

British Drive Out Germans Near Robecq; French Lines Completely Re-established

IRISH PROBLEM BECOMES SERIOUS AND DIFFICULT INTERNATIONAL QUESTION

News from Ireland is Bad and the Fate of Lloyd George Government is Involved in Solution of the Difficulty—Irish People Appear to be United in Opposition to Conscription.

Few Politicians Believe that Any British Government Would Attempt to Force Conscription if the Irish Parliament Were Opposed to it—Big Voluntary Army May be Raised by Devlin and His Colleagues and this May Prove the Ultimate Solution.

Special Cable to N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard. (By Arthur S. Draper.)

London, April 21.—England's greatest domestic problem in these anxious days is not the position of labor or the economic situation, or the problem of financing the war, but Ireland. It is a domestic affair, but has become also an international question.

The news from Ireland is bad. That is the interpretation even of those who are most hopeful of an amicable settlement of the problem which has plagued England so many times in the past and which now rises to embarrass her in the most critical days of her long history. Ireland is finally united. Nationalists, Ulstermen and Sinn Feiners are today all of one mind, but their unity is based upon the opposition to the policy of conscription to which the British government is committed.

What is the position of the British government? Having forced through the measure for conscription in Ireland on the ground that it would be an injustice to raise the age limit in the United Kingdom without compelling the Irishmen to accept their share of the burden of the war, the government agreed that compulsion should not be enforced in Ireland without giving warning in the House of Commons, and also promised to speed up the Home Rule scheme, upon the passage of which in both houses it stakes its existence.

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GERMANS FORCED OUT BY BRITISH NEAR BETHUNE

British Troops Near Robecq Drive Out Enemy from Some of His Advanced Positions Field Marshal Haig Announces—Aside from Artillery Engagements there was Little Other Activity Along Front Sunday.

London, April 21.—The British troops near Robecq, northwest of Bethune, today drove out the Germans from some of their advanced positions, according to Field Marshal Haig's statement, issued by the war office. Aside from artillery engagements there was little other activity along the front Sunday.

Paris, April 21.—The French lines north of Seicheprey where the Germans inaugurated a heavy attack against the French and Americans yesterday, have been completely re-established, according to the war office announcement today. The text of the statement reads:

"There was no infantry action, but both artilleries were active at various points on the Somme, the Ayre and the Oise, as well as on the right bank of the Meuse."

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GERMAN ARMY IS IN A BAD SITUATION

Enemy Has Madly Lavished His Artillery Fire and Sacrificed Human Material

HE HAS GAINED ONLY A FEW KILOMETRES

German Forces Find Themselves in Veritable Death Passage.

(By Colonel Raoul Rousset, Military Critic of Petit Parisien)

Special Cable to N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard.

Paris, April 20.—The German army is now in a bad situation in the Lys valley. The Allies have no cause for alarm. The enemy has madly lavished his artillery fire and sacrificed his human material. What has he gained? Three or four kilometres. Natural barriers have not been broken at any cost. I speak frankly. I do not desire to forget an assuredly unfortunate incident, but merely to reduce it to its correct proportions.

The Germans find themselves in a veritable death passage. If stopped their masses are crammed together at the bottom of this passage. They try in vain to shake its walls. Little by little the roads become congested, the enemy's artillery harasses them day and night; the ground becomes impracticable and manoeuvring is hampered, not for want of divisions, but because they cannot be pushed forward at the proper time. An offensive that does not advance breaks up rapidly. That is what has happened to the formidable agglomeration that rushed into the pocket between Arras, Amiens and Noyon. One can therefore easily understand the stubbornness with which the German forces engaged on the Lys seek to leave the swamps and shallow waters and gain the heights, widen their horizon, give air to their troops and obtain room for their supply lines.

THE FRENCH PRESS IS UNANIMOUS IN ITS OPTIMISM

After Month's Operations the Enemy, with the Battlefields Everywhere Strawn with Bodies of His Soldiers, is Compelled to Abandon the Attacks.

Paris, April 21.—The great German offensive on the western front has now been going on for a full month and the French press is unanimous in its optimistic attitude. The Temps says: "The formidable assaults, which for a month past Von Hindenburg has thrown against the British army, have not succeeded in breaking our ally's resistance. They have given ground, but Germany's soldiers always find confronting them lines which may have been bent, but have not been broken. After a month's operations the enemy, with the battlefields everywhere strawn with the bodies of his soldiers, is compelled to abandon the attacks."

The Intransigent says: "The struggle is entering its second month. Calm reigns. The third attack is being prepared, perhaps as tremendous as the previous two, but our optimism is reasoned and justified. They shall not pass."

Lieutenant-Colonel Rousset, in La Liberté, says: "Where will the enemy strike now? All the roads leading to the objectives desired are barred. The essential thing is not to waste precious reserves, which may turn the tide at any moment."

AMERICANS IN THE FIGHTING

German Stroke Delivered Against U. S. Soldiers and the French Falls.

The German high command having been unsuccessful in severing the British front in Flanders and separating the British and French armies, has essayed a stroke against the Americans and the French northwest of Toul—and here also it seemingly failed utterly to bring its plan to fruition. Although the Germans attacked in waves with greatly superior numbers of men, the Americans and Frenchmen held all their positions and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. What gains were made in the initial onslaughts have been retrieved and Sunday night saw the American and French lines restored. The latest Berlin official communication asserts that in the drive 183 American prisoners and 25 machine guns were captured by the Germans who cut their way about a mile and a quarter into the American lines at Zelcheprey. There has been no confirmation of this statement, or of the added claim that the Americans sustained heavy casualties. It seems evident, however, that the fight was a bitter one, and that it was the ambition of the specially trained Germans to crush the Americans.

NO AGREEMENT ON SARDINES

Conference of Canadians and Americans at Calais Fails to Reach Definite Result—R. E. Armstrong Present.

Special to The Standard.

Calais, Me., April 20.—The conference held here yesterday between representatives of the American and Canadian Food Boards, United States packers of sardines and New Brunswick fishermen to arrange for a price for sardines for the coming season broke up without an agreement being reached. Dr. Merrill stated that at Bangor the Maine fishermen had agreed on a maximum price of \$25 per hoghead until the first of August, after which date no price was set.

The New Brunswick fishermen said they had set a price of \$35 per hoghead but under war conditions were willing to accept a price of \$25 per hoghead for the entire season.

The packers present were not willing to set a price under the conditions expressed the opinion that they should have been consulted before the New Brunswick fishermen set a price, and a committee of two packers and two fishermen was appointed to try and reach an agreement. Neither side, however, was willing to make concessions and the gathering broke up without definite result.

The New Brunswick fishermen will hold a meeting at St. George on Friday next to further the matter.

Those present were: Dr. Merrill and J. Loomis, representing the American Food Board; Dr. W. C. Keirstead and R. E. Armstrong, representing the Canadian Food Board; Oscar Hanson, G. Ellis, G. E. Frawley, A. A. Stuart, C. G. Ingalls, representing the New Brunswick fishermen; and Packers Mitchell, Anderson, Ramswell, Abernethy, Cabot and West.

ST. STEPHEN VETERANS GO TO CHRIST CHURCH

Venerable Archdeacon Newnam Preaches Impressive Sermon—Boys Will Have Oyster Supper.

Special to The Standard.

St. Stephen, April 21.—The members of the Great War Veterans' Association, 37 strong, under the command of Lieut. James Inches, and headed by the Calais City Band, marched to Christ church this morning where Venerable Archdeacon Newnam preached an impressive sermon.

On Monday evening the Veterans will enjoy an oyster supper in the St. Stephen Cafe.

SMALLPOX AT MAYFIELD

Special to The Standard. St. Stephen, April 21.—A case of smallpox of a mild type has developed at Mayfield, a country settlement near St. Stephen, the victim being Isaac Kennedy, who returned just week from the lumber woods. The house is isolated and has been quarantined and there is no danger of the disease spreading.

ILL-MANNERED GOVERNMENT MEMBERS INTERRUPT SMITH

MORE THAN 400 CANADIAN BOYS IN CASUALTIES

Fifty-Three Killed in Action and Eighteen are Dead of Wounds.

ELEVEN OTHERS REPORTED DEAD

Total of 228 Men Wounded, 83 Gassed and Ten Men are Ill.

Ottawa, April 21.—Saturday night's casualty list of 413, reports 53 killed in action, 18 died of wounds, one missing and believed killed, five died, five presumed to have died, one reported presumed dead by Germans, one wounded and missing, three missing, four prisoners of war repatriated, 228 wounded, 83 gassed, ten ill and two reported wounded in error.

The Maritime names: INFANTRY. Killed in action: A. P. Levanick, Frankville, N. S. W. P. Carroll, Johnville, N. B. W. McCloskey, Boiestown, N. B. Died of Wounds: E. Ettinger, East Noel Road, N. S. J. Durette, Campbellton, N. B. Presumed to have died: N. Ash, Antigonish, N. S. Wounded and Missing: H. McPherson, address not stated. Wounded: C. H. Harrington, Woodstock, N. B. E. S. Case, Fredericton, N. B. L. N. Shaw, Windsor, N. S. E. C. Ferguson, Moncton, N. B. J. P. Kennedy, Reserve Mines, N. S. J. Scott, Enfield, N. S. J. McNeil, Caledonia Mines, N. S. R. R. Hibbard, St. George, N. B. E. G. Haines, Burt's Corner, N. B. J. D. Smith, Alberton, P. E. I. W. H. Thomas, Summerside, P. E. I. D. E. McDonald, Canoe, N. S. C. G. Guy, Liverpool, N. S. M. M. Cardoff, River Bourgeois, Richmond County, N. S. D. A. McAullill, Glace Bay, N. S. J. Hines, Central Argyle, N. S. R. T. Mack, Tusket, N. S. J. Almon, George's River station, N. S. W. E. Brinkman, New Denmark, N. B. V. V. Wiggins, Young's Cove Road, N. B. J. McCallum, Greenfield, N. S. N. Buchanan, Elmsdale, P. E. I. A. S. Legere, Fort Elgin, N. B. A. M. LaPierre, Halifax, N. S. Gassed: D. H. McNey, Andover, N. S. B. Bell, Wood Island, P. E. I. Cavalry. Killed in action: J. B. Wallace, Westville, N. S. Divisional Train. Wounded: A. D. Stewart, High Bank, P. E. I. Engineers. Gassed: L. P. Sullivan, Campbellton, N. B. Artillery. Wounded: H. G. Carter, Antigonish, N. S. L. L. Lawrence, Hantsport, N. S. C. G. LeRoux, St. George's, N. B. Mounted Rifles. Wounded: C. M. Donald, Ormocote, N. B. V. Clements, Murray Harbor, P. E. I. Gassed: A. Reeder, Salisbury, N. B.

BOMBARDMENT OF PARIS CONTINUED

Paris, April 21.—The long range bombardment of Paris was resumed today. Berlin, via London, April 21.—The capture of 183 American prisoners and twenty-five machine guns by the Germans is claimed in the official report from headquarters today. The German storm troops, it is also declared, advanced to a depth of two kilometres, (about a mile and a quarter) into the American lines at Zelcheprey. The Americans, the statement adds, sustained heavy losses.

Speaker Currie Fails to Keep Good Order in the Legislature Until He Overhears Private Remark by Hon. Mr. Baxter—The Speaker Gets Mad and Time of House is Wasted for Almost an Hour—After Tempest in a Teapot Subsides Much Better Order is Maintained—Government Supporters Wholly to Blame for Incident.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 21.—There was an interesting incident in the House on Saturday morning which, while providing amusement for the spectators, did not altogether conduce to the dignity of that august body or the respect in which the presiding officer of the House is regarded.

During Hon. B. Frank Smith's address members on the government side interrupted audibly and frequently but the Speaker paid no attention to them. Finally after one interruption Hon. Mr. Baxter remarked to Hon. Mr. Smith: "If that occurred on this side of the House we would be called to order."

Mr. Speaker at once arose and said that several times during the present session insinuations that he had shown partiality to government supporters had been thrown across the floor and he had determined that they should cease. He must ask the honorable member to withdraw.

Mr. Baxter—"I made no statement to this House. I made a private remark to my colleague at my left and in a lower tone of voice than has been used by members interrupting and seated to Mr. Speaker's right."

A Sensitive Speaker.

Mr. Speaker—"I must ask the honorable member to apologize."

Mr. Baxter—"I have nothing to apologize for; I have said nothing I will withdraw."

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HON. B. F. SMITH WORRIES VENIOT

Former Minister of Public Works, in Brilliant and Dignified Speech, Makes it Decidedly Uncomfortable for the Windy One of the Chaleur Region—Facts and Figures Dissipate the Buncome of the Hon. Peter, who More than Once Squirms in His Seat and Manifests an Uncontrollable Desire to "Explain"—The Hon. Peter Reminded of His Intolerant Speech During the Mahoney-Smith By-Election.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 20.—Calm, dignified and impressive, in most refreshing contrast to the bombastic, vainglorious utterances of Hon. Peter J. Veniot, the real master of the speech with administration, was the speech with which Hon. B. Frank Smith, ex-Minister of Public Works, today replied to the North Shore spellbinder.

Mr. Veniot while delivering his speech was peevish and ill-tempered. Mr. Smith, on the contrary handled his opponent skilfully and tellingly but with ever present good nature and was the more effective for this reason. Unlike Mr. Veniot, he confined himself entirely to the matters in which the House should be interested, the contrast between the methods of administration pursued by the Mahoney government and the aggregation of political misdeeds that, through accident, succeeded to power. He did not deal with the past except as it was necessary to prove the falsity of the Veniot statements and it may be truthfully said here in every case where Mr. Smith undertook to refute one of the Veniot evasions he succeeded completely. One of Mr. Veniot's generalities was that the critics of the Foster government had told but half the truth, that in presenting their case to the public they withheld important facts the people should know and that for this reason they were the more culpable as they told only what suited their own case. Mr. Smith demonstrated not only that this criticism was unfounded but on the contrary that Mr. Veniot himself had used that method in an effort to win commendation where there existed no cause to commend or to apply criticism where the former government was blameless.

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