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The Toronto World

THURSDAY MORNING DECEMBER 6 1917—FOURTEEN PAGES.

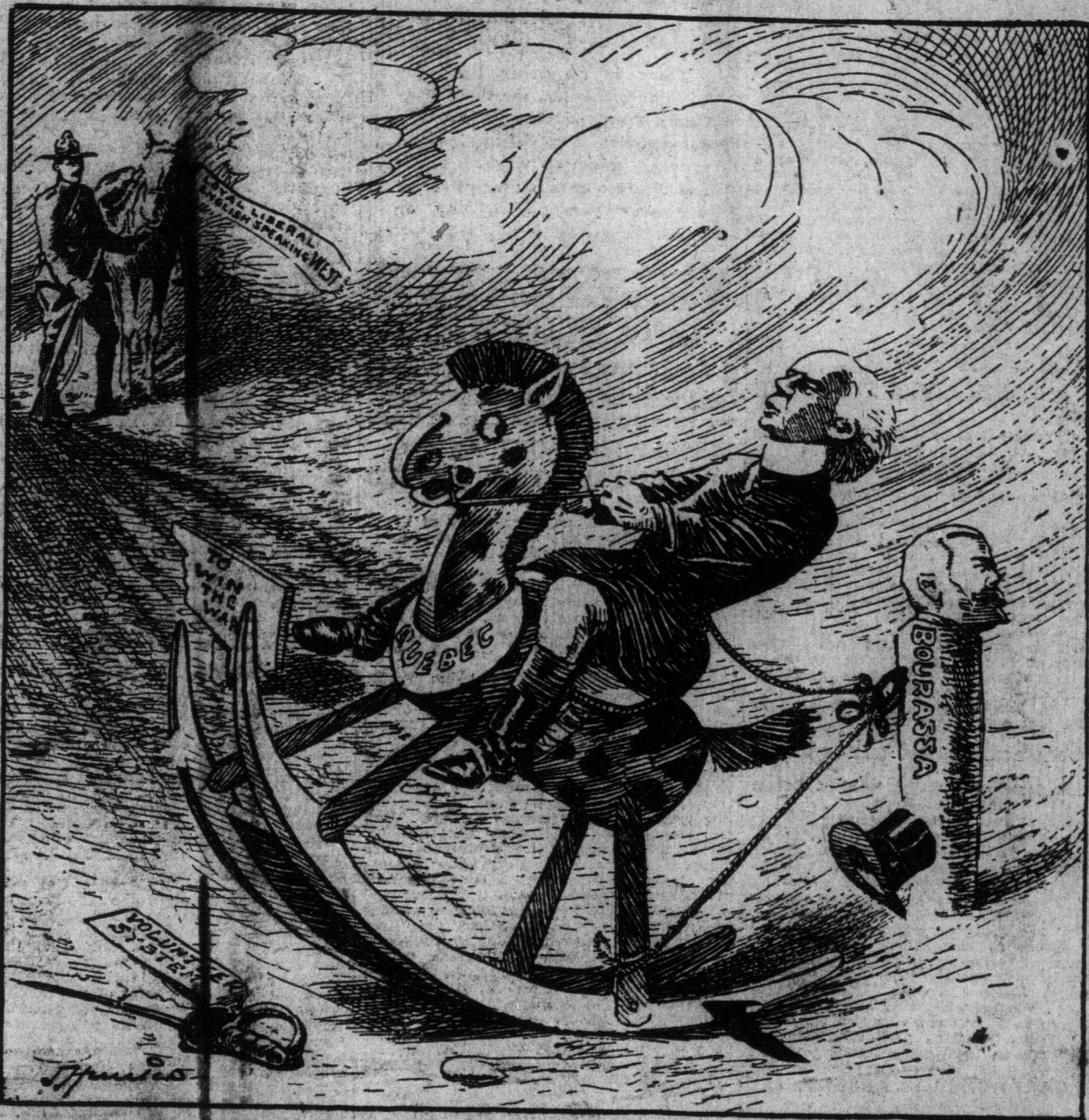
VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,539

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BRITISH DEFEAT STRONG ENEMY ATTACK AT LA VACQUERIE New Teuton Offensive Against Piave River Line is Held in Check by Italian Forces GERMAN MASS STRONG FORCE FOR RENEWAL OF CAMBRAI BATTLE NEW OFFENSIVE IS LAUNCHED AGAINST LINES OF ITALIANS ON THE WRONG HORSE



Hun Forces Attack on Asiago Plateau and Gain Some Positions But Without Impairing the Defensive Strength of Lines.

Rome, Dec. 5.—Enemy forces have begun an attack on the Italian lines on the Asiago Plateau, the war office announced today. This only gains in the attack were some positions between Monte Tena and Monte Madonico, northeast of Asiago. The Italians withdrew from some of the more advanced positions of their lines between Monte Tena and Monte Madonico, northeast of Asiago.

THE REAL ISSUE

From The Christian Guardian, Toronto, Dec. 5. THE great majority of the people of Canada are today in a sober and serious mood. And it is altogether seemly that they should be. Apparently there are a few who are in a somewhat ugly mood that ill befits the time and occasion. It is a sober and a serious day in the history of the world, and we ought not to forget or ignore that fact. It is a sober and a serious day in our own history; there never was a day that was more so.

We have been for three years and four months at war. Our record of participation in the greatest struggle the world has ever known, a struggle that from our side seeks only to establish justice and equality and brotherhood in the earth, has not been a record over which we need altogether to hang our heads in shame and confusion. There have been some things, perhaps many things, that we might have done better. There have been some things, no doubt, that ought not to have been done at all. But we have written what we have written, and the unbiased reader in the long days to come will say that Canada, at least for three years and four months, did well, did splendidly, did heroically. No future Canadian can be made to blush as these pages are turned over.

But now we come to what may be the parting of the ways. A federal election is upon us, and that brings with it a crisis, a crisis the issues of which are as clear and straight-cut as any man could ask them to be. The question at issue is—shall we renege and renege ourselves to the task of winning the war, a task which surely has come to us in the providence of God, or shall we back away and consider that we have about done our duty and that nothing more of an aggressive and enthusiastic kind is to be expected from us? A vote for the Union government will mean that we have taken the former alternative; a vote for Sir Wilfrid Laurier will mean that we have taken the latter.

And let no man think that any attempt to bring in any other item into the situation can make the issue any other than as stated. By our votes on the 17th of this month we will decide what is to be Canada's future policy in regard to the war, and we will decide nothing else that is of very particular moment at this time. And the man who casts his vote under the impulse of party bias, or because he wishes to punish a government that no longer exists, or because of any kindly feeling for a great party leader, will be foolishly trifling with a great issue. A Union government, committed heart and soul to an aggressive prosecution of the war, ready to remedy as far as may be any mistakes that the past has seen and to do better anything that has been done well, appeals for our support. On the other hand, a great party leader who tells us plainly that his program for the war is not an aggressive one, who says he will never conscript any man, who has promised that the only just and possible method of keeping the Canadian ranks at the front filled up will not be used by him, a man who has back of him many honest and patriotic citizens, it is true, but who has back of him also every unpatriotic and enemy-loving force and influence in the whole country, asks for our suffrages also. We have to choose, and the choice will be just as stated.

Of course it can be admitted that a man may be a patriot and still think that Canada has done her share in the war. But we will submit that he cannot be an intelligent, thoughtful and broad-visioned patriot and still think that. The war is not over—in fact, in many ways it would seem as if it had only begun. The hideous wrong with which it began, the rape and ruin of Belgium, has not been made right. The reason for our starting the war exists just as it did when we began. And there is no reason in justice and honor why we should quit now any more than there is a reason why Belgium, or France, or Italy, or our Motherland should. According to our obligation we have done no more than any one of these has done; in fact, it might not be at all difficult to show that we have not done as much as any of them. Why, then, should we stop now, or weaken now, any more than they should? And if it be argued, as we have heard it, that the United States can take up some of the obligations that we have been carrying, the manifest answer is that it will be many months yet before the United States will be ready to make up the disadvantage caused by the collapse of Russia. The United States has a burden of her own to carry, and she cannot bear ours; and if we do not bear it heroically and faithfully we will become a traitor to our cause.

And if self-interest is to be appealed to, surely we cannot leave our own flesh and blood in the position that our troops at the front will be in if we do not send them large reinforcements at the earliest date possible, and back them up by a most vigorous and aggressive policy. It has been said often, but it may be said again, for it is absolutely true, a vote for the Union government will be a vote for our own Canadian soldiers in France and Flanders.

GERMANS MASSING BIG FORCES TO RENEW CAMBRAI ASSAULTS

Indications Point to Fresh Effort by Enemy to Breach British Lines—Haig Fully Prepared for Any German Offensive Move.

By R. T. Small, Staff Correspondent, Associated Press. With the British Army in France, Dec. 5.—There is no indication that General von Marwitz's great offensive has been abandoned and the presence of further fresh infantry divisions in the Cambrai area shows that the enemy has not yet lost hope of inflicting a sharp defeat on the British. The British line is now very strongly held and can withstand any Juggernaut pressure, and the anxiety—the natural effect of the first two days' onslaught—has been followed by a feeling of cheerfulness and complete confidence.

STRONG ATTACK BY GERMANS AT LA VACQUERIE IS BEATEN

British Artillery Also Frustrates Enemy Attempts at Assaults at Bourlon and Moeuvres. London, Dec. 5.—The official report from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters tonight says: "On the Cambrai battlefront two minor attacks attempted by the enemy during the morning in the neighborhood of Gonnelle were successfully repulsed. Local fighting also took place this morning to our advantage in the neighborhood of La Vacquerie. "Early in the afternoon a more serious attack was delivered by the enemy in this area in considerable force; it was repulsed after severe fighting. Hostile infantry advancing to attack in the neighborhood of Bourlon Wood and Moeuvres was engaged and repulsed by our artillery.

SPIRITED FIGHTING MARKS WHOLE MACEDONIAN FRONT

Surprising Activity Displayed By Bulgarian Forces From Adriatic Sea to the Struma River. Washington, Dec. 5.—Fighting has been resumed on the Macedonian front, and despatches received here today describe the activities of the Bulgarians as surprising. Their air-men have been particularly active in reconnaissance work, but many of them have been brought down by British aviators. French anti-aircraft guns and machine guns. The fighting has covered the front from the Struma to the mouth of the Vajussa, which practically bounds the Italian position in Albania, and a number of Bulgarian patrols have been captured by the French, who are installed in vantage places overlooking the valley of the Vardar and especially on hills above Monastir.

RUSS TROOPS AID BRITISH IN ATTACK IN MESOPOTAMIA

Joint Successful Operation Carried Out Against Turks is Announcement by Major-General Maurice. London, Dec. 5.—British troops, acting in conjunction with an efficient force of Russians, have carried out a successful operation in Mesopotamia, Major-General F. B. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the war office, announced today. "The British official communication dealing with the operations in Mesopotamia says: "After the action of Oct. 20, in which we established ourselves on the Jebel Hamrin range (north of Bagdad) and on the left bank of the Diala River, the Turks continued to hold a position in the hills and on the right bank of that river north of Dely Ab-

WAY PAVED FOR BREACH BY U. S. WITH AUSTRIA

Congress Makes Ready for Formal Assent to War Declaration. Text of Resolution Turkey and Bulgaria Not Included in Draft of Declaration.

Washington, Dec. 5.—Congress cleared the way today for a prompt response to President Wilson's call for a declaration of war with Austria-Hungary. A joint resolution approved by the president and the state department, declaring existence of a state of war between the United States and the imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian Government from today at noon, was introduced in the house and unanimously approved by the house foreign affairs committee. It will be reported tomorrow or beginning of house debate on Friday, with final action in the senate late this week or early next week probably.

Conforming to the president's recommendation, the resolution, which authorizes and directs employment of the nation's armed forces against Austria and pledges the country's resources to victory, applied to Austria alone. Germany's other allies, Turkey and Bulgaria, are not mentioned.

Whereas the imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian Government has severed diplomatic relations with the government of the United States of America and has committed acts of hostility against the government and people of the United States of America, and in giving to its ally active support and aid on both land and sea in the prosecution of war against the government of the United States of America; therefore, be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States in congress assembled, that a state of war be and is hereby declared to exist and to have existed since noon of the fifth day of December, 1917, between the United States of America and the imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian Government; and that the president be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the government, to carry on war against the imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian Government, and to bring the conflict to a successful termination all the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the congress of the United States.

BRAZILIANS TO SEND SOLDIERS TO EUROPE

Figure on Aiding Entente Cause With Men as Well as With Munitions. New York, Dec. 5.—A commission of nine army and civilian officials sent by the government of Brazil to make a study of American munitions factories during the next year or 18 months, with a view to enabling the Latin republic to expand her munition manufacturing facilities to meet her war needs, arrived in this city today. Purchase of powder, machine guns, small arms, and other munition for the use of Brazil's army and navy will be one of the purposes of the mission's presence here, it was stated, but the chief object is the eventual development of so many munition making plants in Brazil that foreign orders will not have to be placed.

DINEEN'S MEN'S FURS

The best assorted stock of Men's Coon Skin Coats in Canada. These are all full-furred matched skins, large skinned coats with large lapels and heavy storm collar. The prices are also uniformly right. Dineen's, 140 Yonge Street.

RUSSIAN CONDITIONS REJECTED BY GERMANS

Two Principal Points of Armistice Meet With Refusal From Enemy. London, Dec. 5.—A Russian official communication dealing with the armistice negotiations, received here by wireless, says: "The enemy delegates replied evasively to the two initial Russian proposals, but promised to consult their governments concerning them. The proposals proposed as the principal points of an armistice that the enemy should not undertake to send forces from the Russian front to the fronts of Russia's allies; also that the German detachments be withdrawn from the islands of Moon Sound. The enemy delegates refused these proposals."

NO POLLING AT SASKATON.

Saskatoon, Sask., Dec. 5.—By the request of two candidates for the public school board every municipal office in Saskatoon has been filled by acclamation.

Maclean Meetings, South York.

- Thursday, Dec. 6.—North Toronto Town Hall. Speakers: Sir John Willison, W. F. Maclean, Mrs. C. A. Risk, Mrs. R. G. Kirby, Sergt.-Major York and others. Richmond Hill. These two meetings joint with West York. Friday, Dec. 7.—Toronto Town Hall. Saturday, Dec. 8.—North Toronto Town Hall. Sunday, Dec. 10.—West Toronto Town Hall. Monday, Dec. 11.—Toronto Town Hall. Tuesday, Dec. 12.—Toronto Town Hall. Wednesday, Dec. 13.—Toronto Town Hall. Thursday, Dec. 14.—Toronto Town Hall. Friday, Dec. 15.—Toronto Town Hall. Saturday, Dec. 16.—Toronto Town Hall. Sunday, Dec. 17.—Toronto Town Hall. Monday, Dec. 18.—Toronto Town Hall. Tuesday, Dec. 19.—Toronto Town Hall. Wednesday, Dec. 20.—Toronto Town Hall. Thursday, Dec. 21.—Toronto Town Hall. Friday, Dec. 22.—Toronto Town Hall. Saturday, Dec. 23.—Toronto Town Hall. Sunday, Dec. 24.—Toronto Town Hall. Monday, Dec. 25.—Toronto Town Hall. Tuesday, Dec. 26.—Toronto Town Hall. Wednesday, Dec. 27.—Toronto Town Hall. Thursday, Dec. 28.—Toronto Town Hall. Friday, Dec. 29.—Toronto Town Hall. Saturday, Dec. 30.—Toronto Town Hall. Sunday, Dec. 31.—Toronto Town Hall.

BRITISH SHIPPING LOSSES TOTAL SEVENTEEN IN WEEK

More of Larger Craft Sunk, But General Total is Four Less Than Last Week.

London, Dec. 5.—Sixteen British merchantmen of more than 1000 tons were sunk by mines or submarines in the past week, according to the admiralty statement tonight. One vessel under 1000 tons and four fishing vessels also were sunk. The admiralty summary follows: Arrivals, 2174; sailings, 2132. British merchantmen over 1000 tons sunk by mine or submarine, 18; under 1000 tons, 1. Fishing craft, 4. British vessels unsuccessfully attacked, including one previously, eight. The losses to British shipping by mine or submarine the previous week comprised fourteen merchantmen of 1000 tons or over and seven of less than that tonnage. TWO ITALIAN SHIPS SUNK. Rome, Dec. 5.—Losses of Italian shipping from submarine activity during the week ended December 2 were one steamer of more than 1000 tons, one under that tonnage and three small sailing vessels, it was officially announced today.

TEN MILLIONS MORE IS CANADA'S TOTAL

Victory Loan Subscriptions Augmented by Late Reports Received.

Canada's total in the Victory Loan campaign has now reached the sum of \$411,000,000. This was subscribed by 715,000 people. In announcing these figures last night, W. S. Hodgins, chairman of the Dominion business committee, expressed his appreciation of the assistance he had received in the part of the work which fell to his lot. Through the city 450 people volunteered to help and gave efficient work. The organization throughout the whole of the Dominion, said Mr. Hodgins, "is simply marvellous when it is taken into consideration that it was thrown together in less than a month. The work done, however, is not a bit more marvellous than the amount and number of subscriptions obtained, and I want to convey in behalf of the Dominion business committee our thanks to everybody who had anything to do with the Victory Loan in the way of recording."

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