England as the sole obstacle to peace. There is reason to believe that the first part of his statement, regarding negotiations between Russian and German Socialists, is correct, but his explanation of German peace terms conflicts with the recent highly official declaration of the North German Gazette that Germany is willing to conclude peace, but on terms compatible with the great sacrifice which she has made.

A Vienna despatch says that the Austrian Parliament will be summoned to meet in the middle of May.

## CANADIANS SEND ANOTHER CARGO OF WHEAT TO BELGIANS

New York, April 23.—The local officers of the Belgian relief committee authorize the information that another full cargo of Canadian wheat, a gift from the people of Canada, has been shipped to the commission's headquarters at Rotterdam, for distribution among the destitute civil population of Belgium. The value of the cargo is estimated at \$12,235 and is the seventh complete cargo of wheat sent to Belgium by the people of Canada.

## BANGOR & ARROSTOOK ROAD RAISES PAY

Houlton, Me., April 23.—General Manager J. B. Stewart of the Bangor and Arrostoook Railroad announced that the new rates to be charged to the transportation, maintenance of way, and mechanical departments. The wages increase varies greatly in the different departments.

The general manager in a circular to the men asks them to consider the burden placed on the road at the present time. The \$2.25 of the company expects to pay \$2.25 a ton more for coal than it did last year.

## MONEY EASIER IN LONDON YESTERDAY.

Special to The Standard.

London, April 23.—Money and discount rates were a shade easier today. Bills are still scarce, as most of the recent treasury offerings were taken by banks and financial institutions. The stock market maintained a cheerful tone on the war news. Gilt-edged and allied stocks were hardened and industrials were soon going on north country buying, especially explosive shares on the forthcoming amalgamation.

Much activity prevailed in mining and rubber stocks and Chinese issues, but Brazilians were weak on disturbing political reports.

American securities were slack and only a few of the low-priced shares received attention. Mexicans closed better.

## PRIZES FOR "JIGGS AND MAGGIE" DIALOGUES.

Did you read the "Jiggs" page in yesterday's Standard? A good many people did. But if you failed to give attention to it see that you read every word tomorrow when it appears again. In that page—which is chock full of valuable advertising—nine business houses offer valuable prizes for the best Jiggs and Maggie dialogues touching on their respective lines. Early yesterday replies began to come in, but the contest will be open for two weeks and there is every opportunity to make good. Read every word on the "Jiggs" page tomorrow.

## GHT ATTEMPT TO CONFUSE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA IN WAR TIME IS FAILURE

### Sly Move by Pugsley and Rest of Opposition Defeated by Vote of 48 to 28—McCoig of West Kent, Ont., Put Up by Desperate Politicians Who Took Advantage of Absence of Premier and Sir George Foster

Ottawa, April 23.—The possibility of a slight revision in the tariff to permit of the free importation of seed beans into Canada was suggested in the House of Commons today by the resolution given the assent introduced by A. McCoig of West Kent. The Kent member in asking for the removal of the duty spoke particularly upon behalf of the counties in southwestern Ontario where bean growing is one of the important industries. He spoke of the scarcity of seed and of the anxiety of the farmers in the district to secure adequate supplies from the states.

"It would mean greatly increased production," said Mr. McCoig, "and with the government calling upon the farmers to increase production as much as possible it would seem absolutely necessary to give the farmers a chance to get their seed easily. I feel satisfied that the government will grant this request."

McCoig Expressed Surprise.

Sir Thomas White referred to the fact that he had discussed the matter with Mr. McCoig and expressed surprise that the resolution had been pressed at this time.

"It would be better to let the matter stand for two or three days," he said, "until after the budget is down."

Mr. McCoig accepted the hint and, remarking that if the farmers got a chance to get their seed during the war it would be in time enough, he allowed his resolution to stand.

Wasted Half Hour.

The opposition put in a half hour asking questions, warming up to the work so thoroughly that the Speaker had to counsel briefly. G. W. Kyle, drew from the Minister of Militia a statement that the Ross rifle factory is not manufacturing rifles at the present time but that the government was proceeding with the greatest possible despatch in connection with the necessary specifications, patterns and so forth for the making of a new rifle. Appraisers, he said, were now busy taking an inventory of the factory.

Pugsley Wants To Know.

Hon. W. Pugsley drew attention to coal prices in St. John and dwelt upon the serious nature of the transportation question. When he reached the end of it he asked what steps had been taken for the building of the vessels in Canada.

Sir Thomas White supplied the answer. He stated that the government had given considerable attention to the matter and he was able to state that the imperial government through the munitions board had placed orders in Canada for twenty-two steel vessels for a total of 175,000 tons, and that the construction of eight more steel vessels was under advisement.

The result was that Canadian shipyard plants had enough orders to carry them well into the middle of 1918.

"Some time ago," added Sir Thomas, "I took up the question of building wooden ships, I offered on behalf of the government to set aside money on this side to the amount of \$10,000,000 to place the imperial government in funds for the purpose of purchasing and constructing wooden ships in Canada. That matter is now under consideration and I am of the opinion that orders for a considerable tonnage will be placed here through the imperial government. They will of course be of service not only in transporting our products to Great Britain but also in assisting the general shipping situation."

Sir Thomas in reply to a question informed the house that the government had received no intimation that France intended to denounce the Franco-Canadian treaty.

"Another Patriot."

Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux in moving for a return lodged a protest against the increase in toll rates on the Victoria bridge, Montreal. He told of the difficulties of farmers on the south shore, declaring that they considered the new rates prohibitive. He called upon the Quebec members of the government to use their efforts in having the disability removed and secure free traffic on the bridge for the farmers.

Hon. Mr. Patenaude, postmaster general, met the appeal by pointing out to Mr. Lemieux that the increase in the toll rates did not affect farmers at all—it applied merely to motor vehicles and trucks, etc.

Hon. Mr. Reid.

Hon. Dr. Reid, who, as acting minister, but would make inquiries.

## PICOTU MEMBER GETS AFTER HON. MR. COCHRANE

Ottawa, April 23.—In the Commons today, Mr. E. M. MacDonald drew the attention of the Minister of Railways to a despatch from Stellarton to the Halifax Herald, stating that the Acadia Coal Company had large supplies of coal ready for delivery but that it could not be moved owing to car shortage on the Intercolonial. Mr. MacDonald noted that it was reported that the Minister of Railways was offering the company only \$4.25 a ton for coal which the Canadian Pacific was paying this and other companies \$5.25 a ton. Mr. MacDonald said that he was also informed that the minister paid \$3.25 per ton for coal purchased in the United States and delivered at Halifax. The member of Picotou wanted to know what Mr. Cochrane thought of such a situation.

Mr. Cochrane replied that the department had made no contract with the Acadia Company but had offered them the same price which was being paid to other companies. He added that he had heard nothing of the car shortage but would make inquiries.

## MORT QUESTIONS.

Hon. Geo. P. Graham was informed that the government had no information as to the Canadian bond holders on the Quebec and Saguenay. Sir Edward Kemp stated that Dr. Bruce had informed him that his reply to the Bapiste report was on the way but had not yet been received.

Dr. Edwards was informed that there was no exact record of the distribution of blank national service cards by provinces available.

The resolution as it stood took in every type of traction engine, said Sir Thomas White, the duty had been taken off power dicing machines because they were not made in Canada. If the present resolution was adopted they would have to take the duty off the raw materials that entered into their manufacture. The resolution in its present form was not acceptable to the government. The government at the present time required revenue and also the development of Canadian industries. If the mover of the resolution was prepared to amend it to restrict its application, the government would consider it. Hon. Wm. Pugsley interposed that the British government had bought for the use of their tractors two thousand of these tractors from the United States, and Mr. Pardee added that the Ontario government was making similar purchases in the same country.

Grits Defeated.

The Liberals demanded a division; the vote that followed ended with the defeat of the resolution by 48 to 28.