

# BRITISH LINE SHATTERED IN STRONGEST SECTION

## HOLDING ALLIES ELY ENDANGERED SALIENT GRAYON THE YPRES

Special Cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard.  
(By W. L. MacPherson).

London, April 16.—The crisis in Flanders is at hand. Entering its second week, Von Ludendorff's offensive took on new fierceness and smashed its way through new obstacles. The British line has been shattered again, this time in its strongest sector. The formidable positions at Wytchate and on the Messines Ridge have been captured by direct assault, and the hold of the British on the famous Ypres salient is gravely endangered. The British still hold some of the more northerly Messines slopes, and have extended their line west across Mount Kemmel and thence to the hill above Bailleul, but their position has become critical, the line defending Ypres on the south has lost its anchor point. All the advantages gained by the brilliant operation by which the British took the Messines Ridges last summer have been forfeited. The Ypres salient is again becoming too cramped for safety, and a retirement from it under pressure would dislocate the entire allied line north to Dixmude and Nieuport.

**Frontal Attacks.**  
Neuve Eglise was captured Sunday. Wulverghen fell on Monday. Bailleul fell into Hindenburg's hands on Monday night or early yesterday morning. But turning away from the tactics of slow envelopment, the Messines Ridge and Wytchate were seized yesterday afternoon by frontal attacks. The enemy is lavishing his divisions everywhere without thought of anything but the speediest possible decision. The extent of the enemy's success at Messines is not yet clearly established. But it is at least plain that the British forces in this sector have not been strong enough to stand up under the terrific pounding. Immediate reinforcements may restore the situation somewhat but failure to deliver adequate reserves earlier has complicated the task of defence and given a new lease of life to a fanatical offensive.

**Forces Too Weak.**  
There have been many indications during the last week that the British were attempting to hold on in the Lys Valley with too weak forces. At the first battle of Ypres in the fall of 1914 150,000 British, French and Belgians held off 500,000 Germans but miracles do not repeat themselves. And the Germans are fighting with more ferocity now than they showed in 1914. The whole question of the handling of reserves on the allied west front has necessarily been tied up with the issue of unified command, undetermined until very recently. Originally Foch's function was supposed to be to construct and command.

An independent strategic army to be used only in a crisis that conception could not help making inactive large masses of troops. It put a harder task on the troops in the first line. Ludendorff has no strategic army unoccupied, if he ever had one it has already been thrown in. Now that Foch has been recognized as the actual head of all the greatly simplified. There is but one allied army today and all its activities are now about to be coordinated.

## THE NEW BRUNSWICK POWER HEARING RESUMED YESTERDAY

### Mayor Hayes and Counsel Represent City of St. John Before Corporations Committee — F. R. Taylor, K.C., Again Presents Claim of the Company—Union Street Trackage Bill Under Consideration.

Fredericton, April 16.—Before the committee on corporations today the following bills were stated for presentation: An act to appoint a commissioner in the matter of the N. B. Power Company; an act to empower the N. B. Power Co. to increase its rates; an act relating to the Nepesiguit river and to the St. John River Log Driving Company; an act to reduce trackage on Union street, St. John, to a single line.

Mayor Hayes and Commissioner Fisher were present in the interest of St. John. On motion, Commissioner Fisher was first heard in reference to Union street trackage. On suggestion of Chairman J. P. Burchill the bill was left with the committee for private consideration. Commissioner Fisher submitted a plan of the area.

Mr. Fred R. Taylor, K. C., opposed the bill on behalf of the Power Co. Mayor Hayes declared that Union street was so narrow, with two tracks that teams at times had to travel almost on the sidewalk to pass cars and other vehicles. He said the feeling was general in St. John that the street should have only a single track and the Common Council favored Mr. Fisher's endeavor.

The N. B. Power Company's petition for increase in rates was next taken up. On motion, Mayor Hayes was first heard. His Worship said there was a feeling there had been considerable manipulation in the company's affairs. The public was getting the poorest kind of service in that car accommodation was inadequate, and there was the strongest kind of opposition in St. John against even a temporary increase in rates. There was a suspicion in St. John that an effort was being made by the company to increase their revenue so as to pay dividends on watered stocks.

Dr. Wallace, K. C., counsel for the city, explained the purpose of the bill petitioning for the appointment of a commissioner. He requested that Premier Foster and Hon. J. A. Murray, leader of the Opposition, support the commission.

Consolidation of all the acts relating to the Power Company was urged by Dr. Wallace. To the Attorney General Dr. Wallace said the city favored having three members for the commission.

Dr. Wallace presented the reports of experts on gas, light and power. He quoted the total estimate of value at \$2,184,987, and pointed out that it was less than the valuation of \$2,414,000 arrived at by Auditor MacIntyre.

In ten months, 1917, the gross income of the N. B. Power Company was \$590,754; the Eastern Electric earned \$2,000 net per month. There was a gradual increase in the gross earnings of both the N. B. Power Company and Eastern Electric this year, as compared with last year. The gross earnings for 1917 were \$84,000 in excess of 1916. Dr. Wallace, on behalf of the citizens of St. John, asked for a commission. He declared that if anything were put on the statute books increasing the Power Company's rates there would be trouble.

self in 1918 unable to meet the interest on its bonds. Fitch—What would happen then?

Mr. Taylor said the best they could possibly estimate and making no allowance for decreased earnings as the result of the daylight saving measure they would have not more than \$38,000 with which to meet bond interest charges aggregating \$87,500; they would if such a thing came try to borrow money but he was not optimistic as to this for the restrictions enacted by the banks and the fact that the company could not secure increased rates and consequently was going behind it would be a very difficult matter to secure loans. Falling ability to borrow money from the banks and defaulting on their bonds it would be necessary to appoint a receiver.

Mr. Burchill interrupted to say that the burden of the city claim was that the interest charges were too high. He asked Mr. Taylor what he had to say as to that.

Hon. Mr. Baxter.

Hon. Mr. Baxter said that under the former organization such charges were \$118,000 per year while this company had increased that charge to \$182,000.

Mr. Taylor in reply said it was not a question of what the old company paid but what would be a fair return on the value of the property. In these days of six per cent. government bonds seven per cent. was not too much to ask for an industrial investment and the value of the plant of the N. B. Power Co. was \$2,400,000 on the Sloan report at \$2,605,000 the interest on that valuation would be in the vicinity of \$182,000. This valuation took into account the Eastern Electric Co., which was a mercantile account and subject to fluctuation, or of the water power owned by the company. The Sloan report also states that the company would be justified in asking for depreciation \$44,000 on the railway plant and \$27,000 on the gas and electric plant. This allowance they were not making at the present time or under the estimate of regular earnings submitted to the committee.

**Amount of Money.**  
Mr. Tilley asked as to the amount of money in the treasury of the old company and the number of shares. Mr. Taylor said he could not tell exactly but he knew that all of it had been expended on the road. No member of the new company had made a dollar's profit on his investment in the company and no member had a share to earn a profit except through developing the value of the water power owned by the company. In conclusion Mr. Taylor said the situation was simple whether the company could get the relief asked for or whether it would be forced to go into bankruptcy. It required \$87,500 for bond interest alone and at the most favorable estimate could not pay more than \$85,000 with which to pay the cost \$187 to manufacture gas which sold for \$1.50 and \$4 cents to carry a passenger on the street railway for which the company received but 4 1/4 cents. These were facts that could be substantiated. If the company failed, and a receiver were appointed he would not operate at a loss and the city would be without facilities which it required. And whereas it is a city of the size of St. John should have, if the company secured the assistance it asked for, it would be able to obtain additional capital and in time develop a service of which the city and province could be proud. He felt that the city bill was unfair inasmuch as the city had had since last November to gather up all the information required but had failed to do so. Their application for commission now merely meant additional delay for a period of time in which the company might go into bankruptcy.

Mr. Tilley Mr. Taylor said the company so far as he knew had paid money for the water power as the owner of the company was all stockholders in the Power Co. and as to the disposition of the \$2,000,000 common stock he said it had been issued for value. Including the multiplication of common stock the total capitalization of the company was \$5,100,000 and against this the plant for a replacement value of \$4,500,000, Mr. Taylor urged that the committee should give favorable consideration to the company's request.

Dr. Wallace saw no objection to Dr. Baxter's proposal. This closed the city's case.

F. R. Taylor, K. C.

## CANADA WILL CALL OUT MEN

### (Continued from page 1) Men of Any Age.

In order that the government may have full power to deal with the situation as it may develop from time to time parliament is asked to approve of the governor-in-council being given on the necessary authority to call out the men of any age, in any class under the Military Service Act, and to abolish all exemptions in the case of any class so called.

The order-in-council not only makes all young men now 19 years of age subject to the provisions of the Military Service Act, but also all other young men aged and when they attain 19 years of age.

The order removes the exemption now enjoyed by officers and men who have been in the expeditionary force but who did not participate in the Great Britain, and have since returned to Canada and been discharged from military service. Who are physically fit they will be required to serve if physically fit when their class is called.

Foreigners included. Certain treaties are now under negotiation with foreign governments under which citizens of such countries resident in Canada may be made liable to military service. Where any such treaty is concluded, the order-in-council gives the government

# BRITISH ARMS MEET SEVERE REVERSE, ENEMY ADVANCING 2 MILES ON 11-MILE FRONT

(Continued from page 1)  
The Odds Overwhelming.

When Haig calls the odds "overwhelming" some appreciation may be had of the violence of the struggle, for the British field marshal is sparing in his use of adjectives. To the south and in the centre of the battlefield the British lines are holding. It is only in the north that enemy's pressure is bringing him results, but unfortunately that is the point where the advance causes the greatest embarrassment.

However, it is well to remember that in this war there have been innumerable instances where the margin between success and failure was a matter of feet rather than miles.

Some cool keen judges consider that the Germans have now reached the limit of their advance and that the British will hold their new positions against all further onslaughts. They base their views on the facts that the positions are strongest in northern France and Belgium and that the enemy has suffered the heaviest casualties of the war in the last four days. They are prepared to see local enemy successes but they believe there will be no break through.

## On Amiens Front.

On the Amiens front the roar of the guns continue, but the infantry waits. Attacks on Paris by air and by long range guns, intended to break the French morale, is considered a part of the enemy's move to get Foch to strike quickly and uncover his hand, but no amount of pressure can force the generalissimo to act before he is ready. He is the supreme military director of the Allies' fortunes.

the power to call out the citizens of such country for service as members of the Canadian expeditionary force in the same manner as British subjects.

The number of men the government is authorized to raise under the Military Service Act remains at 100,000. Whether or not parliament will be asked to increase this number before the House adjourns is entirely upon developments at the front and prospective need for reinforcements. The minister of militia is given authority to grant exemption from the class called to young men who have relatives at the front. This absolute is the only recognized ground for exemption, it being considered that in view of the exigencies of the military situation there are no men in Canada between the ages of twenty and twenty-three who are indispensable.

## Order in Council.

Ottawa, April 16.—The following is a copy of an order-in-council amending the military service act, which will be introduced in the Commons and Senate on Thursday as a resolution: Whereas, there is an immediate and urgent need of reinforcements for the Canadian expeditionary force and the necessity for these reinforcements admits of no delay; And whereas, it is deemed essential that, notwithstanding exemptions heretofore granted, a substantial number of men should be withdrawn forthwith from civil life for the purpose of serving in a military capacity; And whereas, having regard to the number of men immediately required and to the urgency of the demand, time does not permit of examination by exemption tribunals of the value in civil life of the position of the individuals called up for duty;

Therefore, His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, on the recommendation of the Right Honourable the Prime Minister, and under the authority of the powers conferred on the governor-in-council by the war measures act, 1914, and otherwise, is pleased to make the following regulations, which shall come into force as soon as approved by resolution of both houses of parliament and the sanction hereby made and enacted accordingly:

**REGULATIONS.**  
1 In these regulations:  
(A) "Minister" shall mean the minister of militia and defence.  
(B) "Act" shall mean the military service act, 1917.  
2 Class one under the act shall, in addition to the men included therein as in the said act mentioned, include all men who:  
(A) are British subjects; and  
(B) are not within the classes of persons described in the exceptions mentioned in the schedule to the act; and  
(C) have attained the age of 19 years; and were born on or since 13th October, 1917; and  
(D) are unmarried or widowers without children; and  
(E) are resident in Canada.  
(F) Class two under the military service act 1917 shall, in addition to the men included therein as in the said act mentioned, include all men who:  
(A) are British subjects; and  
(B) are not within the classes of persons described in the exceptions mentioned in the schedule to the said act; and  
(C) have attained the age of 19 years; and were born on or since 13th October, 1917; and  
(D) are married or widowers with children; and  
(E) are resident in Canada.  
3 The words "in any theatre of actual war" in the fifth exception in the schedule to the act shall not include the high seas of Great Britain or Ireland and the said exception shall be interpreted accordingly.  
4 The governor-in-council may direct orders to report for duty to issue to men in any class under the act of any named age or ages or who were born in named years or any named year or part of any year, or any exemption theretofore granted to any man of any such named age or year of birth shall cease from and after noon from the day upon which he is ordered so to report and no claim for exemption by or in respect of any

man shall be entertained or considered after the issue to him of such order, provided, however, that the minister may grant leave of absence without pay to any man by reason of the death, disablement or service of other members of the same family while on active service in any theatre of actual war.  
5 The age stated in any claim for exemption made by or on behalf of any man or in any other document signed by the man shall be conclusive evidence as against him of his age and year of birth.  
6 The minister may, from time to time, direct that no orders to report for duty be issued to men who have been examined by military medical boards and placed in such medical categories as are specified in such direction.  
7 All men included in class one, by virtue of the provisions of these regulations shall report to the registrar or deputy registrar under the act as requested by proclamation; they shall be subject to military law as in such proclamation set out and shall, in the event of their failing to report, be liable to the penalties specified in the act and the regulations thereunder.  
8 All men included in class one, by virtue of the provisions of these regulations shall report to the registrar or deputy registrar under the act as requested by proclamation; they shall be subject to military law as in such proclamation set out and shall, in the event of their failing to report, be liable to the penalties specified in the act and the regulations thereunder.  
9 (A) Any man, now unmarried, who at any time hereafter attains the age of nineteen years and is then a British subject resident in Canada and not within one of the exceptions in the schedule to the act, shall and  
(B) Any man who, having attained the age of nineteen years, being then a British subject, resident as aforesaid and not within one of the exceptions in the schedule to the act, becomes a widower without children shall, if the class within which he then falls has been called out on active service.  
10 Where under or pursuant to any treaty or convention with any foreign government or any country, provision is made or may hereafter be made that the subject of such government or the citizens of such country resident in Canada may be made liable by law to military service, such subjects or citizens of such government or country may be called out by proclamation, and shall report, be liable to military law, and be placed on active service, as may be specified in said proclamation or in the act or the regulations thereunder.

**GIRL CAUSED TROUBLE DECLARES O'CONNOR.**  
Hon. T. W. Crothers Lays Additional Correspondence on Resignation on Table of Commons.  
Ottawa, April 16.—Hon. T. W. Crothers, minister of labor, in the commons this afternoon tabled additional correspondence between himself and Mr. W. F. O'Connor, which led to the resignation of the latter as commissioner of coast of living. Continuing, Mr. O'Connor states that the friction between the minister and himself was due to one person, a young lady, salary \$700 per annum, "who was placed in the department under me by you and who maintains that through her father's influence with you, she is free of discipline, except at your hands. Since the advent of this clerk, a previously perfect office mechanism has been completely disorganized."

**SMALLPOX IN QUEENS.**  
Special to The Standard.  
Chipman, April 16.—Smallpox has appeared here. Dr. Hay is in charge of the quarantine arrangements.  
Mrs. Frank W. Green.  
The death is announced in Boston of Mrs. Irene Pearl Wilson, wife of Frank W. Green, formerly of St. John. She was 35 years of age.

**A FORMER ST. JOHN MAN OF 84 DIES IN MONCTON.**  
Special to The Standard.  
Moncton, April 16.—James Potter, age 84 years, a former resident of St. John, died here yesterday. He had lived in Moncton the past ten or twelve years. He leaves no family.

**FIGHTING HARD THE BRITISH FALL BACK**  
Field Marshal Haig Tells of Hard Struggle in the Ypres Salient.  
Hostile Artillery Becomes More Active to Southward of Albert.

British Headquarters in France, April 16, (Via Reuter's Ottawa agency).—The enemy has carried Wytchate and has established himself in Spanbroekmolen. The greater part of Messines Ridge is in enemy's hands. We hold the slopes.  
Field Marshal Haig, in his official report tonight announces the occupation by the Germans of both Wytchate and Spanbroekmolen.  
The report says: "Severe fighting has been taking place today on the front from Meteren to Wytchate."  
"At dawn the enemy renewed his attacks in strength in the neighborhood of Wytchate and Spanbroekmolen."  
"Supported by a heavy bombardment, his troops approached our positions under cover of the mist, and after a prolonged struggle gained possession of both localities."  
"At Meteren the enemy also succeeded during the morning in obtaining a footing in the village, where the fighting is continuing."  
"On other parts of the above front the enemy attacks were repulsed."  
"This morning the enemy also entered a strong local attack upon our positions opposite Bailleul, south of Arras and fighting is still taking place in this neighborhood."  
"The hostile artillery has been more active today south of Albert and in the neighborhood of La Bassée Canal. Bodies of German infantry assembling in the vicinity of Locon were engaged and dispersed by our artillery. There has been increased activity on both sides in the Paschendale sector."  
"On the remainder of the British front the situation is unchanged."

**GERMANS ATTACK IN A DENSE MIST**  
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Your new Spring Shirts are here  
A credit to Canada's ingenuity in the weave and in the design.  
The whole Spring showing is dominated by good taste.  
Many novelties in stripes.  
Here are madras shirts, tailored neckbands, double cuffs, at \$1.25.  
Gilmour's, 68 King St.

MINIATURE ALMANAC.  
April—Phases of the Moon.  
Last Quarter..... 4th 5h. 32m. a.m.  
New Moon..... 11th 0h. 32m. a.m.  
First Quarter..... 17th midnight  
Full Moon..... 26th 4h. 5m. a.m.

Date	Day of W.	Sun Rise	Sun Sets	H. Water a.m.	H. Water p.m.	L. Water a.m.	L. Water p.m.
17	Wed	5.40	7.07	4.23	16.57	4.32	23.10

**THE WEATHER.**  
Maritime—Moderate winds; scattered showers but mostly fair and cool.  
Washington, April 16.—Northern New England: Generally fair Wednesday and Thursday. Light variable winds.

Toronto, April 16.—Showers have been general in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, while in all other parts of the Dominion the weather has been fair. It has been moderately warm in Ontario and western Quebec, elsewhere rather cool.

	Min.	Max.
Prince Rupert	34	46
Victoria	42	59
Vancouver	45	58
Kamloops	30	46
Edmonton	30	50
Calgary	30	52
Prince Albert	34	44
Moosajaw	37	40
Winnipeg	40	50
Port Arthur	36	48
Fort Snodgrass	34	46
London	35	61
Toronto	35	57
Kingston	40	50
Ottawa	34	64
Montreal	35	58
Quebec	36	53
St. John	26	44
Halifax	30	44

## BIG DRIVE IN ITALY SOON

Washington, April 16.—An Austrian offensive against Italy is imminent and will be started on a large scale in the opinion of Italian observers as expressed in official messages today to the Italian embassy here. The recent visit of Emperor Charles to the Austrian front and inspired articles in the Austrian and German newspapers, the usual forerunners of an offensive are taken as an indication.

"The enemy press has begun to speak only of the offensive in order to prepare the Austro-Hungarian public for the inevitable losses resulting from such colossal operations as are anticipated by semi-official newspapers," says the despatches received here today.

**FRENCH CALL.**  
Paris, April 16.—The 1918 contingent of the French army (youths of nineteen years) is just going to the barracks to begin training. Although called out a year before the usual time, these young men are in better condition physically than any of their predecessors.

**FURTHER TROUBLE IN COUNTIES IN IRELAND.**  
Belfast, April 16.—The Lord Mayor of Dublin is organizing an anti-conscription conference and has invited De Valera to attend. Meanwhile agitators are stirring the country everywhere.  
There is no more lawlessness south-west of Camlough. The police barracks were attacked by Sinn Feiners because of the arrest for illegal drilling. Several local bodies passed anti-conscription resolutions. This is how home rulers are helping the empire in its danger. In the past week over a thousand Protestants enlisted in the British army. A few home rulers enlistments were nil.

Paris, April 17.—Bolo Pash has been executed at Vincennes.  
Major Donald and Major Bull are in the city.

**NEW FRENCH METHOD, No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 THERAPY**  
Kilney, Glasgow, and Allied Diseases, Piles, and all other ailments, treated by the new French method. Free advice on condition in your own home. Follow us through the Channel. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.