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WEATHER—RAIN

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THE ARMY OF FRANCE FORCES BACK GERMANS ALL ALONG THE LINE, CAPTURING 19,000 MEN

RETURNED SOLDIERS FAVORED

Hon. Dr. Reid Fills Available Positions with Boys Returned from Overseas.

HON. MR. COCHRANE IS STILL DOMINEERING

Several Members Endeavor Unsuccessfully to Obtain Information from Minister of Railways.

Ottawa, April 20.—Before any progress was made with individual items of supply this afternoon the Liberals opened a general discussion of the changes made by order-in-council in the procedure of appointments to the civil service. Hon. Charles Murphy used the term "revolutionary" in referring to them and laid emphasis upon the fact that appointments could now be made without reference to the civil service commission and without regard to age. The minimum age of 21 and the limit of 35 had been wiped out. He thought some explanation was due the house.

Soldiers Favored.
Hon. Dr. Reid, whose customs estimates were before the committee of supply, pointed out that as the regulations stood formerly it was necessary for the government to take into its service men between 18 and 25. "I thought it was hardly fair for us to fill positions in the government service with men qualified for overseas service," he said. "The change had been chiefly made to enable the government to fill positions with men who had overseas service."

"I have since then filled every position with a returned soldier," he added, explaining that in small positions with nominal salaries there were exceptions since they were not places that could be offered to an ex-soldier who had to make a living.

Railway Complaint.
The method of conducting business on the Transcontinental from Toronto to Winnipeg was condemned by Mr. Turriff. He described the difficulty he had in securing a sleeping car berth at Toronto and the miscarriage of a telegram he had filed at Cochrane.

John Sinclair of Guysboro questioned Hon. Mr. Cochrane as to the truth of reports that the resignation of Frank Stanfield in the Nova Scotia legislature and the resignation of John Stanfield as chief Conservative whip had forced him to change his policy of insisting upon a business administration of the intercolonial, regardless of politics and patronage. The minister declared that his policy always had been to get the best men for the posts to be filled. "The minister has not said that it is not his intention to change his policy," put in Mr. Sinclair.

Cochrane's Blunt.
For a moment or two it looked as if Mr. Cochrane was not going to reply—then he remarked bluntly "I said exactly what I meant."

Then W. E. Knowles of Moose Jaw tried it. He paved the way by a tribute to the business-like manner in which Mr. Cochrane had administered the railway but in view of the possibility that the Dominion might take over other railways it was important that the minister should—if he could—give a categorical denial to the statement credited to Mr. Frank Stanfield that the minister had had to capitulate.

"I do not know what statement Mr. Stanfield made in the provincial house and I do not care," said Mr. Cochrane shortly. "And I am not going to contradict any statement I have not seen."

In reply to a question Hon. Dr. Reid stated that for some time past all requisitions of ships of Canadian registry needed by the British government for the war had been made through the Canadian government.

LARGE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Ottawa, April 20 (Through Reuters' Ottawa Agency)—An official report of the national service scheme for March shows that the number of volunteers enrolled increased from 82,000 in February to 258,000 last month.

How Canadians Won Fame at Vimy Ridge

Boys From Dominion Maintained Offensive at Celebrated Position For Months in Preparing to Defeat Teutons

TROOPS FOUGHT ALL DAY AGAINST STUBBORN ENEMY AND FINALLY ROUTED HIM.

German Prisoners Glad to Surrender to Canadians—Little Fighting by British Army in North France Yesterday.

London, April 20.—The official statement issued by the war office this evening says: "Beyond mutual artillery activity at a number of places along the front there is nothing of importance to report."

CANADIAN STATEMENT
London, April 20.—An official communication is issued by the Canadian war records office on the capture of Vimy Ridge. It says: "Again the Canadians have acquired merit in the capture of Vimy Ridge, on April 9. As in the lesser action of Courcellette, in September of last year, they have shown the same high qualities in victorious advance as they have displayed in earlier days in desperate resistance on many stricken fields."

Thorough Preparations.
"Preparations for Easter Monday's attack had been extensive and thorough. The actual infantry assault and final deluge of shells were but the logical and irresistible conclusion of an offensive which had been maintained against Vimy Ridge for months by the Canadian corps. The tactical importance of this position had increased recently to a marked extent, owing to the withdrawal of the enemy before the third army, to the south."

"At half past five on Monday morning, April 9th, the great attack was launched with terrific fire from our massed artillery and from many field guns in hidden advanced positions."

"At the same moment the Canadian troops advanced in line in three waves of attack. "The first stage of the advance was made over ground indescribably tangled with obstacles of all sorts, with great mine craters, many of which were impassable; with thousands of shell holes, which had churned the whole field into a vast quagmire of mud; with crumpled trenches, coils and hedges of torn entanglements of barbed wire. But over this difficult ground, over and around gaping craters and clanking tangles, into and under the fire of the enemy, the long lines of heavy-armed infantrymen moved forward, unbroken on the fringe of our rolling curtain of shrapnel fire."

"The troops on the extreme left fought all day against the surrounding Huns, and by ten o'clock at night succeeded in dispersing the rear of the enemy and capturing the major portion of the enemy trenches. "The 'Pimple,' to the north, still remained to the enemy, but by then snow was falling heavily, and it was decided to consolidate the hard won gains and prepare for a counter-attack, rather than to undertake a further assault that night. The 'Pimple' was won on the morrow."

Glad to Surrender.
"Prisoners were already hurrying to the rear in hundreds, pathetically and often ludicrously grateful to the fortunes of war that saved them alive for capture. They surrendered promptly and willingly."

MANY MORE KILLED AND WOUNDED
Ottawa, April 20.—Infantry. Wounded—R. A. Stewart, Pomeroy Ridge, N. B. H. P. Ryan, St. John, N. B. M. McNeill, 52 Chebucto Road, Halifax, N. S. Seriously ill—R. E. Dakin, Digby, N. S. Killed in action—W. A. Neilson, St. John, N. B. Wounded—F. L. Quinlan, Lunenburg, N. S.

PRINCIPALS TO CO-OPERATE IN CADET WORK

Cadet Training to Receive a Stimulus in Local Schools as a Result of Meeting with Capt. Black.

The organizer and inspector of Cadets, Captain Robinson Black of the Military District, arrived in St. John yesterday to fulfill his engagement to meet the principals of the public schools of the city under the chairmanship of their Superintendent, Dr. Bridges.

The inspector reports that since Monday he has visited Woodstock, St. Stephen, Milltown, and West St. John Cadet Corps, where he found each corps active and looking forward to their coming annual inspection towards the close of the school year.

At the conference held yesterday afternoon at the offices of the School Trustees under the presidency of Dr. Bridges, the inspector Black met with enthusiastic reception by the teachers, all of whom were in attendance at the request of the superintendent.

The chairman introduced the speaker, Captain Black, to the gentlemen present stating that the object of his calling them together was under the direction of the School Board to enable them discuss and hear from Capt. Black what he had to say with a view to creating a healthier atmosphere and more lively spirit into this great work.

Captain Black then proceeded to briefly and earnestly point out the responsibilities which the principals of the schools, with the co-operation of the School Board, had undertaken, but perhaps not in all cases actively carried out. The speaker explained the system and extent of the carrying on the work as far as it at present existed in the province, showing also comparisons from the work in the sister Maritime Provinces. The fervent and clear appeal set forth by Inspector Black could not but have met with warm approval which greeted the speaker at the close of his address.

The minimum bonus, so to speak, of the conference ended in provisional arrangements being made for the carrying out towards the end of the present school year a scheme for the organization of a Battalion Cadet Corps in St. John, made up of companies from every available public school, including the High School.

The speaker outlined and a very satisfactory conclusion with a promising hearty co-operation of each and every member present brought this conference to a close amid continued applause as the speaker resumed his seat.

The Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Bridges, announced also his full concurrence in the extension of this work hereafter, and also expressed his belief that the Chief Superintendent of Education, Dr. Carter, who happened to be in the city on other business, has been desirous and appreciative of all efforts which are to be put forward in the direction already outlined.

The public will join in appreciation of this representation on the part of the school authorities to put their own resolution into practical effect as a result of the many and convincing appeal made by Inspector Black during his week's visit to our loyal city. It is with some pride that we can welcome amongst us such earnest and honest workers for the good of our future humanity and the general upbuilding of our boys and girls on a foundation of physical, mental and fitness such as Capt. Black so ably presented, that no greater service to the state or Empire can be rendered than the efforts being made in this direction, and the urgent need and demand for which have not been decreased by recent events in the present crisis and world-wide struggle for the betterment of civilization and the final establishment of a world-wide honorable and victorious peace.

Odd Fellows Observe Anniversary.
A large representation of members of the Odd Fellows and Rebekah Lodges in the city and Carleton gathered at the Odd Fellows' Hall, West Side, to celebrate the 98th anniversary of the order. The evening's entertainment started with a concert with W. R. Sanderson, Deputy Grand Master, in the chair. The programme was as follows: Address of welcome, W. R. Sanderson; duet, Misses Robson and Lingley; solo, Percy Crulshanks; address, Dr. A. D. Smith, P. G. M. of Pioneer Lodge; reading, John Salmon; solo, Joseph Murdoch, P. D. D. G. M. of Pioneer Lodge; recitation and song, Pte. Banks of the 217th Battalion. Mrs. Gilvan presided at the piano. After the concert the gathering adjourned downstairs where dancing was in order for the remainder of the evening. Mr. F. Poole acted as floor manager and Mr. Malvern supplied the music for the dancing with his accompaniment. Refreshments were served during the evening.

The Fourteenth.
The 14th Infantry Brigade is composed of 128th Battalion, Col. Pawlette, Moose Jaw, Sask.; 134th Battalion, Col. Miller, Toronto; 169th Battalion, Col. Weir, B. C.; 202nd Battalion, Col. Bowen, Edmonton; 14th Infantry Brigade, 126th Battalion, Col. Cutcliffe, Brandon; 166th Battalion, Col. Graham, London; 16th Battalion, Col. Barr, Montreal; 181st Battalion, Col. Coombe, Huron county.

French Make Further Progress Against Huns

Enemy Forced Back North of the Aisne, in Champagne and in the Argonne Forest With Heavy Losses

GENERAL NIVELLE'S ARMY HAS CAPTURED NEARLY 20,000 PRISONERS

French Occupy Village of Sancy—Fierce Teuton Attack in Region of Ailles and Hurtebise Hurled Back—Enemy Fights Stubbornly.

Paris, April 20.—Hard fighting continues between the French and the Germans all along the southern front in France. The French war office, in its latest communication, issued this afternoon, records further progress for the forces of General Nivelle north of the Aisne, in Champagne, and in the Argonne Forest. More than 19,000 Germans have been made prisoner, and guns in excess of 100 have been captured by the French since the offensive began last Monday.

The war office communication says: "Between St. Quentin and the Oise there has been great activity by both armies, particularly in the region to the north of Drugges. "The day was calm south of the Oise."

VILLAGE CAPTURED.
"To the north of the Aisne our troops, harassing the enemy, have continued to progress toward the Chemin Des Dames. We have occupied the village of Sancy."

"About six o'clock this evening, after very violent preparation by their artillery the Germans launched an attack with large effectives on the region of Ailles and Hurtebise, which was broken down by the fire of our artillery and machine guns and completely repulsed. The artillery fighting in this region continues very active."

"In Champagne we have captured several important points of support in the grove of Moronvilliers, despite the stubborn resistance of the enemy. 19,000 Prisoners."

"We have made, since the 18th of April, between Reims and Auberville, more than 19,000 prisoners. The number of guns we have captured during the same period, and which have been counted up to the present, exceeds one hundred."

"In the Argonne, after sharp fighting, our detachments penetrated up to the second enemy trench. They found a great number of German dead."

"There is nothing to report from the remainder of the front. "Belgian communication: A reconnaissance attempted last night by the enemy in the region of Stuykerkerke was dispersed by our fire. Prisoners remained in the hands of the Belgians. During the course of the day the artillery activity has been great in the region of Dixmude and Steenstrate."

"Orient: After brilliant counter-attacks our troops recaptured a few elements of trenches which had been lost the 18th at Tervena Stena. About sixty prisoners, most of them Germans, remained in our hands. To the east of the Cerna the Serbian troops repulsed two enemy attacks."

GEN. HUGHES FORCES NOW ORGANIZED

Ottawa, April 20.—Major-General Garnet Hughes, commander of the Fifth Division, has completed the organization of his force. They are now training as a division in England and will shortly leave for France to join the forces under General Byng.

In the fifth division are two Montreal regiments, the Irish Rangers, commanded by Col. O'Donahue, and the 160th Battalion, a French-Canadian regiment commanded by Col. Barrie. The fifth division is composed of the 13th Infantry Brigade, Brig. General Swift, Quebec, and the 15th Infantry Brigade, Brig. General Ernest Ashton, Brandon.

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TWENTY-SEVEN M.P.'S SERVED IN THE WAR

Thirteen Members Have Returned to the Dominion from Duty Overseas.

LIST OF THOSE WHO ARE NOW RECEIVING PAY.

One Member, Lieut. Col. G. H. Baker, Fell in Action and Another Taken Prisoner.

Ottawa, April 20.—According to a return tabled in the Commons today 27 men of parliament are either serving now or have served with the expeditionary forces in the present war. Twenty-two of them, including Lieut. Gen. Sir Sam Hughes, are put down as having served overseas, and thirteen of the 22 have returned to Canada. One member, Lieut. Col. G. H. Baker fell in action. Eight members of parliament, not counting, Hon. Dr. Beaudet, are still overseas.

According to the return, 25 of the members put down as not accepting either pay or separation allowance, being Sir Sam Hughes and Lieut. W. F. Carroll. Nine of the members have been in receipt of separation allowances, and thirteen are still in receipt of pay.

Those Receiving Pay.

Those who went overseas and received pay and separation allowance are: Lieut. Col. Jas. Arthur, Col. J. A. Currie, Lieut. Col. G. W. Fowler, Lieut. Col. B. R. Repburn, Major E. N. Lewis, Lieut. Col. W. R. Smith and Lieut. L. P. Gauthier. Those who have gone overseas in receipt of military pay but who did not take separation allowance: Lieut. Col. G. H. Bradbury, Hon. Captain J. H. Burnham, Col. J. J. Carrick, Lieut. Col. J. Donaldson, Lieut. Col. H. F. McLeod, Captain D. B. Neely, Lieut. Col. Sam Sharpe, Lieut. Col. W. H. Sharp, Lieut. Col. John Stanfield, Lieut. Col. J. D. Taylor, Lieut. Col. H. B. Tremaine and Lieut. Col. Gerald V. White.

Served in Canada.

Those who have served exclusively in Canada are: Brigadier-General H. H. McLean, Captain F. L. Schaffner, Major D. Stewart, Hon. Col. W. F. Cockshutt and Hon. Captain J. A. Douglas. The first three received pay but not separation allowances, while Messrs. Cockshutt and Douglas are put down as receiving both pay and separation allowance.

The return notes that some of the members mentioned above are no longer on the pay roll. Their pay was stopped on the following dates: Col. G. H. Bradbury, Jan. 1st, 1917; Hon. Captain J. H. Burnham, Jan. 9th, 1917; Col. J. J. Carrick, Sept. 30th, 1915; Hon. Col. W. F. Cockshutt, Jan. 9th, 1917; Col. J. A. Currie, Jan. 9th, 1917; Lieut. Col. J. Donaldson, Feb. 9th, 1917; Lieut. L. P. Gauthier, Jan. 19th, 1917; Captain D. B. Neely, Jan. 24th, 1917; Col. W. H. Sharpe, Jan. 1st, 1917; Col. J. Stanfield, Dec. 8th, 1915; Col. J. D. Taylor, Jan. 6th, 1917.

BRITISH OFFICIALS WHO WILL VISIT CAPITAL OF UNITED STATES

Washington, April 20.—In addition to those members of the British commission previously announced, and who were designated as guests of the nation, Foreign Minister Balfour will be accompanied by the following officials: War office—Colonel Goodwin, Col. Langhorne, Major L. W. D. Rees, V. C. Royal Flying Corps—Major C. E. Dansey. Blockade—Lord Eustace Percy and A. A. Paton of the foreign office; F. P. Robinson of the board of trade; S. McKenna of the war trade intelligence department; M. E. Peterson of the foreign trade department, foreign office.

Wheat commission—A. A. Anderson, chairman; Mr. Vigor. Munitions—W. T. Layton, director of requirements and statistics branch, secretariat of the ministry of munitions, C. T. Phillips; American and transport department, ministry of munitions, Captain Leeming, Mr. Ames. Ordnance and lines of communication—Col. Heron. Supplies and transport—Major B. Puck.