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WEATHER—SHOWERY

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CANADIANS CAPTURE IMPORTANT GROUND NEAR BRIDGE OF LENS CITY

CANADIANS GAIN MORE TERRITORY

Heavy Fighting All Day Yesterday for Possession of Enemy Stronghold.

SEVERAL COUNTER-ATTACKS REPELLED

Manitoba Troops Attack Point on North Bank of the Souchez River.

OPEN WAY TO THE HEART OF LENS

Enemy, Aided by His Aeroplanes, Makes Stubborn Resistance.

London, Aug. 23.—The official report from British headquarters in France describes heavy fighting about Lens, where the Canadian troops have gained a foothold on a strong enemy strategic point south of Lens. The text of the statement reads:

"Heavy local fighting has taken place all day for the possession of an important enemy stronghold immediately south of Lens, known as the Green Grasser. Our troops gained a footing on the spoil heap early this morning, and have since beaten off several counter-attacks, in which the enemy suffered heavy losses, both from our artillery and in hand-to-hand fighting. Possession of the position is still being fiercely disputed.

"A hostile attack upon one of the fortified farms captured by us yesterday north of the Ypres-Bottlers railway was repulsed by our machine gun fire. We have advanced slightly to the northeast of Langemarck."

Stewart Lyon's Story.

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, Aug. 23.—(By Stewart Lyon, Special Correspondent of the Canadian Press.)—Another turn of the screw was made this morning on the southwest front of Lens.

At three o'clock, after a short but intense bombardment, the Manitoba troops attacked the Green Grasser, a huge heap of pit refuse on the north bank of the Souchez river, by which our advance into Lens from the south was barred. The Fosse St. Louis, which consisted of a tangle of pit-head machinery, shot to pieces by many bombardments, was also attacked.

Manitobans Go Forward.

On a front of about 700 yards the Manitobans went forward from 200 to 400 yards, and opened the way towards the heart of the city on the south, as the other advances of the past week had done on the north and west.

The possession of Green Grasser will also enable our men to sweep with their machine guns a wide tract of country to the south of the Souchez river, now occupied by the enemy, including the mining village of St. Antoine.

The enemy made a stubborn resistance, which was materially helped by several of his aeroplanes that flew low over our advancing troops and shot at them with their machine guns. One of the enemy planes was brought down in flames by a British airman and another was driven down out of control. After they had ejected the enemy, our men, while consolidating, came under machine gun fire from the mouth of a tunnel east of the St. Louis pits, which made all movement difficult. It was another case of go on or go back. They went on, and in the tunnel mouth found and captured four machine guns.

The Germans evidently set great store on the ground attacked this morning. Wounded prisoners state that it was held by two battalions.

FEAR SIX AMERICANS PERISHED

Were Taken from Campana's Boat by Submarine Which Was Probably Sunk by French Vessel.

ATLANTIC PORT, AUG. 23.—The Standard Oil tank steamer Campana, whose captain and five of her navy gunners were taken prisoners by a German submarine on August 6, surrendered to the U-boat, but only because she had no other shot to fire. The Campana's ammunition after firing 180 shots became exhausted.

This was the story told by J. H. Bruce, third mate of the Campana, who with forty other members of the Campana crew and eight gunners, arrived here on a French steamship. The battle began at 5 a.m. and was waged for four hours at a range of between 7300 and 7500 yards.

The U-boat fired 400 shots, only two of which hit the mark. The Campana nevertheless was outraged by the two runs, one of which, the other two-inch with which the submarine was armed. The U-boat was fully as speedy as the American vessel. After the Campana hoisted the international signal of surrender, her last shell gone, the submarine nevertheless continued to fire, Bruce said, and all hands took to the boats. Capt. Oliver and five gunners were taken on board the U-boat.

As a submarine in the vicinity was seen, afterwards—sunk by a French steamer it is feared the men perished.

C. P. R. FIGHTING GOVERNMENT

Hon. William Pugsley, Chief Spokesman for Opponents of Government Ownership of C. N. R.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Aug. 23.—A financial battle of considerable magnitude is in progress in the Commons. The page of battle is the Canadian Northern Railway, which the government proposed to acquire for the Canadian people.

Arrayed against the nationalization are the great money interests of eastern Canada. The situation in parliament, therefore, is not so much political as financial. So far as one can see it is Montreal finance versus Toronto finance; the Bank of Montreal against the Canadian Bank of Commerce; the Canadian Pacific Railway versus the Canadian Northern. The three great Montreal interests have combined against the three great Toronto interests.

C. P. R. Wants C. N. R. Naturally the C. P. R. has no desire to see the C. N. R. become a government road. The fight possibly for the corporation would, in the end, be a very unequal one. But something must be done regarding the Canadian Northern, and there are only two alternatives, as Sir Thomas White pointed out during the debate today, either the C. N. R. must be taken over by the government or it must be absorbed by the C. P. R.

The situation in parliament as the result of the railway policy of the government is strange. For the first time in its history the C. P. R. is fighting the Conservative party with the knife and the chief spokesman of the opponents of the government policy is Hon. William Pugsley.

WRECKERS FLOAT LARGE STEAMER

British Craft Was Ashore at the Magdalenas.

St. John's, P. E. I., Aug. 23.—The steamer Stella Maria and Strathcona have floated a large British freight steamer which has been ashore on one of the Magdalen Islands. The freighter will be repaired at Halifax. She was bound from a British port for St. Lawrence port when the accident occurred.

RECEIVERS FOR C. N. R. BAD POLICY

Sir Thomas White Tells Liberal Critics Bad Situation Due to Grits.

CANADA OR C. P. R. WILL GET SYSTEM

Otherwise Receivership Unavoidable—Government Operation Proper Step

Ottawa, Aug. 23.—(Eastern Press) Sir Thomas White, on the resumption in the house today of consideration in committee of the Canadian Northern Railway Bill, read a list of shareholders of that enterprise which he had received from the company. These shareholders are as follows:

The Minister of Finance and Receiver-General of Canada, in trust, for His Majesty, \$40,000,000; Sir William MacKenzie, \$10,000; Sir Donald Mann, \$10,000; D. B. Hanna, \$10,000; E. R. Wood, \$10,000; R. J. MacKenzie, \$10,000; J. A. Leach, \$2,000; Hon. F. Nicholls, \$2,000; E. M. Horn-Payne, \$2,000; Hon. J. Richardson, \$2,000; W. A. Christie, \$2,000; W. K. George, \$2,000; British Empire Trust Co. Ltd., \$234,000; John Aird and H. V. F. Jones in trust, \$1,000,000; MacKenzie, Mann and Co. Ltd., \$58,814,000, making a total of \$100,000,000. (Signed) R. P. Ormsby, assistant secretary.

The Firm's Holdings.

Hon. Wm. Pugsley desired the details of the holdings of MacKenzie and Mann and Co., Ltd. Sir Thomas White replied that the secretary of the company had written him stating that of the \$58,814,000 of capital stock, par value, \$31,000,000 was wholly the property of MacKenzie and Mann and Co., Ltd.; \$2,000,000 was in trust for certain officers and employees of long standing; \$1,600,000 was deposited with the province of British Columbia, and the balance, \$4,214,000, was held by MacKenzie and Mann and Co., Ltd., pending uncompleted financial arrangements for distribution among MacKenzie and Mann and Co., Ltd., Lazar Bros., London, and the British Empire Trust Co., London.

An advance upon two German colliery positions adjoining the Crassier, to the northwest, earlier in the night constant counter-attacks which they have been delivering, found the Canadians in their midst with little warning. But the defenders did not give up without a struggle, and there was considerable hand-to-hand fighting.

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On Edge of City. The Canadians thus far, have not attempted to advance into the heart of Lens, but today's fighting was on the edge of the city proper, rather than in the suburbs. There seems to be no diminution in the strength of the Canadian attacks. Despite the tremendous labor they have performed in the past few days, they have worked steadily and methodically, gradually weaving a net around the Germans, who live miserably in their underground positions within the city where it is rapidly approaching the point where it will furnish most inhospitable quarters for the enemy.

SLIGHT HALT IN UPWARD TREND OF FOOD PRICES

Ottawa, Aug. 23.—A slight halt in the upward trend of food prices is recorded by the labor department as having taken place in July. The department's number of wholesale prices for the month was practically unchanged from that for June, and the weekly budget of food fell prices at the middle of the month was lower at \$11.62 as compared with \$11.89 for June. Retail prices for potatoes were lower, but there were also decreases in eggs, butter, cheese, bread and flour, although eggs later began to rise. A variety of meats, however, but wood was upwards. Some advances in rents also occurred.

KING GEORGE COMPLIMENTS ROUMANIANS

London, Aug. 23.—King George has sent a message to Ferdinand of Roumania, expressing admiration for the resistance the Roumanians and Russians are offering to the enemy, and expressing confidence that their efforts will not go unrewarded. The telegram says:

"At a time when Your Majesty is engaged in a bitter struggle in battle with your country, I desire to convey to you the admiration of the British peoples for the magnificent way in which the allied armies under your command have fought, and for the very gallant resistance they are making to the assault of the enemy."

"The British peoples are closely following the course of the great battle now raging, and are true to the valor of the Roumanian and Russian troops, under the leadership of Your Majesty, in bringing the enemy's efforts to naught."

"British forces in the west, in co-operation with their gallant French comrades are striking hard at the common enemy, and will continue, by all means in their power, to render the most assistance to Your Majesty's forces, their allies."

COALITION POSSIBLY

Ottawa, Aug. 23.—Political indications today point more strongly toward success of the union negotiations. The western delegation which will confer in Winnipeg with the Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan representatives, has decided by the end of the week its recommendations. It is understood that Sir Robert Borden's leadership is agreeable to this, in connection with the economic issues have also been settled. The only remaining difficulty is one of personnel.

GREETING TO RUSSIA FROM U. S. GRAND ARMY

Veterans of North Send Message of Encouragement in Crisis.

Boston, Aug. 23.—Amid wild cheers and battle cries the aged Union veterans of the Civil war, attending the 51st annual encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, here adopted a message of greeting, encouragement and sympathy to the soldiers of Russia.

"As it was ours a half a century ago to wage a successful war for the preservation of the American union, the freedom of a race and the perpetuity of republican form of government," the message said, "so may it be yours, heroic sons of a mighty people, by your united, devoted and sustained efforts, to establish on an enduring foundation in your great country government of the people by the people and for the people, and to this end we send prayers to heaven, and our sons to the aid of the allied armies on the battlefields of Europe."

ANOTHER CRISIS FACES RUSSIA

Washington, Aug. 23.—Russia's critical internal situation, aggravated by the new German drive against Riga threatening the capital is watched by officials here with grave concern. It became known today that official advices are closely in accord with press despatches describing grave political conditions in the Baltic provinces. The outcome of the forthcoming extraordinary national council, to be held at Moscow, is awaited here with interest, scarcely less keen than in Russia itself. The immediate fate of Russia, it is said, depends upon it.

BATTLE NOW ALMOST IN LENS CITY

Canadians Not Fighting Much in Suburbs But on Edge of Town.

NO ATTEMPT YET TO ENTER CITY

Boys From Dominion Have Greatly Strengthened the British Line.

British Front in France and Belgium, Aug. 23.—(By the Associated Press.)—An advance by the Canadians in the neighborhood of the Green Grasser, on the southern edge of Lens, this morning has added greatly to the strength of the British line, which has continued to tighten steadily about the heart of the city. The Crassier is really a great slag heap, which has been accumulating for years over a considerable area between three groups of railway yards from which coal trains were sent south and west. It lies only about three hundred yards south of the Central Railway station of Lens, and overlooks it.

An Important Buffer. The Crassier is an important buffer between the Canadians and the defenses of the city proper, and the Germans reach it through tunnels connected with the network of passages and dugouts beneath Lens.

Little Warning for Huns. The Canadians made their assault before dawn this time, and the attack was preceded by a protracted and exceedingly intense bombardment of the German positions. The Germans, exhausted by the long strain of constant counter-attacks which they have been delivering, found the Canadians in their midst with little warning.

CORONER'S JURY EXONERATES SUSSEX LAD

James Jones Not Guilty of Culpable Homicide in Death of Private Harry K. Jones of Moncton.

Special to The Standard. Sussex, Aug. 23.—An inquest was held this evening by Coroner F. W. Wallace to determine the cause of the death of Pte. Harry K. Jones of No. 2 Forestry Battalion which occurred at the camp grounds yesterday. The following jury were empanelled: Seth Jones, James Chestnut, Samuel Killen, John Jackson, Wm. McTiernan, C. P. Clarke and Frank Howard.

The following witnesses of the tragedy gave evidence: James Jones, Redvers Thompson, Sgt. Yervood and Sgt. Marshall, all of whom testified that the men were skylarking and that the sparring bout was of an entirely friendly nature. Dr. J. A. McIntyre, who was summoned to attend Private Jones at the time of the accident, testified that the cause of death was due to a blow opposing the heart's action, immediately stopping it. The finding of the jury was that the cause of Pte. Harry K. Jones' death was from a blow delivered by James Jones while engaged in a friendly boxing bout and in the opinion of the jury the blow was delivered in a friendly manner without intent to do bodily harm.

The jury added: "We do further say that the said James Jones is not guilty of culpable homicide in killing the said Harry K. Jones, because the said James Jones, by misfortune and against his will, did kill the said Harry K. Jones."

The late Pte. Jones will be buried tomorrow at 2 o'clock with military honors, the funeral taking place from the parlors of Funeral Director F. W. Wallace.

IMPORTANT GAINS IN BELGIUM

British Gradually Getting Possession of Dominating High Ground.

BRITISH HOLD WEDNESDAY'S ADVANTAGE

They Penetrated Enemy Line to Extreme Depth of Over Half a Mile.

ADVANCE IN FACE OF HEAVY GUNFIRE

Sanguinary Fighting Occurs at Inverness and in Glen-course Wood.

HUNS HOLD STRONG MACHINE GUN POST

Hand to Hand Fighting Throughout Wednesday and During Night.

British Headquarters in France and Belgium, Aug. 23. (By the Associated Press.)—Despite heavy counter-attacks from the enemy during the night the British today were holding strongly the positions which they reached yesterday, along a front varying in depth from a few hundred yards to half a mile.

Even the Inverness Cope, the Ypres-Monin road, where the Germans were so strongly fortified that one would scarcely have dared to predict success for an attack, was partly in British possession after hand-to-hand fighting which continued throughout yesterday, and into the night. In the other important battle theatre on the British front, Lens, the Canadians last night and this morning made still further advances on their southwest front. Early today they attacked the German positions at the Green Grasser, north of the Souchez river.

Situation at Lens.

Last night the Canadians also pushed forward toward two strong fosses adjoining the Green Grasser to the northwest. The situation here has been more quiet, as a whole, since yesterday morning. Fighting still continues east and northeast of Ypres. The British secured the strong position in Inverness Cope, and their line runs approximately through a point in the centre of this wood from the north and south, but north of it the Germans are in possession of a large machine gun position which dominates the northern portion of the wood, and these guns add to the difficulties of the situation for the British.

Severe Gunfire.

The British made their advance into Inverness in the face of an extremely severe machine gun fire from the wood, and from points to the north and south. The ground here is marshy and hard for the infantry to traverse, but the British forced their way forward to the wood, where they threw themselves on the Germans with bayonet and bombs, and drove the enemy back. Heavy counter-attacks failed to dislodge the British from the line where they finally rested half way through the wood.

Similar sanguinary fighting also occurred a little north, in the Glencourse Wood, where there was a most of machine guns. In this Ypres-Monin road sector of the fighting the British penetrated the German defences to a depth of about 500 yards over a front of about a mile.

STRENUOUS BATTLE

In a bigger battle further north the British reduced many exceedingly strong German concrete redoubts and strongholds, which had figured, in much of the fighting heretofore. One of these, which was the scene of a strenuous battle before the British finally subdued its garrison, was counter-attacked determinedly by the enemy later in the day, but the attack was driven off with considerable losses to the Germans.

Along this front the British penetrated to the utter depth of over half a mile, thereby securing much of the ground which they had failed to gain in the bitter offensive of last Thursday. A considerable number of prisoners have been sent back, but no official estimate yet is available.