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The Toronto World

THURSDAY MORNING JULY 4 1918

FOR RENT
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ITALIANS START A NEW OFFENSIVE

Capture Important Ground From Austrians at Mouth of the Piave River, and Take 1,000 Prisoners--Americans Repulse Heavy German Counter-Attacks at Vaux.

HEAVY LOSSES BY THE ENEMY ARE REPORTED

Counter-Attack Against U. S. Troops at Vaux is Easily Repulsed.

MORE PRISONERS TAKEN

Germans Fail to Perform Task Entrusted to Them.

With the American Army in France, July 3.—A heavy German counter-attack against the American positions at Vaux, launched at 1 o'clock this morning, was repulsed, the enemy losing very heavily. Not a foot of the ground won in the attack on Monday night was lost.

The counter-attack developed after the Germans had heavily bombarded Vaux and Bois de la Roche. When the German infantry leaped from the enemy trenches the troops came over in close formation. In some cases whole companies were allowed to approach close to the American line, then the machine gunners from their hidden nests let loose a perfect hail of bullets, mowing down the enemy ranks and piling the dead all over the ground where the Germans were trying to advance.

The artillery lent efficient aid in completely breaking up the enemy attack, which was launched with fresh regiments of storm troops.

More Prisoners Taken.

The number of prisoners taken in the operations near Chateau Thierry was increased today without the American infantry operating except as skirmishers.

German shells have been raining on the new positions and the enemy fire has been unceasing. The line was the target of projectiles of all calibres, gas shells being mixed with high explosive missiles. The shells have been falling heavily in the areas behind the battle line. The enemy fire, particularly on the right flank of the new positions at Vaux, was most intense. At last reports the machine gunners were holding their ground and repulsing small but desperate efforts of the Germans to regain it. The ground was the scene of a bitter struggle. The Americans are reported to be well protected by their temporary trenches and are not exposing themselves needlessly to the storm of flying steel from the bursting German shells. The German loss in killed is unknown, but prisoners say that their orders were to drive back the Americans at all costs. They have paid the highest cost possible, but have failed to perform the task entrusted to them.

Airplanes Are Busy.

Nine German airplanes are unofficially reported to have been destroyed by American pursuit squadrons in the air fighting which has been going on since daylight over the smoking battle zone of Vaux. Among the fliers engaged during the day was Quentin Roosevelt, youngest son of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt. He is flying a Nieuport machine.

New York Funds Easier.

The premium on New York funds in Canadian markets is showing a slight tendency to ease, as had been expected with the end of the rush of remittances to meet debenture obligations at the first of the month. Yesterday the premium was between 1 1/2-1 3/4 and 1 3/4-1 1/2, as compared with last week's maximum of 2 1/4. This small measure of improvement affords, however, no real relief, and no material change is anticipated within the next two months.

A MATTER OF ECONOMY.

It may prove one of the best investments you ever made to buy a Panama or Straw Hat now. What the prices may be next season is hard to forecast, but it is safe to say that an increase is inevitable. The warm days are due anytime, so why deny yourself the comfort and pleasure the satisfaction that accompanies every purchase here? Don't delay further, come in and make your choice today. Dinsent's, 140 Yonge Street, at Temperance.

DOMINION PERMANENT COMMITTEES TO MEET

Debtors and Shareholders Are to Be Represented at Conference on Saturday.

With the aim of preparing the way for the \$2,000,000 suit against the estates of the former directors of the Dominion Permanent Loan Company, an initial conference between committees representing the debenture holders and shareholders of the defunct company will open in the offices of G. T. Clarkson, the liquidator, at 10 a.m. on Saturday. The order whereby the committees were appointed was granted three weeks ago by J. A. C. Cameron, official referee at Osgoode Hall, Ont.

The personnel of the committees is as follows:

Debtors: Col. G. R. Atkinson, M.L.A.; Mr. G. Simpson, St. Catharines; S. J. Kilpatrick, Brockville; H. H. Buckner, London, Ont.; Nicol Jeffrey, Guelph; and Mr. Frost, London, Ont.

Shareholders: A. W. Briggs, Toronto; J. J. McClellan, Toronto; M. W. Charlton, Brantford, and Mr. McCabe.

ITALIANS GAIN NEW POSITIONS AT RIVER MOUTH

Fight Their Way Thru Austrian Defences on Flooded Ground.

TAKE 1900 PRISONERS

New Positions at Head of Lorenzo Valley Are Consolidated.

Rome, July 3.—Italian forces along the lower Piave delivered a number of hard strokes at the Austrian defences yesterday, fighting their way forward against desperate enemy resistance, the war office announced today. The advance was over the difficult terrain, near the river's mouth, which is partially flooded.

The Italians captured approximately 1900 Austrians, together with trench guns, machine guns and war material.

The Italians successfully withstood an Austrian counter-attack at the head of the San Lorenzo Valley, in the Grappa region, where they had taken important positions in the fighting of the day previous. The new positions have been consolidated.

The number of prisoners taken here has reached 621, while 22 machine guns and quantities of war material also were captured.

The text of the statement reads: "On the lower Piave we carried out yesterday a series of energetic thrusts, gaining ground in spite of the obstinate resistance of the enemy, who attempted to take every advantage of the difficult zone, which was partially flooded. We took about 1900 prisoners, including 45 officers, together with machine guns, small trench guns and various material."

In the region northwest of the Grappa, having successfully stemmed a heavy counter-attack at the head of the San Lorenzo Valley, the valiant troops of the Ninth Army Corps consolidated themselves in the positions reached yesterday with such great ease. The total number of prisoners here has reached 25 officers and 596 of other ranks. We also took 22 machine guns and a large quantity of war material.

"On the Asiago Plateau French parties, during brilliant raids in the Zocchi region, brought back prisoners."

Grand Duke Michael Escaped From Exile Two Months Ago

Moscow, July 3.—Grand Duke Michael, brother of the former Russian emperor, escaped from Perm, whither he had been exiled, two months ago, according to a statement made at a session of the Petrograd soviet by M. Zenoiev, president of the council of commissioners of the Petrograd commune. It was said that Johnson, the grand duke's secretary, had vanished with him.

Germans Attack and Retake Ground Lost to the British

London, July 3.—German troops last night, after heavy preparatory shelling, attacked and recaptured the greater part of the ground taken by the British in their local operation near Bouzincourt, north of Albert, on Sunday evening, the war office announced today.

Former Bolshevik Commander Is Given Important New Post

Moscow, July 3.—General Muraviev, formerly commander of the Bolshevik troops in Ukraine, who was recently released from prison when a charge of misuse of funds against him was dropped, has been appointed commander of the front extending from Samara to Nikolayevsk, beyond Omsk. General Muraviev was in command of the Bolshevik troops which captured Kiev last winter.

GENERAL STRIKE THREATENED ON ALL CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Fifty Thousand Employees Must Be Given Final Answer by Two o'Clock Today to Demands Refused by Employers.

Ottawa, July 3.—A joint conference will be held here tomorrow with a view to avoiding, if possible, a general strike on all the railways in Canada. The labor situation which has arisen is described as "very serious." A committee of the federated trades, said to represent 50,000 employees, have submitted demands for increased wages aggregating many millions of dollars. The companies, thru the railway war board, have declined to accede to the men's request. The committee of the men have notified the war board that a final answer must be given by two o'clock tomorrow.

An official statement issued here tonight reads: "A very serious labor situation was foreshadowed by the action of the government taken today in summoning to Ottawa the committee of the federated trades for a conference with members of the government and the Canadian Railway War Board. Negotiations have been conducted for the past two months between the federated trades and the war board and the committee of the former, said to represent 50,000 railway employees, have submitted demands for increases in wages aggregating many millions of dollars, which the companies, thru the war board, have declined to accede to. In view of the importance of the question and their far-reaching effect, financial and otherwise, the government has taken immediate action and a joint conference will be held here tomorrow with a view to, if possible, averting a general strike on all the railways. The committee of the men have notified the war board that a final answer must be given by two o'clock tomorrow."

REPORT IS FAVORABLE, BUT MAY BE HELD UP

President Wilson Authorized to Take Over Telegraph, Telephone and Cable Lines as War Measure.

Washington, July 3.—Although the house interstate commerce committee late today ordered a favorable report on a resolution authorizing, if the president deems necessary, government control of telegraph, telephone, cable and radio systems as a war measure, congressional leaders continued tonight to make plans looking to a recess of both houses through July and part of August. They expected to dispose of pending appropriation measures late this week or early next week, and to recess immediately afterward.

Chairman Sims, of the house committee, announced that he would submit a report on the telegraph resolution at a brief holiday session tomorrow, and would endeavor to bring it before the house as early as possible. Despite this, however, leaders declared that final action on the resolution would go over until after the recess, unless President Wilson asked for its adoption before that time.

NEARLY 500 PRISONERS TAKEN BY THE FRENCH

Thirty Machine Guns Also Captured in Successful Attack North of Moulin-Sous-Toutvent.

Paris, July 3.—Prisoners to the number of 457, of which number seven were officers, were taken in the attack north of Moulin-Sous-Toutvent, according to an official statement issued by the war office tonight. The statement reads: "There was lively reciprocal artillery fire near Vauquois, in the Argonne region, and on the right bank of the Meuse."

"The total number of prisoners taken in the French attack north of Moulin-Sous-Toutvent was 457, of whom seven were officers. We have also taken thirty machine guns."

BOLSHEVIK EXECUTE CAPTAIN STCHASNIG

Former Commander of Russian Baltic Fleet Has Been Put to Death.

London, July 3.—Captain Stchasnig, formerly commander of the Russian Baltic fleet, who was convicted of having opposed and agitated against the Bolshevik government of Russia, has been executed. The sentence of the court was carried out on June 22, according to a Moscow despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company. The revolutionary socialist of the left, the former Baltic fleet commander, had advised state, who have supported the Bolsheviks, had entered a protest and recalled their representatives from the tribunal. Indignation is expressed by the independent press.

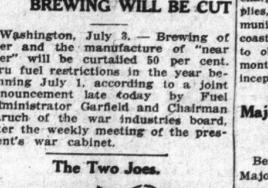
BEER AND NEAR-BEER BREWING WILL BE CUT

Washington, July 3.—Brewing of beer and the manufacture of "near beer" will be curtailed 50 per cent, thru fuel restrictions in the year beginning July 1, according to a joint announcement late today by Fuel Administrator Garfield and Chairman of the war industries board, after the weekly meeting of the president's war cabinet.

Major M. S. Boehm's Father Feared Drowned in Storm

Beverton, July 3.—It is feared that Major J. G. Boehm, 123 Delaware avenue, Toronto, who has a summer home at Sandy Cove, was drowned in the storm which raged on Lake Simcoe, on Monday. The man whose body was found yesterday on the shore of Thorah Island has been identified by Mr. Russell of Toronto, who also has a cottage near Barrie, as a man named McDonald, of Buckingham, Quebec, who had been in his employ for ten days, and who went out with Major Boehm to look for two people who were out in the storm. Major Boehm's hat was found tonight on the shore of the lake. The two whom Major Boehm and McDonald went out to look for were afterwards located. They had taken refuge on an island. Major M. S. Boehm, of the real estate firm of M. S. Boehm & Co., Ltd., 72 West Queen street, Toronto, is a son of the Major Boehm reported drowned, and left for England two weeks before. He had been overseas before, but returned to Toronto in April, 1917, and is now making his second trip over.

THE TWO JOES.



Joseph the Baronet: You are asleep, brother, when you say there's nothing doing in London. Our imperial munitions board are finding work for thousands of men in one factory there, and a train-load of eleven hundred men—only one shift—had a narrow escape in a railway accident yesterday morning. Joe the Undertaker: That would have been some job to do the burying, brother. But Donlands is next to Lesaide, and I can't sleep thinking of the consequences of opening up Lesaide. The Bloor street viaduct gives me the horrors for the same reason. We ought to have more burying grounds out that way. The Bar: You need a prescription, brother.

MORE HABEAS CORPUS WRITS.

Calgary, July 3.—Two more applications for writs of habeas corpus on behalf of men formerly exempted but called to the colors under the order-in-council canceling all exemptions of 21 and 22 years of age were filed today. Both cases involve precisely the same features as the much-talked-of Lewis case. Service was made upon Registrar Major J. M. Carson, Col. George MacDonald, D.C., and Col. P. A. Moore, C.O. Depot at Edmonton. One application is made by Robert Henry Wiggins of Red Deer, and the other by Norvid Anderson, of Sylvan Lake.

TORONTO WELL WITHIN ITS BORROWING POWERS

FINANCE COMMISSIONER HAS GOOD NEWS FOR TAXPAYERS

Toronto's Financial Standing is Good and Policy of Retrenchment is Beginning to Show Results.

Increase to the city's funded debt are smaller than for years back. The period of retrenchment is beginning to show results. Bright outlook for ratepayers because provision is made for paying off 72 2-3 per cent of the entire debt. Surplus revenue from municipal enterprises does not meet charges on debts thereon. Two-thirds of total debt has been contracted for the five most essential services, namely, local improvements, education, water, light and power, and sanitation. Lack of interest has been shown by investors in municipal securities since the United States entered the war. Toronto is still \$8,064,843 under the amount it is allowed to borrow by statute.

NO FREE NEWSPAPERS AFTER MIDDLE OF JULY

Necessity for Stricter Economy in Newspaper Paper Leads to Action in United States.

Washington, July 3.—Necessity for stricter economy in newspaper paper is emphasized in a letter addressed by the war industries board today to all newspaper publishers, who are asked to put into effect a number of economies. On and after July 15, unsold copies may not be returned; sample or free promotion copies are not to be distributed; advertisements are to be permitted only one copy; the practice of forcing copies upon newsdealers as the condition of their holding a certain territory is to be discontinued. Copies are not to be bought back from dealers or agents at either the wholesale or retail selling price, and all free exchanges are to be discontinued.

SCHEME TO SOLVE HOUSING PROBLEM

Finance Commissioner Preparing Details for Board of Control.

EMPLOYERS TO HELP

Suggestion is That They Build Dwellings for Workmen Near Plants.

Finance Commissioner Bradshaw has a scheme for solving the housing problem in Toronto which has the merit of being tried out in Britain and found successful beyond expectations. He proposes that the city interest some of the larger employers of labor to the end that they will be brought to see the advantage of properly housing their employees. There are plenty of suitable sites close to the thickly populated employment centres, he says, and he would have the employers erect detached houses at an approximate cost of \$2000, on a lot with about 25 feet frontage. These could be sold on easy terms. Mr. Bradshaw would not have the city build or look after the houses, but that would be for the firms adopting the idea, but the city could lend aid, if necessary, by guaranteeing the bonds.

"In England this idea has been adopted in many places, and the model cities which have grown up as a result of it, says the finance commissioner, are in keeping with the day when they will be their own landlords. If the scheme has been adopted in England it should be doubly so in Toronto, which I think is admirably adapted for it," says the finance commissioner.

Mr. Bradshaw is working out all the details in connection with his plan and expects to present them to the board of control shortly.

BIG TEXTILE COMPANY SEIZED AS PRO-GERMAN

United States Alien Property Custodian Takes Over Million Dollar Lease Concern.

New York, July 3.—The International Textile Company, Inc., a \$1,500,000 lease manufacturing company of Bridgeport, Conn., a branch of the largest corporation of its kind in the world, has been seized by the United States Government. It was announced here today by A. Mitchell Palmer, alien property custodian.

Seizure was determined upon when it was discovered that all the company's books, the correspondence files and other documents which would tend to show German ownership had been destroyed, according to Francis P. Garvan, director of the bureau of investigation for the alien property custodian.

TO GROW FLAX IN IRELAND.

London, July 3.—The house of commons tonight passed the second reading of the bill providing for a government subsidy of £600,000 to promote flax growing in Ireland, to replace the lost Belgian and Russian crops and to provide material for the army, navy and air forces.

Finance Commissioner T. Bradshaw Issues His Annual Report, Which Shows Standing of City's Finances to Be Good.

In these times of stress it is pleasing to hear from Finance Commissioner Bradshaw that Toronto's financial position is much more assuring than was generally thought. In his annual report issued yesterday, upon the funded debt and sinking fund for the year ending December 31, last, Mr. Bradshaw shows that Toronto, all things considered, is on an easy street, and unexpectedly announces that deducting from the whole debt of \$100,828,482, the exempted debts, the balance, \$44,889,275, is the debenture debt, less exempted debt, which is \$8,064,843 under the amount allowed by statute.

While the city has a big debt, Mr. Bradshaw says when regard is taken to what it represents he does not think it excessively large. He shows that the five essential services: local improvements, education, water, light and power, sanitation, have a total debt of \$67,164,784, or nearly 67 per cent of the total debt. On this point he adds: "It will be observed that practically two-thirds of Toronto's debt has been contracted for what would probably be regarded as the five most essential services of a progressive and well-governed municipality. It is believed that it is not too much to say that the city's unique growth, and its present important position in finance, commerce and manufacturing, are in no small degree due to these services."

"The view is sometimes expressed that, relatively, Toronto's debt is greater than that of like cities in the United States. In making a comparison, however, it is essential to bear in mind that the foregoing figures comprise the city's entire funded debt, inclusive of debts for annexed districts, and for all civic undertakings, such as Hydro-Electric, street railway, waterworks, sewers, schools, parks, local improvements, etc."

Probably one of the most gratifying features of the report has reference to the city's funded debt, which represents the exact liability of the municipality. The report shows that by prudent expenditure the increase last year was only \$1,227,102, while in the four preceding years it was as follows: 1913, \$15,237,728; 1914, \$12,252,404; 1915, \$19,929,225; 1916, \$6,184,360.

On this point Mr. Bradshaw says that while the increase was much smaller than for years, it was plain that it was absolutely necessary for the city to refrain for some years to come, from any act which would in any way add to the city's burden of debt.

The following statement has been prepared by Mr. Bradshaw for the benefit of investors and the financial houses which are interested in the city's securities:

Gross funded debt \$100,828,482.36
Deduct:
(1) Specially rated and revenue producing debts as follows:
Waterworks \$14,464,630.54
Ratepayers' share local improvements 14,752,757.50
Civic Hydro-Electric system 7,576,631.08
Civic abattoir 415,908.00
Exhibition buildings 1,230,075.00
Civic street railway 2,052,737.00
Toronto Street Railway pavements 4,231,783.74
(2) Sinking fund 57,886,796.50
Total \$42,987,639.77
Net funded debt \$42,987,639.77
Assessment, Etc. property \$406,727,725
Exemptions not included in foregoing \$7,215,654
Capital assets 190,974,536
Revenue from taxation for 1918 18,107,672
Revenue other than taxation for 1918 5,997,530
Population, 1917 478,829
Area of city 25,390 acres
Tax rate for 1918 (including schools, 67-10 mills) 30 1/2 mills
Lack of Interest.
During 1917 \$4,124,971 worth of debentures were sold at a cost to the city of 1/4 per cent. The unamortized securities amounted to \$6,147,