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A GREAT BRITISH SUCCESS

Operation Resulting in Capture of Hamel and High Ground in Vicinity is Described Officially as the Most Successful of its Kind in the War.

CIVIC EMPLOYEES DECIDE TO GO ON STRIKE TODAY

Large Majority of Well Attended Meeting Resolve to Fight Council on Wage Increase Issue.

This morning will see about 5,000 of the city employees idle. At a meeting of the Civic Employes' Union last night, when nearly a thousand were present, the decision to go out on strike was almost unanimous. The vote was by ballot, and according to the statement given to the press at the close of the meeting by W. D. Kennedy, president, the decision to go on strike was carried by a majority of more than 90 per cent. This will mean that work will be practically at a standstill in the following departments: Street cleaning, parks, waterworks, including pumping station, sewer department, septic tanks, roadways and the filtration plant. The headquarters of the union will be at the Labor Temple, and a strike committee was appointed consisting of the officers of the union: W. D. Kennedy, C. J. Mitchell, J. B. Reed, and Ben Brooks.

The meeting, which was closed to the press, was said to be most enthusiastic and loud cheers greeted the announcement of the result of the ballot.

The Civic Employes' Union has now 2,000 names on its roll, and Mr. Kennedy, president, also not communitarian, expressed the opinion that the union was strong enough to "hold its own."

Following the meeting Mr. Kennedy paid a visit to the Trades and Labor Council, and in a few words informed it of the decision.

"The men feel that they have done everything in their power to avoid inconveniencing the citizens of Toronto," he said. "And the fact that they have tried to meet the city council from January to June proves this. The whole responsibility now lies with the gallant ten members of the council who voted against their demands, the ten men who rule the majority of the city council."

The trouble is on account of the city council refusing to do two things: (1) To consider a board of conciliation, and (2) to grant payment dating from January 1 of the \$2 per week increase, instead of from April 1. Thirteen weeks are included in the back pay, or \$28 a man.

New York Funds.

The premium on New York funds again eased slightly in Canadian markets yesterday, the rate ranging between 2 1/16 and 2 15/16. The premium has declined more than 1/4 per cent. from the maximum of last week, but is still well above the level which prevailed before Sir Thomas White reported the non-success of his recent visit to Washington.

DUTCH CHAMBER EVENLY DIVIDED

Coalition Ministry is Probable as a Result of the Elections.

Amsterdam, Holland, July 4.—Altogether no official returns have been received on the general elections. It is estimated that the 100 members of the new chamber will be fairly evenly divided between the Left and the Right. The Right has already secured 50 seats—30 Roman Catholics, who include five seats, and 20 Calvinists. A coalition ministry in these circumstances seems certain.

The Liberal factions lost 24 seats, which loss is not balanced by the Labor gains of 24.

The Social Democratic Labor party was the strongest on the Left, with 42 seats. The other seats are split among a dozen small factions, among which is that of the Independent Socialists. The so-called Dutch Bolsheviks won two seats and will make their first appearance in the chamber. The only woman elected is a socialist, Minister Treub's economic league only secured three seats.

THREE THOUSAND ON STRIKE

There were present at the meeting 1000 employes.

W. D. Kennedy, president of the union, says 90 per cent. of those present at the meeting voted for a strike.

The departments affected are parks, waterworks, including pumping station, street cleaning, roadways, sewers, septic tanks and filtration.

The employes on the civic car lines are not affected.

The Civic Employes' Union has 2000 names on its roll.

The increase in wages in dispute averages \$26 a man.

The meeting last night laid the responsibility on the ten members of council who voted against granting the increase.

The officers of the union are appointed a strike committee with headquarters in the Labor Temple.

Where Did the Nickel Seized by the U. S. Government Come From?

In The World of June 13 last, we reprinted the following news item taken from the American press and first printed in Canada by The Canadian Mining Journal:

Washington, May 21.—President Wilson has issued a proclamation pursuant to the terms of the Trading with the Enemy Act directing the alien property custodian to sell at private sale, with or without public or other advertisement, 279,232 pounds of nickel, the property of Hammar & Co. of Hamburg, Germany, and Stockholm, Sweden, and other enemies unknown. This nickel is now in possession of the American Dock Co., Tompkinsville, Staten Island, N.Y., where it was warehoused some time ago by the owners. Persons interested in the purchase of this nickel can learn further details concerning the time, place and terms of sale by addressing the alien property custodian, Washington.

In that article, The World asked where did this nickel come from? Was it nickel refined in the States from Canadian ore? We asked The Globe, The Star, The Telegram, Sir Thomas White, we asked those who had attacked The World for demanding a full investigation of the Canadian nickel situation ever since the war began, those who had abused members of parliament in public meetings for daring to question the good faith of the International Nickel Company, that got all its nickel ore from Canada, or the good faith of its members and officers of the governments at Ottawa and Toronto who had declared that nickel from Canadian ore, refined in the States, had not, and could not have, fallen into German hands.

But we got no answer to our question. No paper, no public man would answer. That question which the people of Canada have a right to know, that question which the men that we have sent to the front have a right to know, which their relatives and fellow citizens have a right to know, has not been answered. We made the demand just three weeks ago!

But we have seen certain letters from the Alien Property Custodian, an official of the government of the United States whose office is at Washington, an official who is now seizing millions and millions of dollars of German-owned property of all kinds located in the United States, much of it articles like cotton, lead, copper, nickel, etc. This is the officer who handled this nickel in question. Let us quote from these letters:

ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN.

Sixteenth and P Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C., June 24.

Sir: We have your letter of June 10 asking for information regarding 279,232 pounds of nickel, property of Hammar & Co. of Hamburg, Germany, and notice that there has been a notice of sale of this material in The Canadian Mining Journal.

This nickel has already been sold for disposition by the United States War Department.

Yours very truly,
F. J. Horne,
Director of Bureau of Trusts.

Another from this same official reads:
Washington, June 24.

For your information, all of this nickel has been sold to the war department of the United States Govern-

ITALIANS GO ON GAINING GROUND

War Office Reports Further Gains Made Near Cavazuccherina. FRANCO-BRITISH HELP More Than 200 Prisoners and Large Quantity of Supplies Taken.

Rome, July 4.—In their offensive movement begun on Tuesday along the Lower Piave front, near the Adriatic, the Italians continued to gain ground yesterday. The war office announced today that additional progress had been made by the Italian forces north of Cavazuccherina.

The work of destroying machine gun nests secreted in houses and behind the embankments in the coastal zone has been effectively continued.

In continuation of their operation in the mountain area the Italians enlarged their position in the region of the San Lorenzo Valley.

In the fighting on the Piave front 223 prisoners were taken, together with machine guns and much war material.

British and French detachments penetrated Austro-Hungarian trenches on the Asiago Plateau and returned with a number of prisoners. The text of the statement reads:

"In the coastal zone our methodical destruction of numerous machine gun nests hidden in houses behind the embankments has been continued. We gained more ground north of Cavazuccherina. We captured 223 prisoners, including officers, and took several machine guns and a large quantity of material."

"Astride the Brenta River we enlarged and bettered our occupation at the end of the San Lorenzo Valley and on Monte Corone."

"On the Asiago Plateau British and French parties penetrated enemy trenches at Canove and Bertigo and captured prisoners."

"In the course of the last two days our bombardment flights dropped about 15,000 kilograms of bombs on important centres and cross roads of the enemy."

"On the lower Piave troops and trenchers were attacked with machine gun fire at a low altitude. One of our airships effectively bombarded a railway junction in the Sugana Valley."

AMERICAN TROOPS HELP AUSTRALIANS AT HAMEL

Detachments of Infantry Take Part in Capturing Village.

London, July 4.—Detachments of American infantry assisted the Australians in capturing Hamel. This announcement was made officially tonight.

Haig's Report On the Battle

Objectives Taken and Held and the Operation was Entirely Successful.

London, July 4.—Field Marshal Haig's report of this battle and other events along the British front says: "The operation this morning south of the Somme was completely successful. It was carried out by Australian troops, assisted by some detachments of American infantry and supported by tanks. Our objectives were taken and held, and we have gained possession of the woods of Vaire and Hamel, as well as the Village of Hamel."

"In conjunction with this operation, an attack by Australian troops east of Ville sur Ancre, was completely successful, and our line was advanced five hundred yards on a front of 1200 yards."

"The prisoners captured by us in these operations exceed 1000. Many machine guns, as well as other material, have also been taken."

"On the rest of the front there is nothing of interest to report."

VON KUEHLMANN SURE TO RESIGN

Germany Said to Be Considering Agreement With Allies to Stop Air Raiding.

Amsterdam, July 4.—German newspapers report the rapid spread of Spanish influenza in Bremen, Hamburg, Hanover, Cassel and other cities. The Frankfurter Zeitung says that some factories in Frankfurt have from one-third to one-half of their workers absent because of the disease.

The resignation of Dr. Richard von Kuehlmann, the German foreign minister, is said to be virtually certain by The Rheinische Westfaelische Zeitung of Essen.

Rumors are revived that Germany is considering an attempt to reach an agreement with the allies to continue air raiding to towns within the zone of operations.

Vienna despatches to the Dutch press hint that former Premier Czerin is again coming to the front. He has had a long audience with Emperor Charles, after which he conferred with the premier, Baron Burian.

MEIGHEN DENOUNCES GERMAN OUTRAGE

Better the Whole World Should Perish Than These Murderers Should Live.

Canadian Associated Press Cable.

London, July 4.—Hon. Arthur Meighen seconded the resolution of greeting to the United States, proposed by Winston Churchill, at today's immense gathering for the celebration of Independence Day at Westminster. Mr. Meighen said:

"I second the motion not as a Canadian but in the larger enduring right as a member of the British Empire. I wish I could interpret to this vast audience the feelings which must dominate the dominions today. A week ago a German submarine commander torpedoed on the high seas the hospital ship chartered by our government, laden only with messengers of mercy. Upon this ship were nurses from Canadian homes, faithful devoted women, who thru these past years had ministered to that commander's fellow-countrymen, nursing them back from agony to health. These ministers he overran on the high seas, sending them to their death. Better the world should perish than that these murderers should live. (Cheers). That is the spirit of Canada; it is the spirit of the world."

"One million Americans have crossed the Atlantic to translate that spirit into deeds. It is the first million only that have crossed. (Laughter and cheers). Let us have from now onward if we never had before the highest efficiency. Generations unborn will bless the generations of today and will reap the long reward of our suffering and of the union which will be the result of that suffering."

ROSS RIFLE FACTORY WILL BE REOPENED

Taken Over by New Company Which Has Received Large Revolver Order From U. S.

Quebec, Que., July 4.—The factory formerly occupied by the Ross Rifle Company will be reopened in September by the North American Arms Company, Ltd., a very large order for the manufacture of revolvers for the United States army having been received by the new company, which has just obtained a charter from the Dominion government and is capitalized at \$2,000,000, the head office to be in Quebec. It is a purely Canadian company, the officers being: President, T. A. Russell, Toronto; vice-president, H. D. Scully, Toronto; and Thomas Craig, former general superintendent of the Ross Rifle Company, has been appointed general manager and is also on the board of directors.

The contract is to be completed by Dec. 31, 1919, and it is said that the maximum number of employes will reach 5,000.

CAPTURE OF HAMEL VILLAGE MOST SUCCESSFUL OPERATION

Followed Exactly Lines Laid Down in Advance, and Resulted in Capture of 1,500 Prisoners, With Hardly 500 Casualties—Australians, Aided by Tanks, Sprang a Complete Surprise.

BRITISH headquarters in France, July 4.—This morning's operation at Villers-Bretonneux was one of the most successful of the kind in this war. It followed exactly the lines laid down in advance. The ground offered considerable odds to the defenders, yet in less than two hours the whole four lines were in our hands. Our entire casualties are hardly a third of prisoners captured and we reduced three German divisions to mere wreaths of what they had been this morning.

The features of the attack were the thoroughness and completeness in its preparation and the use of tanks, which, manoeuvring admirably, sprang a surprise upon the enemy. Considering the large number of dead, the haul of 1500 prisoners exceeds expectation, even tho it includes a battalion commander and the greater part of his command.

A preparatory rain of bombs on Hamel contributed largely towards keeping down our casualties. The enemy's attention was distracted by three distinct attacks launched north of the river which kept his guns busy. Nearly a hundred men and some ground was captured in these attacks which completely deceived the enemy regarding what was happening across the river. The German divisions engaged, which suffered heavily, were the 42rd, 77th and 13th. The latter is a new division on this front, having recently moved from Lens.

Here's What They Did

French

Paris, July 4.—French troops last night attacked the German lines on a front of a mile and a quarter in the neighborhood of Autrech, northwest of Soissons, and pushed into the enemy territory for a distance of nearly half a mile, according to today's war office announcement.

Later the French delivered another attack in the same region, between Autrech and Moulin-sous-Toutvent, giving them further gains of territory. The entire operation netted the French a gain of ground on a front of more than three miles to a maximum depth of approximately three-fifths of a mile. The French took 1,066 prisoners.

The statement follows:

"North of Montdidier, between Montdidier and the Oise and on the right bank of the Meuse, the French carried out several raids, bringing back prisoners."

"Between the Oise and the Aisne at 7.30 o'clock last night French troops attacked the German lines west of Autrech on a front of two kilometers (1.14 miles) and made an advance of about 300 metres. Later in the evening a new attack was made in the same region, between Autrech and Mont-sous-Toutvent, at the moment when the Germans were preparing a counter-attack. The French made a further gain of ground. The entire advance, which extended on a front of five kilometers (3.1 miles) reached a depth of 1,200 metres at certain points."

"The number of unwounded prisoners taken in the course of these operations is 1,066, including 18 officers. One of our battalions alone took more than 500 prisoners."

Quiet Thru the Day.

The official statement issued by the war office tonight reads:

"With the exception of some activity on the part of the opposing artilleries between the Oise and the Aisne and in the region of St. Pierre-Aigle during the course of the day, there is nothing to report."

"Eastern theatre, July 3: West of the Vardar an enemy bombardment of our new positions at Srka Di Legen, in which poisonous gases were used, provoked a retaliatory fire from our artillery upon enemy positions and batteries. In the Albanian sector near Ostrovitza, an Austrian detachment and a band of Albanians which attacked to surprise one of our positions was dispersed in disorder, leaving arms and material in our hands."

British

With the British Army in France, July 4.—Australian troops attacked the German lines northeast of Villers-Bretonneux, on the Somme front, this morning, and beside taking Hamel Village, are said to have battled their way forward beyond Hamel and the Vaire woods, between Hamel and Villers-Bretonneux.

To the north of this region, between Autrech and the Aisne, another smashing blow was struck by British troops, which advanced the front line 400 yards along a width of 1200 yards. Several hundred prisoners were taken in the advance.

The Australians went over the top in the early morning behind a fleet of tanks, which led the way into the hostile territory. It was a difficult task which they had before them, for the Germans were holding the Village of Hamel and the Vaire and Hamel woods with strong forces. The hamlet and the little forests, all of which lie on comparatively high ground, were choked with machine guns, while a large concentration of German artillery was trained along this sector.

Jammed Thru Germans.

The Australians pushed forward quickly and jammed their way thru the gray coats in the face of a bitter deluge of fire.

The new present indicates that the Australians pushed beyond both Vaire and Hamel woods and scored, together, an important success, although the battle is still raging.

The assaulting forces in their attack, against the German positions along the four-mile front between Villers-Bretonneux and the River Somme appear to have stormed their way thru approximately one mile and a half into enemy territory. As a tribute to America the Australians had designed their drive as a fourth of July attack, and today was set as the time for the operation, as it was the American anniversary.

At another place in the British area, American engineers, who have done gallant work for many months for the British, were receiving decorations for valor.

The text of the statement reads:

"This morning we carried out a successful operation between Villers-Bretonneux and the Somme, and the Village of Hamel has been captured and our line has been advanced to an average depth of 2000 yards."

"The hostile artillery has been active in the Robecq and St. Janscapelle sectors."

Australians Storm Their Way Thru the Bewildered Germans

With the British Army in France, July 4.—Complete success crowned the splendid surprise attack made by the Australians at dawn today against the Germans between Villers-Bretonneux and the Somme. The enemy was taken entirely unawares, and the big-tracked fighters from Australia stormed their way thru the bewildered gray coats with little opposition—a veritable human tornado which left a wake of death behind it.

Hamel Village was rushed and taken in a short order. Vaire and Hamel woods, with their nests of crackling machine guns, were passed thru as tho the Australians were doing a practice charge for their commander, and a line of enemy trenches east of these strongholds was cleaned out and smashed.

About 1500 prisoners were in the

ACQUITTED OF FORGERY.

Montreal, June 4.—Charged with having forged half a dozen checks worth in all \$1,705, Stuart P. Harkness, who stood in the dock in Quebec, was today acquitted by Judge Beel who dismissed the case on the ground of insufficient corroboration of the main facts.

YOUR SUMMER VACATION.

The crowd is moving towards the summer resorts, and you no doubt are going to join it before the season starts. There is always a crush inside, but there is a lot of comfort outside in the sunshine if you are properly hatted. A Panama hat is the real thing, and the fact that the Dineen Company is making some rare offerings should tempt you to visit the store today. A new shipment of Panamas at \$5.00 each, and others \$8.00, \$10.00, \$12.00, \$15.00 and \$20.00, all extra good value. Make a point to visit Dineen's, 140 Yonge street, today.