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SKI-ING PARTY BEATEN BY ITALIAN SKI FORCE

Allied Storming Party Annihilates Garrison of Austrian Advanced Post

Rome, April 3.—The Italian official statement issued by the war office today says:

"South of Marco one of our storming parties surprised an enemy advanced post and annihilated its garrison. Our men returned without losses, bringing in 15 prisoners. More prisoners were taken on the southern slopes of Cima Doba, and material was captured on the northeastern slopes of Altissimo.

"Successful reconnaissances were carried out on the Asiago plateau and on Monte Tomba. In the upper Doane Valley and at Cortellazzo we defeated hostile patrols.

"An enemy ski-ling party attempted an attack at 2518 metres altitude in the upper Val Furva, but was compelled to retire, pursued by our ski-ling documents."

Windsor Mail Carrier Doubly Charged With Theft

Windsor, April 3.—Held on a charge of the theft of a registered letter and out on bail, Harold Cousineau, 17 years old, a Windsor mail carrier, was apprehended today on another charge. This time he is accused of failing to deliver a package addressed to Mrs. W. Lawrence, residing on West Wyandotte street. Instead, it is said, Cousineau himself signed the woman's name in his registered letter book and converted the contents, a piece of valuable jewelry, to his own use.

"LEST WE FORGET."

So seldom is a great spectacle as "Lest We Forget" attempted in the field of motion pictures it is indeed a rare opportunity to see the output of the art when something out of the ordinary does come along. The wonder story that will be presented at the Regent all next week is one which every man, woman and child in Toronto should see.

Military Investigation Will Not Be Made Public

Kitchener, April 3.—This afternoon a military court of inquiry investigated the recent shooting affair at the John Khan farm house near Waterloo, in which Pte. Philip Novak was shot and seriously injured by Police Constable J. Blevins. Major C. O. Fairbank, A.A.A.S., military district No. 1, and Lieutenant R. A. Colle and H. F. White constituted the court, which was held in the Kitchener Hospital in the presence of Novak. Evidence was given by Provost Marshal Osborne, Constable Blevins and John Khan. According to Major Fairbank the finding of the court will not be made public until passed upon by military headquarters in London.

A military guard has been placed in charge of the patient who, as soon as he is well enough to travel, will be taken to London, where an operation will be performed to remove the bullet.

BORLEN PRESENTS OFFICIAL REPORTS OF QUEBEC RIOTS

Show Disturbances Might Have Been Put Down by Active Police.

CHIEF WAS APATHETIC

He and Mayor Frequently Urged to Take Vigorous Steps.

Ottawa, April 3.—The official story of the Quebec riots was laid before parliament by Sir Robert Borden this afternoon. First, the prime minister read a report from the military authorities in Ottawa, which was a summary of the rioting received by telephone and telegraph from Quebec. This was followed by the reading of a report from Lieut.-Col. Machin, director of military service, made after a visit to Quebec. The reports read as follows: The first being that of militia headquarters:

"Ottawa, Ont., April 2.—On 29th March information was received that on the previous night a clash had occurred between police and civilians at Quebec, in connection with the administration of the Military Service Act. It was reported that civilians had badly damaged the police station, in which three detectives had taken refuge from the mob, and that one of them had been severely injured. The general officer commanding military district No. 5 (Brig.-Gen. J. P. Landry) was called for full report, and the inspector-general, eastern (Major-Gen. F. L. Lessard), was warned to hold himself in readiness to proceed to Quebec. Same day General Landry reported that there had been a disturbance, that No. 3 police station had been set on fire, and that the mayor and his staff had been injured. The mayor thought he could deal with the situation and that military assistance was not required. The mayor was assured that that military assistance in case of urgency was available, but he stated that he expected to be able to cope alone with any outbreak. Reports were received from other sources throughout the afternoon and evening that the situation threatened to become more serious and the general officer commanding was ordered by telegram to work in co-operation with the civil power, but in case of need to take such action as he considered necessary to restore and preserve order. Accordingly the troops were ordered to move on the night of the 29th and by 1:30 order had been restored, the annex of the Auditorium building having been set on fire and the office of The Chronicle having been wrecked.

"About 10 p.m. March 30, the G.O.C. M. D. No. 5, reported that the situation was serious and he required 1000 men additional to the 800 already available. Orders were at once issued to move the number of troops called for to Quebec, and General Lessard was directed to proceed from Halifax to Quebec there to assume general command. The night of the 30th there was further disorder; the mob was very unruly, the troops were ordered out, several soldiers were injured, and a hardware store was looted in search of arms.

"On March 31 a report was received that riots had broken out during the day; pickets were attacked on duty while removing arms and ammunition from the stores; two officers were injured, revolver shots were fired at a street car, and another store was looted in search of arms and set on fire. On this day General Lessard arrived and assumed command.

Opened Fire on Mob.

"On Monday, April 1, General Lessard took the precaution to cause notices to be placed around public buildings, the press advising the public against taking part in unlawful assemblies, pointing out the risk of being shot and killed or injured, if they did so, and notifying all concerned that the authorities, should necessity arise, would use every means at their disposal to maintain peace and order. Citizens were at the same time warned not to leave their dwellings and not to mix with the rioters who were causing disturbances throughout the city.

"At nightfall, however, in spite of the notices which had been published, a large crowd assembled, and from houses, side streets and snow banks and other places of concealment, the rioters opened fire point blank on the troops, who, as on the previous nights, displayed their arms and forboreance under severe provocation. But at length, after several soldiers had received bullet wounds, it became advisable for the troops to open fire and turn the fire in self-defence, for the protection of the public and to prevent the situation passing entirely beyond control.

"Five soldiers were wounded, and of the crowd four were killed, many were injured and fifty-eight were arrested. By 1:20 next morning order had been re-established, and by 5 a.m. the troops had returned to barracks.

Col. Machin's Report.

Ottawa, April 2.—Lieut.-Col. Machin's report read as follows: "To the honorable the minister of militia, Ottawa, 'Sir: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to your instructions, I left Ottawa on Friday, 29th ultimo, at 4:30, and proceeded immediately to Quebec, arriving there early the following morning. I was met by Captain Desrochers, Inspector

of Dominion police at that point. This officer had suffered at the hands of the mob the previous evening, and was still showing evidence of having been very severely handled.

"It appears that on Thursday night, the 28th ultimo, two Dominion constables, named Belanger and Evans, were, in pursuance of their duties, searching for defaulters in St. Roch, and visiting a bowling alley, where a young man named Mercier was asked to produce his exemption certificate or papers to show why he should not be in uniform. He stated that he had received a certificate of exemption but did not have it with him, and that it was at his home.

"The police then took the young man to the police station, telling him that he would be released immediately when his papers were forthcoming. The certificate of exemption was sent for by a friend, and afterwards produced, and Mercier was released.

"Shortly afterwards, the Dominion police, to the number of fifteen, were mobbed by a crowd which had gathered, it is stated, at a bowling alley in St. Roch, which, it is alleged, was the headquarters for the agitators. The Dominion police took refuge in No. 3 municipal police station, and the mob, which by this time had grown to very large numbers, possibly two thousand, proceeded to overpower the building, and finally overpowered the municipal police, who had refused the mob admission to the police station, seized about twelve of the Dominion constables and started to wreak their vengeance on them, seven or eight of whom were wounded, two quite seriously, and Captain Desrochers himself being badly battered about. This affair lasted for nearly two hours, during which time Captain Desrochers telephoned from the police station to the G.O.C. for a military escort to come to the rescue of the Dominion police, and take them away from the mob.

Mayor Made a Speech.

"Captain Desrochers was referred to the mayor, with whom he had previously been in touch, and as a result the mayor came to the police station and made a speech, but without effect, the crowd subsequently taking the action I have just related. The municipal police at this station tried to keep the crowd out, but lost control, mob rule resulting.

"Captain Desrochers states that he requested the chief of police to call out all available municipal police to the aid of the Dominion police, who had sought refuge in number 3 police station, but this was not done, twelve police only being placed on this duty, and this number was not increased, altho Captain Desrochers pointed out how inadequate this force was."

"Captain Desrochers telegraphed the full facts here, and by 3 o'clock on Friday, the 29th ultimo, it was known there that an attack was contemplated on the registrar's office at Quebec that night. On my arrival in Quebec on Saturday, the 30th ultimo, I found that the rumor had been carried into effect, with the result that two newspaper offices had been wrecked and the registrar's office had been set on fire. The contemplated action of the mob had been repeatedly communicated on Friday by Captain Desrochers to the mayor and the G.O.C. Captain Desrochers informed me that no adequate protection was afforded by the municipal authorities to save the registrar's office, and that a small force of city police who had been placed in front of the registrar's office were not only inadequate for its protection, but were quiescent when the mob started to attack the place.

Police Chief Was Apathetic.

"On Friday, the 29th ultimo, Captain Desrochers, altho himself injured, remained all day at the central police station in company with the chief of the city police, to whom he repeatedly urged that all available municipal police be placed on duty, giving information as to the rumors which had reached him concerning the proposed attack on the registrar's office. It is stated that a force of from sixty to seventy men might have been sufficient to have prevented, at the outset, the ransacking and burning of the registrar's office. The chief of the city police received reports from patrol men with the result that he persisted in his opinion that no trouble was to be anticipated and that Captain Desrochers was unduly alarmed.

"At 8 p.m. on Friday, the 29th ultimo, the chief of police being absent and supposed to be with the mayor, a message was received at the central police station to the effect that a crowd was marching up from St. Roch towards the auditorium. This message was sent by the telephone to the mayor, Captain Desrochers being present when the telephone message was received. The mob marched up town and back to St. Roch. Following this move twelve policemen, all that had been provided by the city police, were sent to the auditorium. The crowd returned up town from St. Roch in very increased numbers, and proceeded to smash the two newspaper offices, which were practically demolished. The crowd then proceeded to the registrar's office at the auditorium—this would be about 9 p.m.

Captain Desrochers telephoned the G.O.C. and informed him of the situation, when he was asked where the mayor was. Apparently the G.O.C. contemplated that the mayor would be at the scene of disorder. Captain Desrochers then went from the city hall to the general postoffice and to military headquarters, and was there informed that the auditorium had been attacked, the windows, etc., being smashed, the rioters had not then penetrated the building. After a short interview the G.O.C. succeeded in communicating by telephone with the mayor, who immediately proceeded to headquarters, where he was handed a prepared order to proceed to the scene of the riot and read it. The mayor left in company with the chief of police for the scene of the riot. It appears that the mayor and chief of police, in their trip to military headquarters, had passed the auditorium, as Captain Desrochers was informed by the chief of police that the crowd were then in the building and throwing the records into the street. Captain Desrochers is of the opinion that both the chief of police and the mayor had been avoided if the civil authorities had taken notice of his repeated warnings and a proper display of protection had been made by civil police, as requested by him.

"The facts as to what transpired between the military authorities and the mayor must be obtained from the former, as I have no knowledge of it other than hearsay. After the registrar's office had been set on fire, the fire brigade were called out, but owing to the action of the mob in preventing the firemen from performing

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their duty great damage was done to the building and records before the fire was brought under control.

Thousand Records Lost.

"After careful investigation I find that the greater portion of the most important records were saved, as they had been locked away in a back filing room and were apparently overlooked by the mob, smoke and water being the cause of damage to these documents which, with the exception of possibly one thousand names, will be saved, and from which new records can be made up. All the office furniture, chief public representative's files and documents, stationery and supplies, in fact everything except the small filing room already spoken of, have been totally destroyed. Steps are now being taken to re-establish the registrar's

office at Quebec, and I contemplate having this office in full working order at an early date.

"As the lives and personal property of the Dominion police had been threatened, I instructed Capt. Desrochers to have his men scattered, and for the present to make no arrests. The work of the Dominion police in Quebec, therefore, for the moment is suspended. Captain Desrochers informs me that there have been since the commencement of activities by the Dominion police, threats made against individual members of the force, and what work they have been able to accomplish has been done in the face of a hostile attitude from practically every source.

(Signed) Director, Military Service Branch."

WAR SUMMARY

THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

The battlefield in France has become as calm as it was violent a few days ago, for yesterday the British experienced no change in the fighting, the French fought no infantry action, and had only a heavy artillery engagement to fight in the region of Montdidier. The British in the previous night captured Ayelette, a village in a strong position south of Arras. The German papers are denying that the allies halted the German advance, and they predict a renewal of the offensive. Bad weather, they affirm, has been the only thing that has stopped the Germans. Each side apparently expects that the other will do the attacking next. The recent British gains have had as their purpose the improvement of their defensive position. The German official communications, meanwhile, are breaking gradually and gently to the German people the news of their large losses.

Bad weather is again interfering with active operations, making it difficult for the Germans to manage their heavy movement of troops, guns and transport, but the belief seems to prevail at British headquarters that they must strike again or admit defeat. Confession of failure would be fraught with a reaction from which their higher command shrinks. The enemy, however, it is estimated, has struck his hardest blow, and the capable of repeating his blows, each blow will be weaker than its predecessor.

Owing to the failure of the enemy to capture Amiens it is a debatable question whether the allies will launch a counter-offensive. Many expect that the enemy will force the fighting at a later period in the campaign, if he does not renew the struggle before Amiens almost immediately, and they therefore may choose to husband their strength until later in the season so as to be able to put a tremendous force in their counter-blow. Altho the German losses have been enormous, they have not been sufficient to use up the enemy's strategic reserve, and the allies, if any chance remains of the enemy attacking them again soon, may wait until he uses up his surplus troops. Then they will have a strategic reserve virtually intact for the prosecution of their designs. Thus they are jockeying for last place on the theory that it is the last battle that wins.

Regarding the situation created by the offensive as a whole, it cannot be said, aside from the loss of men, that the enemy has much improved his defensive position. Altho he again holds the lines of the Somme, the advantage for which that battle was fought remains with the allies. It was fought for the opening of a new front, in order that the allies might capture the heights of Arras and Vimy Ridge and the heights of the Aisne. While these remain in their hands they have a line of observation over large stretches of country and can launch offensives against the German communications, the immobilizing of large forces of Germans, thru a shortening of the German front may tell as heavily against them, for the reinforcing capacity of the allies is still considered vaster than the reinforcing capacity of the central powers for the present campaign.

The German submarine offensive which began with a bang with the land offensive has already ended in a fizzle, for the British anti-submarine return of last week's sinkings shows a loss of only six large vessels against 18 the preceding week. The British anti-submarine organization has shown by this record that it has attained a high efficiency and it is doing as much as anything else to take the heat out of the enemy. Until recently Von Tirpitz has been pre-

dicting that the submarines would defeat Britain, but instead Britain is defeating the submarines.

The speech of Count Cernin of Austria gives the impression that the enemy, thru Vienna, has begun his peace offensive and is now on the offensive. Austria, it is expected, will probably attack Italy, but before doing so she may have to wait for the return of the army from the western front. By watching the movements of the enemy heavy artillery, now massed together to give the maximum results, the allies can always make a good guess of where the enemy is planning to strike his blows. (The British survive by the thousands, are leaving their contingents on the Italian front.

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STRICKEN AT HER DESK

Mrs. Busby, of St. Thomas, Dies Before Doctor Could Be Called.

St. Thomas, April 3.—Mrs. Edward Busby, a well-known resident of this city, died suddenly today. Mrs. Busby was in perfect health until she was stricken with acute heart trouble while seated at her desk, and died before medical aid could be summoned. Mrs. Busby came to Canada from Silvertown, a well-known actress, and has been a resident of St. Thomas ever since. She was prominent in church and patriotic work. She is survived by her husband, two daughters and two sons, G. W. Busby, of Fort William, and Bert Busby, of New York, who prior to becoming a movie star was a grand opera singer.

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