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BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1917.

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Rheims to Dixmude Menaced by Allies 30,000 Germans Fell Before French

GALLIC TROOPS TOOK IMPORTANT TOWNS IN ADVANCE LAST NIGHT

**Foe Counter Attacks Failed--British Captured Villers-Gunfere Today--
Hungarian Premier Resigns--Gunfire Heard Off Massachusetts
Coast--German Monarchy in Peril, Says Reventlow--150,000
German Strikers in Berlin--Russian Conditions Improved.**

AUSTRIA, BULGARIA AND TURKEY ARE ANGLING FOR SEPARATE PEACE, SAYS REPORT

GERMAN LOSSES BEFORE FRENCH YESTERDAY 30,000.
PARIS, April 18.—The French war office announces that important progress made last night by the French advance which reached the towns of Chivry and Chivy and pushed on north of these points, reaching the vicinity of Brayee-Lanofs. Fierce counter attacks by the Germans were checked by the French artillery, the enemy suffering heavy losses. The whole of the German line from Rheims to Dixmude is menaced today. The German losses yesterday are placed at 30,000.

BRITISH CAPTURE VILLERS-GUISLAIN

LONDON, April 18.—British headquarters reports that during the night the British advanced further southeast and east of Epehy and this morning captured Villers-Guislain with its garrison. The British now parallel the high road between Cambrai and St. Quentin for a distance of 15 miles.

HEAVY FIRE TODAY OFF PRINCETOWN

BOSTON, April 18.—Three coast guard stations report heavy gunfire this morning off Princetown.

HUNGARIAN PREMIER AND OTHERS RESIGN

AMSTERDAM, April 18.—The Budapest Socialist paper, *Nove Szek*, announces the resignation of Count Tisza, the Hungarian Premier. The Vienna newspapers announce that Dr. Urban, Minister of Commerce and Dr. Baernreither, Minister without portfolio have resigned.

AUSTRIA, BULGARIA AND TURKEY ANGLING FOR PEACE

LONDON, April 18.—Reports persist that Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey are all angling for separate peace agreements with the entente through secret emissaries. The move is said to center in Switzerland. No confirmation is obtainable here.

WITHOUT A VICTORY, GERMAN MONARCHY MUST CEASE

AMSTERDAM, April 18.—Count von Reventlow, writing in the *Tages Zeitung* asserts that victory is necessary if the German monarchy is to endure. Without a German victory he says the German monarchy will soon cease to exist.

150,000 STRIKERS IN BERLIN

COPENHAGEN, April 18.—The number of strikers in Berlin is placed in even the semi-official report at 125,000 distributed through machine works, some electrical establishments and part of the munition plants.

CONDITIONS ON RUSSIAN FRONT IMPROVE

PETROGRAD, April 18.—Premier Lvoff and some of the other minister who have been visiting army headquarters report that conditions at the front have considerably improved, especially in regard to food and transportation.

THREE FIRE FIGHTERS KILLED AT TROY

TROY, N.Y., April 18.—Battalion Chief Bailey and two firemen were killed and eight other including Chief Patrick Hiron, were seriously injured by the explosion of an ammonia tank during a fire in the Mohican Grocery Company's building early today.

THE GREAT FRENCH ADVANCE GOES ON.

LONDON, April 17.—Extending their great offensive along the entire front east of Rheims as far as the old Champagne battlefield, the French delivered today another smashing stroke. In the face of violent gusts of rain and snow, the French troops stormed eighteen miles of German trenches, wiped out a powerful salient around the Village of Auberive and captured that place, and swept in 2,500 additional prisoners.

The total number of prisoners taken by the French in the last two days' operations is 13,500, as many as the British swept during five days. Unofficial reports place the German casualties on the French front in the last forty-eight hours at close to 100,000. One division sent to the relief of another on the eve of the battle was virtually wiped out, General Nivelle reports.

Along the hundred-mile front, where the guns on both sides are incessantly booming, there are not short of three million men engaged in the savage battle. Analog the French line of attack alone Nivelle's troops are opposed by nineteen divisions of reserves—285,000 men—and are believed to number twice that force themselves.

British Continue Advance

The British continued their advance in the region of Arras today, but their operations were considerably slowed down by the severe weather conditions. "Encounters occurred throughout the day west and northwest of Lens, where we continue to press the enemy," says Haig's report. The British also gained ground between St. Quentin and Cambrai, capturing the Le Tombos Farm, near Epehy, and advancing along the spur northeast of Epehy Station.

The German official statement, while disputing the claims of both the French and British reports, confesses for the first time the gigantic nature of the conflict now going on between Lens and the Champagne, and the inability of the German defenses to stand up under the enemy's attacks.

"One of the greatest battles of the mighty war and, therefore, also in the history of the world, is in progress on the Aisne," says Hindenburg's report. It speaks of the French gunfire along the whole line as being "unprecedented in duration, volume and intensity," and admits that the German positions were leveled, "rendering an obstinate defence no longer possible."

The Germans also frankly admit that they have been driven out of their trenches. "The fighting is no longer against a line, but over quite a deep and irregular fortified zone," says the Berlin report. In other words, it has become a war of manoeuvres in which both sides are inflicting enormous losses on each other's effective. In yesterday's battle between Cassons and Rheims the Germans took more than 2,100 prisoners, the statement adds.

BRITAIN AVOIDS ELECTION UNTIL CRISIS IS PAST

LONDON, April 17.—All possibility of the country being disturbed in the near future by a general election was removed tonight when, by a vote of 286 to 52 the house of commons passed on second reading the bill for the extension of the life of the parliament until November. The Nationalists were the chief opponents of the bill on the ground elaborated by John Dillon, member for East Mayo, that no solution of home rule for Ireland had yet been announced. Andrew Bonar Law, member of the British war council, inconcluding the debate on behalf of the government, admitted that a solution of the home rule problem would be a great advantage in the prosecution of the war.

ST. THOMAS' ANNUAL VESTRY.

The congregation of St. Thomas' Church enjoyed a very bounteous supper in the dining hall of the parish house last evening which was prepared by the members of the Women's guild. At eight o'clock the vestry meeting assembled in the auditorium and the meeting was opened by the rector, the Venerable Archdeacon Beamish, who presided. The audited and printed accounts of the vestry were presented by the people's warden, Mayor Ketcheson, and were very satisfactory, the total receipts for the year totalling \$5250.00. The rector appointed Mr. J. W. Davison as his warden for the coming year and the people unanimously re-elected Mayor Ketcheson as their warden. The vestry then selected special aidemen and a financial committee to assist the wardens in their work.

At the congregational meeting which followed, Mr. John Elliott was re-appointed as delegate to the Synod for the next three years. The rector was pleased to report a gratifying increase in the number of communicants during Holy Week and Easter-tide, the number being 407 communicants during the fortnight. The rector ordered to Mr. W. O. Adams, the rotating rector's warden his appreciation of his splendid services rendered to himself and the church.

The aidemen elected were as follows: Messrs. J. A. Kerr, W. O. Adams, J. D. Collip, Arthur Jones, H. C. Thompson, J. L. R. Gorman, J. Elliott, B. F. Jennings. The finance committee is composed of the following gentlemen: The rector and wardens and Messrs. J. A. Kerr, E. F. Jennings, W. O. Adams, Prof. Wheatley, A. Jones, Dr. Aekrill, T. E. Ketcheson, with power to add to their numbers.

REPORTED WOUNDED

It was reported this morning that N. McLean of Hillcrest Ave. had been wounded in France. Mrs. McLean of that street has a son of that name in France, but she has had no notification as yet of his having been wounded. It may be that the wounded soldier is a member of another family, although none of the same name is known here.

STATISTICS FOR PAST QUARTER

Birth Rate Declines in City But Male Babies Predominate

The vital statistics for Belleville for the quarter ending March 31st, total 128. Marriages numbered 23, birth 47 and deaths, male 23, female 25. Ages at date of death were as follows: under one year 5; from one year to ten years 3; from ten to eighteen 1; from eighteen to thirty 4; from thirty to fifty 9; from fifty to seventy 11, over seventy 20. The death rate in this quarter is 50 per cent for the whole year, because it is a trying time for the elderly and aged.

Statistics for the same quarter—January, February and March in other years were as follows:

1915—births 77, marriages 19, deaths 54.

1916—births 65, marriages 28, deaths 69.

From the above it will be seen that marriages are not decreasing. The birth rate however is declining, the record for the three quarters being 77, 65 and 48. It is interesting to note that in the quarter closed male babies predominate 29 to 13 females. This is the most pronounced quarter on that score.

DEATH OF INFANT SON

George Lewis, the infant son of Major and Mrs. C. F. Wallbridge died this morning after an illness of some duration. He was a remarkably bright child and his death has occasioned much sorrow in the family. Major Wallbridge is at present with the overseas forces in England.

LIEUT. C. G. S. CROMBIE

Lieut. C. G. S. Crombie, of Picton is another district man reported in a recent list following the fighting at Vimy Ridge. He was severely wounded in the knee and thigh. He went over with a Western Battalion having worked in a bank in Winnipeg for some months before enlisting. He was born in Picton twenty-six years ago and lived in Toronto for some years before going west.

DEATH OF MISS NANCY FARGEY

Miss Nancy Fargey, trained nurse, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Fargey, West Huntingdon, passed away very suddenly and unexpectedly at the home of her sister, Mrs. Wilson, Montreal on Monday night.

Deceased suffered from an attack of malignant iptheria about two months ago but was making fine progress towards recovery. A week before her death she felt well enough to undertake the journey from West Huntingdon to Montreal where she expected to visit her sister and secure special treatment. Apparently the journey and the strain upon her weakened condition were too much and she passed away on Monday night.

In addition to her sorrowing parents she is survived by six brothers and four sisters, James of Chatterton, Canada and David and Samuel of West Huntingdon. The sisters are Mrs. Jas. Hawkins, Stirling, Mrs. Ed. of the North West, Mrs. Wilson, Westmount, (Montreal), Miss Martha at home and Miss Emma, teacher at Montreal. An elder sister Mrs. E. M. Clark died suddenly, about three months ago from this same disease.

Miss Fargey was a trained nurse by profession, a graduate of Clifton Springs Sanitarium, N. Y.

Of a bright, vivacious temperament, she was a universal favorite wherever she was known. The family will have the deepest sympathy of the entire community in this great additional sorrow that has come upon them.

MILITARY NOTES

Six hundred and sixty-six recruits enlisted in this district during the first half of April. The 254th Battalion, now at Ottawa, led with 155 and the Forestry Reinforcements at Ottawa under Major Van Allen came second with 78.

It is interesting to note that the Royal Naval Air Service, which has appeared in the returns has some thirty in the list with 69 recruits, 781 recruits were secured in the last part of March and 373 in the first half of April. The total strength of the district is 5,144. The 254th, Belleville, 27 recruits total strength, 426.



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