

FURIOUS ATTACKS BY FRENCH ON GERMAN TRENCHES WON BY HAND TO HAND FIGHTING

French Eye Witness Tells of Capture of Sabot Woods; Germans Beaten in Charge

Soldiers of France Approached Trench in Darkness and Finally Captured it by Desperate Charge—Terrible Losses on Both Sides—Fighting With Butts of Rifles.

Paris, March 24.—An official eye-witness describes the capture of Sabot woods, between Souain and Perthes on the battle front in France. He writes:

"Each time we attack we gain our end; each time they counter-attack we maintain our gain, said a sergeant, explaining the operations around Perthes.

"Between the adverse lines, where the fighting has gone on for months, quantities of dead bodies lie, some of them dating from the first engagements their dried faces reduced to the appearance of mummies. Beyond these lines, the Sabot woods, which the enemy held strongly for months, were the object of a systematic attack. The Germans strongly fortified the heights dominating our positions at that point.

WON SUCCESS AT HEAVY COST.

"On March 1 the general order was given that these woods must be taken. The artillery prepared the ground for the first attack, in the face of a violent machine gun fire, resulting in the capture of two lines of trenches. A further advance was checked by a vigorous counter-attack.

"Our success was very costly. The lieutenant colonel commanding, a captain and two lieutenants fell mortally wounded.

"On the morning of the 8th the Germans made a more serious attempt to regain the position.

"The spectacle furnished by our troops was magnificent. With fixed bayonets they bounded forward, and in a few minutes the ground was covered with dead Germans, many of whom are still lying there.

GERMANS BAYONETED IN TRENCHES.

"From the 9th to the 12th further progress was made. We arrived within twenty yards of the main German trench, which was particularly well fortified. Unable to withstand the fire we were obliged to retire until the fifteenth, when an attack at four o'clock in the morning resulted in its final capture. In pitch darkness our men approached silently, until ordered to charge; they then fell upon the line of defence so unexpectedly that the Germans were bayoneted in their tracks. Only a few survivors succeeded in retiring to their rear line.

"This movement concealed a trick. A strongly organized blockhouse was unmasked behind the trenches, and an enfilading fire from machine guns decimated our ranks, which, however, held good until 4.30 when the blockhouse itself was attacked with great fury. Hand to hand fighting on the parapet lasted one hour.

"At 5.30 we were inside. Bayonets were reeking with blood; several of them were bent out of shape by excessive use, after which the fighting went on with the butts of rifles.

"At dawn the Germans counter-attacked twice, but were stopped by our bombs—and we were master of Sabot woods."

A NOVA SCOTIAN COMPLAINT AIRED IN DOMINION HOUSE

Continued from page 1.

the regiment at Valcartier, and I venture to say that every one of them will say with me that the minister treated them in a very considerate way, and offered to do, and tried to do, everything that was reasonably possible, under the circumstances."

Major General Hughes reviewed the history of the Nova Scotia regiment from its beginning. He said that Col. Robertson had wired him that as 1,500 Nova Scotians were coming to Valcartier, a regiment from that province should be formed. He said he would be delighted to do this. When the contingent arrived, however, it was less than 500 strong. Various proposals were then discussed. Robertson, he said, explained that the 1,500 men he had laid claim to, included Nova Scotians in other military units, including those in the west. These men preferred to stick to their own corps. It was then proposed by the Nova Scotia officers that the regiment should be allowed to recruit up to full strength. This was impossible, owing to the short time.

General Hughes said that he soon found out that Col. Robertson was not regarded as highly as he might have been. The rank and file of the Nova Scotians were as fine a body of men as could be found anywhere, but the three senior officers seemed to want to organize a close co-operation, and would not consent to any arrangement which would not leave them at the head of the regiment.

N. S. Blocked N. B. For instance, it was suggested that the New Brunswick contingent was 500 strong a Maritime Province regi-

ment might be organized. To this Col. Robertson and the other officers would not agree because Harry McLeod, M. P., on account of his higher rank would have been given command and they would have been relegated to subordinate positions. Another proposal rejected by Col. Robertson was that one company of Nova Scotians should go forward with the first contingent to represent the province, the remainder staying behind to be recruited up to full strength. General Hughes then explained that he had nothing to do with the 17th Battalion subsequent to its arrival on the other side. He said that the paymaster-general of the department when asked why the rolls of the regiment were so late in coming to hand stated that it had been impossible to get any information from Col. Robertson of whose inefficiency he had complained.

Referring to the contents of the letters which had been read General Hughes admitted that he had used strong words at Valcartier in regard to the officers, but so far as the men were concerned he had stated that they were a credit to Nova Scotia. Touching on what had occurred in England, the minister said that four infantry and one cavalry regiment had been left behind as details. Some of the boys from Nova Scotia had already gone forward as reinforcements, and had given a good account of themselves. He declared that no injustice would be done this, or any other regiment.

J. H. Sinclair of Guysboro was not satisfied with the explanation given by the minister. He was reported to have said at Valcartier that the officers from Nova Scotia were cowards, and that Nova Scotia was a two-by-four province.

One could hardly believe that the minister would make such a statement.

"I want to tell the minister," said Mr. Sinclair, "that the smallest man in Nova Scotia is not afraid of him. I want to say that the smallest man in the province would not be afraid to try and kick the stuffing out of him. At this point Sir Robert Borden rose and expressed his regret that letters reflecting on Canadian officers had been read in the house. He could not understand the motive, unless it was a desire to create mistrust in the mother country.

General Hughes denied that he had used the words attributed to him.

CARVELL ONCE MORE ATTACKS THE MILITIA

Member for Carleton returns to his criticisms of Canadian soldiers.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Ont., Mar. 24.—There was a sensation in the house this evening when P. B. Carvell returned again to the attack upon General French, chief of the British forces now at the front. Mr. Carvell had been criticizing as usual when A. T. Davidson of Annapolis drew blood with the following statement: "I would like to point out to the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Carvell) that it is quite usual for persons to criticize, perhaps not too wisely in reference to persons engaged in military matters. I recall to mind a very distinguished officer who was very roundly censured and was referred to in this house as an Englishman by the name of French, but it did not hurt his reputation or injure his standing at all in the British army or in the opinion of his countrymen."

Mr. Carvell thereupon read from Hansard the report of his speech last June when he went out of his way to attack the Canadian soldiers, spoke insolently of General French, laughed at the report he made and called the men boozers.

Mr. Davidson remarked that Mr. Carvell's attack upon General French had not hurt that soldier's reputation.

Mr. Carvell then entered into an attack upon the headquarters militia staff. "I was discussing in the house on the first day of June last," he said, "the general staff of the minister and I had discussed it in this house before and the general staff that is in existence now was not the product nor the conduct of the present minister. I condemned it before he became minister and I have condemned it since and I condemn it now. I am not going into any discussion of it, but I think if I wanted any definite excuse for my remarks a year ago, the results of the last six months have amply justified my opinion."

Mr. Carvell became personal regarding Mr. Davidson. "Look at him grinning like a Cheshire cat," was one of his remarks.

Mr. Davidson retorted that Mr. Carvell had "assumed the roar of a lion, but emitted the bray of a jackass."

"I distinctly deny having made any such statement about the officers," he said. He added that he had praised the men from Nova Scotia, and stated that his remarks had been misreported.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said it must be remembered that military power is subject to civil power. Military men were not infallible. It was quite proper to bring this matter to the attention of the House. If the Minister had said what he was reported to have said he had done what was wrong. He had now denied the words attributed to him, and his statement must be accepted.

Sir Robert Borden said that when this matter had been drawn to his attention, the Minister of Militia had denied, in the most indignant terms, that he had used the language attributed to him.

Sir Wilfrid said that the atmosphere had been thick with talk about strong language used at Valcartier. The reports may, or may not, be true. It is better that in this instance the Minister should have repudiated words attributed to him.

General Hughes said his only objection was to the drawing of General Alderson's name into the matter.

Mr. Sinclair said he had put the matter forcibly, because the minister, in his first speech, had not denied the charge. On the contrary, he had admitted the use of strong language.

Mr. P. B. Carvell asked why it was that the 13th Battalion of New Brunswick had also been left behind in England, as details.

Premier Borden said that complaints had been received in regard to all the regiments left behind.

The complaints do credit to the officers and the men who desire to serve. The matter, however, was in the hands of the War Office.

A "TIP" TO GREECE.

Athens via London, March 25, 12.30 a. m.—The Hestia publishes a statement to the effect that President Poincaré has assured the Greek minister at Paris that "coming events will convince Greece of the necessity of abandoning her neutrality."

AUGUSTE DUGAL GIVEN HOT FEW MINUTES IN LOCAL HOUSE

Enquiry of Dr. Price brought out interesting answers—The operation of the Valley Railway by Intercolonial after first of month arranged.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, Mar. 24.—Opposition leader Dugal is finding the pastime of listening to enquiries not as pleasant as it used to be.

This afternoon Mr. Dugal spent an uncomfortable few minutes while Hon. Mr. Morrissey, as Minister of Public Works, read the answer to an enquiry relative to Mr. Dugal's connection with a transaction in Madawaska County which, even accepting Mr. Dugal's explanation, does not sound very much like a matter in which one who is putting himself before the public as representing such a high standard for carrying on the public business as he is supposed to stand for, would wish to find himself publicly identified with.

The information came out in answer to Dr. Price's enquiry. The questions and Hon. Mr. Morrissey's replies are as follows:

Question—Did the Department of Public Works issue a cheque for twenty-one dollars bearing date of Nov. 18, 1910, to Auguste Dugal of Edmundston, Madawaska County, for work done on the Guilford bridge?

Answer—The Department of Public Works issues no cheques but applied to the Finance Department of the Provincial Government to have a cheque on the Guilford bridge show that said Auguste Dugal had performed the work or supplied material?

Answer—The returns rendered to the Department of Public Works by the superintendent in charge of the work on the Guilford bridge show that Auguste Dugal performed seven days work with team at three dollars per day.

Question—Does said cheque bear the endorsement of Auguste Dugal?

Answer—Yes.

Question—Has the Department of Public Works any information or reason to believe that said Auguste Dugal did not perform the work or supply material for which said cheque was issued?

Answer—Yes, as per the affidavit of L. Auguste Dugal.

Question—If so, what steps were taken by the department to recover said amount from Auguste Dugal?

Answer—No steps have as yet been taken by the department to recover this amount from Auguste Dugal.

Question—Has the Department of Public Works any suspicion that said Auguste Dugal, to whom the cheques were made payable was none other than L. Auguste Dugal, member for the County of Madawaska, occupying a seat in this legislature and leader of His Majesty's opposition?

Answer—The Department of Public Works has an affidavit signed by L. Auguste Dugal.

Question—Has the Department of Public Works been given any explanation why the cheque was endorsed by Auguste Dugal and L. Auguste Dugal?

Answer—No.

Q.—Has it been shown that Auguste Dugal requested L. Auguste Dugal to cash said cheque.

Q.—Was the Department of Public Works or the government aware of this?

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Answer—No.

correct Christian names and surname of the leader of the opposition in this house, and do his names correspond exactly with those of the parties mentioned in the transaction involved in the above questions.

A.—The Department of Public Works believes the correct Christian names and surnames of the leader of the opposition to be L. Auguste Dugal and would appear to correspond with names mentioned in the transaction involved in the above questions.

Premier Clarke in answer to one of Mr. Dugal's questions, formally announced that on April 1st, it was expected the I. C. R. would take over the Valley Railway between here and Centerville and operate it on terms provided in the legislation. The government has no intention, it was stated, that the Fredericton-Gagetown section of the road will not be taken over until the work is done, while the reason for delay in daily operation of that portion of the road was stated to be a "matter within the discretion of the I. C. R. authorities."

Arrangement on which the Fredericton-Centerville portion of the line is operated was set forth by Premier Clarke as follows:

"That portion of the Valley Railway between Fredericton and Centerville is operated under an agreement between the St. John and Quebec Railway Company and the I. C. R. and provides that the St. John and Quebec Railway Company will permit the I. C. R. to operate at its own expense, the section of the railway referred to and that all earnings from the operation shall accrue to I. C. R. to cover the expenses of operating the excess of earnings, if any, are to be paid to the St. John and Quebec Railway Company. Under the arrangement the St. John and Quebec Railway Company undertook to complete as rapidly as possible the construction of said section between Fredericton and Centerville and the I. C. R. agreed to furnish free transportation for men and material engaged in this work. This agreement went into effect Jan. 1, 1915.

Although not contained in the written agreement it was understood that the provincial government would make up one-half of any loss incurred while the road was operated under this agreement."

As to the Gibson and Minto Railway, the Premier stated that interest on guaranteed bonds amounted to \$17,000 per annum, but the Province had not been called upon to pay any interest on these bonds.

As to the correspondence with the Ottawa authorities relative to the construction of bridges across the St. John and Kennebecasis Rivers for the Valley Railway Hon. Mr. Clarke said:

"Correspondence has been carried on with Honorable J. D. Hazen, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, representative of New Brunswick in Dominion Government, who has shown great interest in the matter with reference to bridges referred to across the St. John and Kennebecasis Rivers.

"Correspondence related to the Federal legislation respecting the bridges referred to, forwarding of facts and a plan of crossing of river at or near the Mistake, a recommendation that an examination of different sites suggested should receive early attention of Dominion government, and other matters involved in question of construction of bridges. Previous to outbreak of war, intimation was received that an examination of the crossing for bridges would be made at an early date."

Hon. Mr. Morrissey gave the cost of the new Morrissey bridge at Newcastle, over Miramichi river as \$529,828. Work on the legislative and departmental buildings during the past year was stated to have cost as follows:

"Painting and paper hanging in legislative and departmental buildings cost since last April \$2,749.82, concrete walks and driveways, since last April, \$1,267.25; for general improvements, including purchase of carpet, carpet paper, linoleum, brass binding, window shades, curtains, dyestuffs, wall paper, mason work, staking material, labor, repairing roofs, etc., \$5,863.15.

The position of superintendent of scalars, formerly occupied by W. H. Berry has not been filled, but Hon. Mr. Clarke in answer to a question by Mr. Pelletier stated that J. A. Patterson and G. P. Burr were now performing those duties. Mr. Patterson, who is temporarily employed, receives \$4.67 per day and expenses.

CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION TO BELGIAN RELIEF.

New York, a.m. 24.—Canada has contributed \$2,000,000 worth of food and clothing for relief work in Belgium. It was announced here tonight by the Commission for Relief in Belgium.

Nova Scotia led all other provinces in the size of its contributions.

Easter Hat Sale

OUR Sale of Milan, Tagel, Hemp and Hair Hats in black and all colors, which we are selling at \$2.00 and \$3.00 each--the originals from Paris costing \$7.00 to \$10.00 each--is meeting with wonderful success.

Ask to see our black and colored Chip Hats which we are selling at \$1.00 each.

Millinery Novelties arriving daily. Received Trimmed Hats from London this week.

Ladies will confer a favor by shopping in the morning

Marr Millinery Co. Ltd.

54 VICTIMS OF SNOW AND LAND SLIDE

Vancouver, B. C., March 24.—According to reports tonight from Britannia Beach, where a snow and land slide Monday wiped out part of a mining camp, the list of victims now totals

54, two more bodies having been recovered today. All told, 28 bodies have been taken from the debris, and the missing number 26.

An inquest held today failed to throw light on the cause of the slide. Twenty-six bodies were brought by steamer to Vancouver tonight.

Tea Market Still Advancing.

Nothing definite can be ascertained with regard to a probable advance in package teas in Canada. But it seems to be common sense to suppose that tea men can't go on importing at high and yet higher prices every week without making some changes in their selling schedule to cover. There is nothing to do but to follow Mr. Asquith's advice and "wait and see," meanwhile taking note of the handwriting on the wall—Canadian Green, March 19th.

IMPERIAL THEATRE TODAY

Max Fisman and Jesse L. Luskey's Company

IN THE FIVE-ACT COMEDY DRAMA

"What's-His-Name?"

The Absorbing Narrative of a Small Town Wife Who Left Her Drug Clerk Husband to Go On the Stage. How She Was Disillusioned.

INTENSELY HUMAN NATURAL STORY

VAUDEVILLE NOVELTY

HARRY FONDELL-Impersonator

In Characterizations of Famous Musicians

PROGRAMS START AT 2, 3.30 7 and 8.40

UNIQUE PAPER SIR?

All About the BIG STRIKE!

A Regular Hummer

"FOR THE LAST EDITION"

Vibrating with Genuine Thrills

RELIANCE FEATURE PLAY

2 Acts—60 Scenes

"2 KISSES" A Rearing, Tearing Funny Yarn

Produced in style a la comic

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Don't Forget, Boys and Girls

THE MATINEE TREAT OF THE YEAR

Thousander Kidlet as

"LITTLE MISS MISCHIEF"

From the Sea of Laughter

THE GIRL IN QUESTION

American Comedy Drama

ART, THE ARTIST

Thousander Trick Play

COMING—The Blondie Robinson Duo

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LYRIC

AN EXCEPTIONAL PROGRAM

2 STERLING VAUDEVILLE Acts

FISKE AND FOWLER

In Song, Dance & Piano Selections

WATKINS AND WILLIAMS

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