

A Terrific Hun Drive!

GERMAN ARMY OF HUNDRED THOUSAND STRIKES BLOW IN ATTEMPT ON AMIENS

Terrific Attack Delivered Against French Along Front of Nearly 9 Miles From Grivesnes to North of Amiens-Roye Road Met with Storm of Fire From French Guns, and Although Furious Assaults Repeated Time After Time Teutons Gain Only Small Section of Ground at Fearful Cost

French Are Able to Retain Town of Grivesnes, but Germans Occupy Villages of Mailly, Raineval and Morisel—Battle Resumed with Extreme Violence in Region North of Montdidier and Still Continues—Estimated that Eleven Divisions or About 130,000 Germans Were Hurling Against the French Lines.

Paris, April 4.—German troops, numbering well over a hundred thousand, delivered a terrific attack today against the French along a front of nearly nine miles from Grivesnes to north of the Amiens-Roye road. They were met with a storm of fire from French guns, and although the assaults were repeated time after time, they succeeded in gaining only a small section of ground. The French retained Grivesnes, but the Germans occupied the villages of Mailly, Raineval and Morisel. The announcement by the war office tonight of this new offensive also says that by a powerful counter-attack, French made progress at this point.

The text of the statement reads: "The battle was resumed this morning with extreme violence in the region north of Montdidier, and still continues. On a front of about fifteen kilometres, from Grivesnes as far as North of the road between Amiens and Roye, the Germans attacked with enormous forces, showing a firm determination to break through our front at any cost. Up to the present we have identified by prisoners eleven enemy divisions.

"Our troops with intrepid courage resisted the shock of the assailant masses, who were mowed down by our artillery fire.

"Despite their efforts, ten times repeated, the Germans succeeded at the cost of sanguinary sacrifices, in gaining only a few hundred metres of terrain and occupying the villages of Mailly, Raineval and Morisel, the neighboring heights of which we hold.

"Grivesnes, which was attacked with particular violence, remained in the hands of our troops, who after having broken down all the assaults, counter-attacked with vigor and realized progress at this point.

"Between Montdidier and Lassigny there was great activity by the two artilleries."

PLAN TO MAKE CANADA GREAT VESSEL BUILDING COUNTRY

Important, Permanent and Praiseworthy Programme Outlined by Hon. Mr. Ballantyne—Shipyard Employes to be Exempted from Military Service—Daylight Bill Given Third Reading—Marking of Soldiers' Graves

Ottawa, April 4.—When the house met Mr. J. E. Armstrong (Lambton) introduced a bill to amend the railway act. He explained that it was the same bill he introduced in 1915, his object being to bring in land navigation companies under the jurisdiction of the railway board.

The bill was read a first time. In reply to Sir Sam Hughes, Major-General Newburn read a cablegram received from Sir George Perley relative to the adoption of a one-pattern headstone for all Canadian graves for soldiers. The cablegram stated: "The Imperial War Graves Commission has decided that there should be equality of treatment for all graves of all officers and men abroad and that this principle should be carried out by the erection over all graves in war cemeteries abroad of headstones of uniform dimensions, though with some variety of pattern. After full consultation with Canadian corps and the military authorities here, Sir Edward Kemp and I found the general consensus of opinion that we should have a uniform headstone and inscription for all Canadians, with the right to have a separate crest or motto for each battalion or service. The decision was therefore made accordingly through the Imperial War Graves Commission, but no design for the Canadian headstone has yet been selected."

Third reading was given to Hon. Arthur Meighen's act to amend the Dominion forest reserves and parks act, and the Hon. C. C. Ballantyne's bill to amend the Montreal harbor advances act.

Daylight Bill.

The third reading of the daylight saving bill brought a protest from A. McNeil, Kent, who said he had received a large number of petitions protesting against the passage of the bill. It was in order he would move that it should be referred back to committee. The bill was finally given a third reading.

Sir George Foster, in committee of the whole, introduced a resolution to establish a bureau under the minister of trade and commerce to be called the Dominion bureau of statistics. The purpose of the bureau, according to the resolution, is to collect, abstract, compile and publish statistical information of interest to the Dominion.

WOMEN'S FRANCHISE BILL AMENDMENTS

Franchise to be Granted Women will Not be Wider than the Allowed Men in Certain Provinces.

Ottawa, April 4.—Notice of amendments to the Women's Franchise Bill was given in the House tonight by Sir Robert Borden. Under the bill as presented to the House the franchise granted to women in certain provinces would be wider than that already possessed by men. The amendment seeks to remove the difference. It provides that the qualification of women shall be the same as that which would entitle any person to vote at a Dominion election in the province in which the woman seeks to vote.

LLOYD-GEORGE VISITS ALLIED BATTLE LINES

Prime Minister Accompanied by M. Clemenceau Calls on Haig, Petain, Foch, Pershing and Bliss.

London, April 4.—Premier Lloyd George returned to London this morning from a visit to the front, says an official announcement tonight. The British prime minister accompanied M. Clemenceau, the French premier. They visited Field Marshal Haig and Generals Petain, Foch, Pershing and Bliss.

\$500,000 FOR CANADA

Washington, April 4.—The American Red Cross today authorized a gift of half a million dollars to the Canadian Red Cross for war relief work. The gift was made without restriction but the American Red Cross expressed the hope that it would be possible to use the fund for the relief of the Canadian soldiers at the front.

HEAVY ATTACKS MADE AGAINST BRITISH LINES

All Beaten Back Except in Direction of Hamel and Vaire Wood.

INTENSE FIGHTING STILL CONTINUES

Gerans Succeed in Bringing up Some of Their Heavier Guns.

NEW DIVISIONS MAKE ATTEMPT ON AMIENS

Indications Still Point to Great Austrian Drive in Italy.

London, April 4.—South of the River Somme the Germans launched heavy attacks early this morning on the British and French forces, says a statement issued this evening by the British war office. On the British front the enemy made progress in the direction of Hamel and the Bois De Vaire.

On the French front, immediately on the right of the British, the Germans, according to the statement, gained ground in the angle between the Rivers Luce and Avre.

The text of the statement reads: "North of the Somme there is no change.

"South of the Somme the enemy launched heavy attacks early this morning on the British and French forces and on the British front made progress in the direction of Hamel and Vaire Wood. On the remainder of the British front all attacks were beaten back with considerable loss. The fighting still continues in the region north of the Somme.

"On the French front, immediately on the right, the enemy gained ground in the angle between the Rivers Luce and Avre."

VON MACKENSEN IS ACTIVE IN FRANCE

Famous German General Expected to Play Big Part in New Drive—Estimated that One Million German Reserves will be Sent Into Second Big Battle.

(By Arthur S. Draper) Special Cable to the N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard.

London, April 4.—The most interesting feature of Haig's first report today is the statement that the enemy's artillery has been active in the Meuse and the Paschendale sectors on the Ypres front. This strengthens the theory advanced in these despatches yesterday that the Ypres front might soon be the scene of another great enemy effort.

Marcel Hutin, who states that he interviewed M. Clemenceau immediately upon the latter's return from the front, says in "Echo de Paris" that he believes the Germans will direct their next attack toward Arras or "further north." Other French critics hold the belief that Ludendorff will concentrate his chief forces against Amiens.

From several enemy and neutral sources come reports that Von Mackensen is booked to play a big part in the new drive. Estimates fix the German reserves which will be sent into the second battle at 75 divisions, or roughly one million men.

Swiss Frontier Closed

The German-Swiss frontier will be closed tomorrow indefinitely. With the improvement of the weather on the Italian front, a resumption of hostilities there at an early date is anticipated. It is considered unlikely that the Austrians will receive little German assistance this time.

AFFIDAVIT BLAIR GETS \$1,200 TO COLLECT \$900

CANADIAN CAVALRY DISTINGUISHES ITSELF-HAIG

London, April 4.—Field Marshal Haig's report tonight from British headquarters in France says:

"After heavy artillery preparation the enemy launched a strong attack this morning on the whole front between the Somme and Avre rivers. On the right and centre of the British lines the attacking German infantry were repulsed, but on the left the weight of the assault succeeded in pressing back our troops for a short distance in the neighborhood of Hamel on the south bank of the Somme. The fighting is continuing in this area.

"Early in the afternoon the enemy also attacked our line west of Albert and was completely repulsed.

"During the past few days there has been heavy fighting south of the River Luce. A Canadian cavalry brigade greatly distinguished itself in many successful actions, both mounted and dismounted."

IMPORTANT GERMAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Von Kuehlmann Will Deliver Speech—Kaiser Confer with Other War Lords.

Amsterdam, April 4.—At an important conference held today at German headquarters between the Emperor, Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, General Von Ludendorff and Dr. Richard F. Von Kuehlmann, the German foreign minister, Count Csernin's speech was discussed among other matters. It is understood that Dr. Von Kuehlmann will deliver an important speech at his earliest opportunity.

Count Csernin is expected at Berlin and at headquarters early next week. The National Zeitung states that proceedings against Prince Lichnowsky have been started as a result of his memorandum fixing the blame of the war on Germany.

But Foster Government Had to do Something to Reward Discredited and Discharged Public Works Official for Services Furnished During Campaign of 1917—The Transaction Illustrates Peculiar Methods of Mr. Foster's "Business" Government—Where the People's Money Goes.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 4.—Although Harry M. Blair who was hired by Mr. Veniot to act as a special collector of delinquent automobile fees was paid \$1,200 by the Foster government for three months work, the gross of his direct collections was but \$941 and apparently the province lost \$295 on the transaction.

Under the system mapped out by Hon. B. Frank Smith while Minister of Public Works the money due the province from automobile owners was all traced from Fredericton and collected without the employment of a special official.

These facts of a most illuminating character as illustrating the peculiar methods of Mr. Foster's "business" government were brought out this morning at a meeting of the public accounts committee which is engaged in the task of probing the Auditor General's report and which has already uncovered considerable evidence of looseness and extravagance.

This morning the committee started with consideration of the expenditures for public health, which accounts show an increase over 1916 of some \$463. As \$411 of this was due to smallpox account, for which there was no charge in 1916, the items passed without comment. The item of public hospitals shows an increase of \$600, and for public printing of practically \$3,000. Provincial hospital maintenance is much higher, the figure for 1917 standing at \$110,806.91 as against \$94,385.62. This will be probed when the committee reaches the details of the expenditures.

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The Auditor General and Magee Disagree

Westmorland County Member Would Make Huge Fosterite Deficit Almost Disappear, but Mr. Loudon Can't Endorse Such Optimism.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 4.—There was an interesting passage at the session of the public account committee this morning in which the participants were Mr. Magee, the chairman, and the auditor general, Mr. Loudon. Mr. Loudon had been summoned to explain some items on which the committee wanted information and while he was in the room the discussion turned upon the general deficit shown by the government on the operations for 1917, a deficit which, by the way, is by long odds the largest ever recorded in this province and illustrates beyond chance of successful refutation the careless and wasteful methods of the Foster government.

Mr. Smith, (Carleton), remarked that the total apparent deficit was nearly \$600,000 and Mr. Magee at once replied that from the total of ordinary expenditure as shown by the auditor general's report should be deducted the sum of \$178,641.39 incurred prior to Oct. 31, 1916. An item of \$342,617.51 for interest on the St. John and Quebec Railway should be also taken out, as this amount had never been charged to ordinary expenditure before and could not be controlled by the present government. With these and other deductions that should be made and allowing for extra revenue which did not show he did not think

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GLOUCESTER CO. FIGHTS A BILL

Claimed that Bathurst Lumber Co. Wants to Get Control of Nepisiquit River—Much Opposition.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 4.—Before the corporations committee this afternoon consideration was given to a bill to create a board of commissioners for the Nepisiquit River, in Gloucester county. It was strenuously opposed by the Gloucester Lumber Co., represented by Peter J. Hughes and by Fred R. Taylor, of St. John, representing the Canada Iron Co., which company

controls the Drummond Iron mines. The bill was supported by George Gilbert, of Newcastle. Mr. Hughes contended that the purpose of the bill was to get control of the Nepisiquit river for the Bathurst Lumber Co., as the bill provided that rights on that river should be accorded to the quantity of lumber brought down stream.

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