

THE WEATHER.

Maritime—Fresh northwesterly winds, fair and cool.

The St. John Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

OPERA HOUSE

TODAY—Afternoon—3 and 5.45. Evening—7.30 and 9. Marguerite Clark in "OUT OF THE DRIFTS."

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PRICE TWO CENTS

GERMANS SWITCH ATTACK AND LAUNCH FIERCE DRIVE AT BRITISH

GERMANS GAIN 500 YDS. IN DRIVE AT BRITISH LINE NEAR HULLUCH

British Counter-Attack, However, Succeeds in Dislodging Enemy From Part of Ground Won --- Infantry Fighting on Smaller Scale on French Front --- Russians Advance to Very Threshold of Mesopotamia.

CZAR'S FORCES FIGHT WAY ACROSS MOUNTAINOUS DISTRICT, SWEEP THE TURKS BACK ON THEIR BASE AT KHANIKIN AND ARE READY FOR LAST STAGE OF DRIVE TOWARDS BAGDAD.

Switching attacks from the Verdun region against the French the Germans have begun again a sharp offensive against the British line around Hulluch.

Preceding their movements with the usual heavy bombardments, the Germans launched an infantry attack against the British lines in the region of Vermelles and were successful in capturing first-line trenches over a front of about 500 yards.

The British admit the loss of the positions, but say that part of them were retaken in a counter-attack.

Berlin declares that in their defence of the trenches, and especially later in the counter-attacks, the British suffered heavy casualties, and in addition lost men made prisoners and several machine guns captured.

Around Verdun the French on the left bank of the Meuse have re-captured points of vantage previously taken from them southeast of Haucourt by the Germans.

Bombardments are again taking place in the vicinity of Le Mort Homme and Cumières, and against the French first and second line trenches on the right bank of the Meuse between the Haudromont Wood and Vaux. A German attack southeast of Fort Douaumont was repulsed.

Considerable infantry fighting, which, as yet, has been without result is in progress on the Dvinsk and Jacobstadt sectors of the Russian front. Petrograd reports that German attacks at several points here and farther south have been repulsed.

In the Austro-Italian theatre intense artillery actions are ensuing in the Col Di Lana zone, and the Italians have put down two Austrian attempts against captured positions on Mount Cukla.

Petrograd reports further progress for the Russians fighting against the Turks near the Persian frontier, with Bagdad as their objective. Here the Turks attempted to take the offensive, but Petrograd says the movement was repulsed. Farther north, near Achik, which is situated some fifty miles west of Erzerum, the Russians claim to have made further progress westward. This, however, is at variance with the claims of Constantinople, which says the Russians, driven out of their positions at Mount Kope, west of Erzerum, are making every effort to maintain themselves in new positions.

Two leaders in the Irish rebellion, James Connolly, known as commander general of the Irish Republican Army, and John McDermott, have been freed by court martial and shot.

Russians at Gate of Mesopotamia. Petrograd, May 12, via London (5.20 p. m.)—The Russian forces in Persia, which, during the past ten days, have completed the arduous task of traversing the mountain district separating it from the Turco-Persian frontier, driving the Turks upon their strongly fortified base of Khanikin, now stands at the very threshold of Mesopotamia, and future developments in connection with the Russian expedition toward Bagdad are being awaited with the greatest interest.

The hasty retreat of the Turks in this quarter seems to imply that the forces defending Khanikin have been greatly overestimated, and it is apparent that they have as yet been unable to transfer the force released by the surrender of Kut-el-Amara to assist their hard pressed army north of Bagdad. The Russian advance upon Khanikin therefore very seriously threatens the whole rear of the Turkish Bagdad army, confronting that army with the possibility of being entirely cut off from the city of Bagdad, and the forces operating to the southward against the British.

According to the opinion of Russian critics, the Turks are now endeavoring to meet this contingency by an entire change of front from south to north and northeast, so rearranging their forces as to meet the Russian pressure in these directions at the expense of their campaign south of Bagdad, which has become less important than that in the Khanikin region in view of the growing danger of a Russian attack upon their rear.

As the Turkish Mesopotamian campaign heretofore has been chiefly directed southward against the British, to occupy an element of trenches on the bank of the Yezur. Both attacks were repulsed. The Belgian artillery has directed a concentrated fire around Dixmude and on German defensive organizations to the north of that town. The enemy's works have been shattered.

London, May 12.—"The latest peace overtures said to be of German origin, while not as insolent and impossible as previous statements on the same subject, certainly do not yet offer a basis for negotiations," said Lord Robert Cecil, minister of war trade, in discussing with the Associated Press the latest reported German peace terms. Lord Robert continues: "We have never received, either officially or unofficially, any direct peace suggestions from Germany, and the only indirect overtures we are aware of appear in the speeches of Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg and the recent German note to America. We would not think of discussing or even considering any overture without consulting our allies. No formal or informal conference for this purpose has ever taken place.

"It is diplomatic procedure a neutral is hardly likely to make any suggestion of peace terms unless certain they are acceptable to the recipient. If Germany should decide to approach us through the medium of the United States, the latter would have to use its own judgment as to whether or not to deliver the request."

While disclaiming any knowledge of the internal condition of Germany, Lord Robert declared that the increasing reports of peace overtures indicate there is some truth to the stories that the Central Powers are in desperate straits.

St. John Boy Wounded. Word was received in the city yesterday that Gunner George W. Andrews, of 109 Victoria street, had been admitted to No. 3 general hospital in Boulogne, France, suffering from slight shrapnel wounds in the face and neck. He left St. John with Major Powers, and afterwards transferred to the artillery. He has been in practically all of the big battles of the war, and this is the first time he has been wounded.

The Canadian Northern Railroad loan was debated by the house today, and Monday the Quebec and Saguenay legislation will be discussed. This means the prorogation will take place on Wednesday. With the Quebec members engaged in the provincial campaign and most of the western members leaving immediately for the west, there will be but a handful of Ontario and Maritime Province representatives here to see the finish of what has been one of the most exciting and strenuous sessions for years.

The debate on the railway legislation was held on Wednesday. The government's position was supported by the opposition. The railway bill was passed by a narrow margin.

GRUMBLING IN BERLIN OVER FOOD SUPPLY; VICE-CHANCELLOR SCAPEGOAT

Amsterdam, via London, May 13.—Emperor William and Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg have decided that Clemens Delbrueck, German minister of the interior and vice-chancellor, must resign, says a Berlin despatch to the Frankfurter Zeitung. Minister Delbrueck has been reported ill during the past few days, but the real trouble, the despatch says, is dissatisfaction with Germany's food supplies. Count George Von Hertling, the Bavarian prime minister, is regarded as the probable successor to Minister Delbrueck.

A Berlin official statement on May 9 said that Minister Delbrueck had not yet completely recovered from an attack of sickness, and had been obliged to discontinue work for the present.

NO PEACE SUGGESTIONS FROM BERLIN

No Direct Proposals have been Received by British Government as Yet.

WHOLE ENTENTE WILL DICTATE THE TERMS.

Lord Cecil Says Rumored Peace Overtures Far from Offering a Basis for Negotiations.

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PARLIAMENT TO PROROGUE NEXT WEEK

Probably on Wednesday—Only a Few Grits Now at Capital Although Important Question of Railway Aid Before the House.

Ottawa, Ont., May 12.—Bilingualism over, the French Liberals returned post-haste to the Quebec House to take the platform for the Gouin Government and to make the most of the Laurier support of the Lapointe resolution in the provincial campaign now at its height. As a result but a handful of Liberals were in the house yesterday, while one of the most important problems of recent years was being discussed—the railway situation.

The government legislation to give the Grand Trunk Pacific a temporary loan of eight million dollars pending the report of a commission to investigate the whole question was passed before the session was over.

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Officers of 165th French Acadian Battalion to Start Recruiting Tour



Active and progressive recruiting work will be commenced by the officers and band of the 165th Battalion on Monday, next the 15th of May.

The itinerary of the proposed trip is as follows: Leaving Moncton on Saturday, the 13th of May, a meeting will be held at Buctouche on Sunday, the 14th; Middle Sackville, N. B., Black's hall, Monday evening, May 15th; St. Joseph, Assumption hall, on Tuesday, May 16th; Memramook, in the C. M. B. A. hall, on Wednesday, May 17th; Pre d'en Haut, N. B., school, on Thursday, May 18th; Cocagne, N.B., Bridge hall, on Monday, May 22nd; Grand Digne, N. S., Parish hall, Tuesday, May 23rd; Shediac, N. B., St. Joseph's hall, on Wednesday, May 24th. The splendid band of the regiment will accompany the recruiting officers.

PAYMENT OF PROFITS WAS TO HAVE COME FROM WORK ACTUALLY DONE AND PAID FOR

Yoakum on Stand at Fuse Inquiry Emphatically Declares No Division of Money Advanced by Shell Committee—Gen. Hughes and Gen. Bertram Not Told of Arrangement About Division of Profits.

Ottawa, May 12.—Benjamin Franklin Yoakum, of New York, of the Frisco Lines, who described himself as a man of large railroad and other interests, gave evidence before the Meredith-Duff commission of inquiry this afternoon, and proved the most interesting witness yet, insofar as connecting up the Kytz charges.

Yoakum was a partner in the American Ammunition Co., subsequent to the contract being secured in Ottawa. He entered into an agreement with Caldwell and Bassick whereby forty cents a fuse, or one million dollars, was to be divided between the three "on the delivery of fuses." Yoakum's share was to be \$475,000 and witness stated that half of this was to go to Col. J. Wesley Allison, whose share, after certain deductions, amounted to \$197,000.

Allison, in turn, had people to whom he assigned part of his interest. Col. Wm. McEath, the man who negotiated the land purchase at Valcartier, was to get \$30,000; Major George Washington Stephens, \$10,000; Eugene Lignanti, the musical director who figures in the Kytz charges, \$50,000, and Miss Mabel Edwards, Col. Allison's secretary, \$105,000. The nature of the services rendered by Col. McEath and Major Stephens was not disclosed. Another beneficiary is J. B. Craven, of New York, member of the firm of T. McAvity and Sons, St. John, N. B. According to the evidence, Craven gets \$30,000, not from Allison, alone, but jointly from Yoakum and Allison. It was Craven who apparently "lipped off" Yoakum, Bassick and Caldwell to the fuse contracts.

Yoakum investigated Craven's suggestion and it "seemed to be a good investment looking to future orders from foreign governments."

Yoakum did not explain what he meant by this expression. All the million has not yet been paid, it may be stated. As the money comes in, "as and when the fuses are paid for," it is divided pro rata among those named by Allison. So far the payments have been as follows:

Miss Edwards, \$18,899 out of \$105,000; Signor Lignanti, \$6,500 out of \$50,000; Col. McEath, \$8,899 out of \$30,000; and Major Stephens \$1,299 out of \$10,000. Craven assigned his share to August B. Fletcher, and Fletcher has been paid \$3,899 so far.

CHANCE FOR CANADIAN AVIATORS

Ottawa, May 12.—The Naval Department announces that the Admiralty is calling for a limited number of trained aviators from Canada for commissions in the Royal Naval Service and that with a view to providing training, the Curtiss Aviation School

will be re-opened in Toronto. Canadian aviators wishing to enter the service are requested to apply to the secretary of the Department of Naval Service at Ottawa. The age limits of candidates are from nineteen to twenty-five years and only well educated, athletic and thoroughly fit men with excellent eyesight can be accepted. A gratuity of one hundred dollars will be paid to those obtaining a pilot's certificate from the Canadian Aviation School on condition that the aviator joins the Royal Naval Air Service and undertakes after the war to become a member of a Canadian flying corps, should one be organized in Canada.

GREEK GOVT FINANCES IN BAD STATE

Athens, Greece, Thursday, May 11, via Paris, May 12.—The Austrian member of the International Financial Commission has been instructed by his government to support the Greek government's project for a new internal loan. The government expects to issue the loan at 8 1/2% with interest at 5 per cent.

The Greek government has become involved in serious financial difficulties owing to the situation brought about by the war and the expense of keeping its army in the field. The Entente Allies advanced \$5,000,000 last year, but efforts of Greece to obtain a further sum from them has been unsuccessful. The finances of Greece are supervised by an international commission, representing Germany, Austro-Hungary, France, Great Britain, Italy and Russia. A despatch from Athens yesterday said the commission had disapproved a project for an international loan of 20,000,000 drachmas.