

German Advances Menaces Railway Leading to Verdun

If Successful Would Occasion Abandonment of Several Square Miles of Territory—Intense Bombardment of Vaux and Damloup Continues—Russians Sink 7,000 ton German Steamer.

GERMANS WITHIN SEVEN MILES OF LARGE GERMAN STEAMER SUNK IN BLACK SEA.

PARIS, March 22.—The war office reports there were no infantry attacks on the Verdun front last night. The bombardment of Vaux and Damloup continues intensely. Other reports from this region indicate that the Germans in their drive into Avocourt Wood yesterday, advanced to within seven miles of St. Manehould-Verdun railway over which the French draw their supplies. It is admitted that the advance of the Germans in this vicinity would if continued far enough menace several square miles of the French positions northwest of Verdun.

BUCHAREST, March 22.—The seven thousand ton steamer Esperanza flying the German flag and loaded with food supplies for Constantinople has been sunk off the Roumanian coast by a Russian warship. Several small sailing vessels similarly loaded were also destroyed.

HUGE DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN TEXAS.

PARIS, Texas, March 22.—The fire which swept through this city for six hours last night destroyed approximately thirty block. The loss being estimated at from two to five millions. There was no loss of life, but 10,000 persons are homeless.

ONTARIO TO GO DRY WITHOUT VOTE; PROHIBITION ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1ST

TORONTO, March 22.—The definite prohibitions as to quantity. The quantities allowed will be less than under the Manitoba Act. The bill will be before the House for first reading during the day.

The Government will announce its decision to bring prohibition into effect as a war measure without a referendum with a vote at a stated period after the war to determine whether prohibition shall continue or not. The province will remain "dry" until the matter is decided permanently by the people.

Licensees will be given an extension of about four months from the 1st of May—the end of the license year. The province will be dry some time between the 15th of August and the 15th of September.

The Prohibition Bill follows in the main the Manitoba Act. The chief improvements or additions are clauses incorporating the most valuable enforcement provisions of the local option section of the Ontario License Act, which will, of course, be superseded. Distilleries and breweries will be permitted to sell in wholesale quantities to wholesale druggists subject to restric-

tions as to quantity. The quantities allowed will be less than under the Manitoba Act. The bill will be before the House for first reading during the day.

The administration of the new Act will probably be placed in charge of a board composed of three members. The bill itself will not, it is stated, contain such a provision, this step being possible by regulation. The board is expected to have control of the issuing of licenses and of the department through which the Government will make good the pledge given by Hon. Mr. Hearst to enforce the Act to the limit of the Government's ability.

When the bill is taken up by the House a division will be created by Mark Irish, member for North Toronto, who has given notice of a resolution asking for the appointment of a commission to investigate and determine the amount of compensation that should be paid to licensees for their financial loss. The North Toronto member states that he will press for a division in the House. It is stated that the Government will definitely refuse to consider the question of compensation.

An Explanation.

In our issue of March 13th we published a report of an incident alleged to have taken place in the Local Legislature to which our esteemed representative of West Hastings, Mr. J. W. Johnson, has taken objection. The item was taken from The Toronto Telegram, one of the pronounced Conservative papers of our province. The local legislature does not publish any verbatim reports of the debates as in the case at Ottawa so that we had no means of ascertaining that the report was incorrect and depended as we generally do upon the reports of the Toronto papers which usually have representatives present. The article was published in good faith believing it was a description of a sort of humorous "horse play" among the members and without any malicious intention of in any way injuring our well known townsman, whose personal character is of course above reproach.

We have been informed by Mr. Johnson that the report is erroneous and ostensible to injure him.

We take this opportunity in the first issue of our paper after he has drawn our attention to the matter to express our regret that anything should be published by us which would in any way annoy or which Mr. Johnson would believe would cause him injury. We have no knowledge of the facts and accept unequivocally Mr. Johnson's statement that the report published in The Telegram and copied by us is incorrect.

It has been our policy at all times to eliminate anything of a private nature or that would give personal annoyance.

We trust this explanation will be received in the spirit in which it is given and that Mr. Johnson will accept the explanation of the circumstances.

Soldier Fell Twenty Five Feet

Private William Hay of the 155th Battalion has received word that his son, Roy, who is in the Canadian Army Service Corps at London, England, had a bad fall some weeks ago. He fell twenty-five feet to the pavement and was unconscious for 38 hours. He was still in hospital when the letter containing the news was sent.

Fathers and Sons Join the 155th

There were two unique enlistments yesterday with the 155th Battalion. Col. Sergt. George Tilley, a veteran of the South African campaign, came to headquarters accompanied by his son Peter, and both signed up with the Quinte battalion. Sergeant Tilley is a soldier, who did great work in the early part of this war enlisting men for the 49th detachments. He has been a member of Mr. Albert Johnstone's pipe band and is a piper of distinction.

Private Chisholm, 155th battalion, who lives on South George St., yesterday brought his father in to the recruiting office. The parent signed up and is now able to accompany his son.

There is another case of a father and son in the Belleville company. Pioneer Wm. Hay and his son Buster Kitchener Hay being members of the 155th.

Senior pupils of piano and violin department, and School of Expression of Albert College are giving a Concert Saturday, March 25th at 8 p.m. in Massey Hall. Silver collection for College Red Cross Fund.

Gunner L. Harris Is in England

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Harris, Catherine Street have received from their son Gunner Lionel Harris, of the C.F.A. the following letter written from Eastleigh, Hants, dated, March 9: "I am in England in hospital at present but do not know how long as I am getting along so well and expect to go to our base at Sherborne. I got across by good luck as they had to clear the hospitals out in France. I expect it will be some time before I get back as I will have some privilege for I am one of the 1st contingent and members don't have to go back for a good while if invited to England. I am sending you a photo of the hospital I am in at present but I expect to go to the Duchess of Cornwall's hospital tomorrow morning at ten o'clock. It is at Epsom about 20 miles from London, but one is not allowed out until he is well, then he is sent to his base. So I cannot say if it will be possible for me to see Uncle George, but I will try to obtain leave.

"There is nothing else to say. Be sure and remember me to all the folks around home. I have marked my bed in the hospital on the photo.

"Love to all,
Your loving son,
Lionel.

Sir Edmund Walker Opens New Bank of Commerce Building

Informal Gathering at Three O'clock on Tuesday Afternoon Inspection by Citizens—Address by Local Manager and President

Delightfully informal but in thorough keeping with the design of the structure was the ceremony of opening of the new Canadian Bank of Commerce building at the corner of Front and Campbell streets on Tuesday afternoon. When the doors of the institution were opened at three o'clock the public was admitted into one of the finest structures in this city.

A large number of ladies occupied the invitation of the local manager, Mr. G. M. Stork, to attend the reception.

The fine office of the bank looked even more attractive with out flowers which adorned the public room. The orchestra of the 50th battalion, were present and furnished a generous program of music while the visitors were gathering and conducting an inspection of the entire building which was thrown open to the public.

After half an hour or more during which the guests had time to admire the various attractive features of the new structure, Mr. G. M. Stork addressed a few remarks to those gathered in the public room. He had at his side, Sir Edmund Walker, the president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, whom many citizens had the pleasure and honor of meeting.

Mr. Stork referred to the Canadian Bank of Commerce itself, in which he had served for a great many years. Belleville branch was opened in 1877. Prior to that time Mr. Stork entered the service of the institution when he was a junior, the bank was a comparatively small but relatively important institution in Canada with a capital of four or five millions and one million reserves while today the capital is \$15,000,000. Then the total assets were about \$15,000,000. Today they are upwards of \$250,000,000.

These figures show a wonderful growth. This prosperity has been due in the greater part to Sir Edmund Walker. After spending many years in New York as the agent of the institution Sir Edmund came to Toronto as the chief executive and since then the bank has had a record of uninterrupted prosperity.

The local manager expressed his delight that so many were present, and noted especially the large representation of the ladies.

The well known president of the Belleville branch, Mr. G. M. Stork, made a very short speech referring to the bank building and to the part of the institution was taking in the war. The development of the west resulted in the building of bank offices to suit conditions. Hitherto the bank had been confined to rent buildings. In erecting their own buildings, a style and another had been developed. The new structures were beautiful without undue ornamentation and in harmony with the needs of the times. Sir Edmund noted the interesting third story where every consideration was given to the staff. "We have over 200 offices in Canada in which our staff have rooms. We have 150 local offices in these rooms. This building is really an expression of our idea of what a bank should be." It is built by the bank's own architect. The style is not a duplicate of any other, yet it has sufficient likeness to other Bank of Commerce buildings so that the most careless observer would recognize them as buildings of the Bank of Commerce. The institution has its own connection with the war. The bank felt proud that in financial matters in connection with credit, manufacture of munitions and transportation. "We have 932 officers of the bank, who have gone to the front, of whom 30 or 40 have fallen. The casualties total well over one hundred."

The enlistment has been 38% of the eligible men. This shows the sense of duty the bank has been trying to instill into its employees. Today there are 500 women in the bank.

The institution has always been administered in accordance with the idea that it should play an integral part in the life of Canada as well as earn dividends.

Sir Edmund thereupon performed his official duty saying "I declare this building is open tomorrow morning for business."

At a luncheon at Hotel Quinte prior to the reception, Mr. C. M. Stork was chairman. He made an address of welcome to the guests. Sir Mackenzie Bowden and Sir Edmund Walker also spoke.

Military Notes

Seven recruits were secured yesterday at the Bridge Street office of the 155th. That is a total of 20 this week up to last night.

Col. Adams spoke at a patriotic meeting in Glen Miller last night.

Major Wallbridge, Lt. Abbott and the 155th orchestra were at the patriotic meeting in Shannville last night. Fifteen soldiers of the 80th and 155th drilling at Belleville were presented with wrist watches by the Shannville people. Dr. Moore presided. A spread of delicious viands was put before the gathering to which full justice was done. The 155th orchestra, Bandmen Fred

Barka, Wilkinson and Company Q.M. & Samuel Turner entertained those present.

Leut. Stanford spoke at a recruiting meeting in Tweed last night.

Q.M.S. Samuel Turner went to Bancroft today.

Mr. James Edmund Jones of Toronto, a former Belleville boy, who's deeply interested in music, has presented to the 155th battalion a copy of the University of Toronto Song Book for the soldier who renders most musical service to the 155th Batt.

The following officers and N.C.O.'s of the 80th Battalion, Nanaimo are in this city attending the Physical Training Course—
Capt. Nichols
Lt. Bertson
Lt. Coward
Sergt. Huntington
Sergt. Bigford
Sergt. Wallis
Sergt. Earle
Lance Sergt. Lennox
Corporal O'Shea
Corp. Burton
Corp. O'Connor
Corp. Fletcher

BURN'S

Messrs. French and Crookshanks were busy last week, sawing wood on the 5th concession.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Nelson gave a party on Monday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Bride Hough were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Fritz, Wellington, on Sunday.

Mr. Ben Noxon was the guest of Mr. Herb Brason on Sunday.

Mr. Chas. Bowden, Roseboro, visited Mr. Walter Nelson on Sunday. Several from here attended the meeting of the "Allenville Sympathizers" on Thursday p.m. at the home of the president, Mrs. L. Drummond.

Mr. Gilbert Phillips, Allenville is wearing a smile—it's a girl!

Mr. Charlie Ainsworth, Christian St. visited Harry Brason last week. Misses Ila and Flossie Ainsworth were guests at Mr. Herb Brason's on Sunday.

Mr. Robert Russell moved his family to Mr. Huffman's tenant house this week.

Burr's Sunday School re-organized on Sunday Supr. C. Peterson; Secretary-Treasurer, Ralph Donohue; Home Dept. Supr. Miss Gladys Vanhook; Grade Roll Supr. Miss Iva Vancott; Temperance Supr. Mr. Maurice White, Missionary Supr. Mrs. Geo. W. Fox; Asst. Supr. Mr. John Tice; Bible Class Teacher, Mr. Harry Hayden; Boys' organized class, Mr. Maurice White; Girls' class, Miss V. Brickman; Intermediate class, Mrs. G. W. Fox; Primary class, Miss Myrtle Moon; Board of Management, Messrs. Herb Brason, D. S. Donohue and F. Burket.



SPLENDID NEW PREMISES WERE OPENED ON TUESDAY

We produce above an illustration of the handsome building just completed by The Canadian Bank of Commerce on the corner of Front and Campbell Streets. These premises were opened for business on Wednesday last, 22nd inst., but as announced in our local columns on Saturday, this was preceded by an informal opening and reception at three o'clock in the afternoon on Tuesday, the 21st at which the public was cordially invited.

The unanimous opinion of those who have had an opportunity of examining the building—the interior as well as the outside—is that the promise held out by the sketch and description published by us in October last, when the structure was only partially completed, has been fully realized, and places Belleville in possession of a building which in general architectural quality and the details of its equipment is only surpassed in the largest cities of the Dominion.

The range of massive but graceful fluted Doric columns and the happy proportions of the whole exterior in its light grey terra cotta cannot fail to impress the spectator with a sense of the building's dignity and fitness. It is undoubtedly a beautiful Bank building, easily the most striking feature of our main street, and notwithstanding the many fine and substantial business structures already erected on this important thoroughfare, is an acquisition on which Belleville may well be congratulated.

The visitor on entering the building is struck by the graceful proportions of the vaulted and oak paneled vestibule, and by the space and symmetry of the banking hall. The effect is one of sufficient richness without undue display or more than a discriminating use of the more costly materials such as marble and bronze. Carefully selected stained oak, and pleasantly harmonized tints of the stuccoed walls and ceiling form the leading decorative motive of the interior. The soft grey greens on the walls and the cool grey brown of the woodwork and counters in particular blend in the happiest manner. The Manager's room will attract notice. The walls are treated in a series of panels formed with oak styles filled with green leather. The floor is of polished hard wood, and the open tiled fireplace with its graceful mantel adds a suggestion of comfort to an interior which although elegant, is clearly intended for business. The counters have been built in specially selected quarter cut oak, and graceful solid bronze grilles have been installed at the teller's case.

Among the special features of the equipment are the conveniently accessible safety deposit boxes in the steel lined vaults and specially designed examining tables for the customers making use of this service. The vault door is a heavy chrome steel fitting manufactured by The J. J. Taylor Company. In addition to the usual public cheque table, separate semi-private enclosures have been provided for ladies and gentlemen, with comfortable writing desks and other accessories. The whole of the first (upper) floor has been arranged on suite for law and other offices and we understand that all these offices have been already leased. The rooms and halls are brightly lighted and finished in a high-class manner. Private vaults with burglar and fire-proof doors are available to the tenants, as well as every service practicable in a building of the size.

A mezzanine floor, designed for toilet rooms, has been constructed between the main and the first floor. The entire top floor of the building will be occupied by the Bank's staff, which will have commodious and well appointed apartments. The living room, which is situated at the corner of Front and Campbell Streets, is a

large and particularly pleasant apartment. It is furnished in a substantial and agreeable manner as are also the bedrooms. Furnishings, decorations, rugs, curtains and the like, all of which have been supplied by The Ritchie Company, Limited, have been selected with the happiest effect to form a harmonious homelike whole. The installation of hot water heating—with large twin boilers—and the electric lighting and plumbing are of the most complete kind throughout the building. The toilet rooms for ladies and gentlemen and staff, and tenants have all ample and separate accommodation of the most modern description.

The lighting of the banking hall is accomplished by the Alexalite indirect system which by means of a series of graceful bronze reflectors casts the light of powerful nitrogen lamps onto the ceiling from whence an ample soft light is evenly diffused by reflection over the whole apartment. The glare and heat of the desk lights is thus dispensed with and the strain of clerical work much modified.

The building throughout is a credit to all concerned and visitors desiring to inspect it will be welcomed by the Bank's staff.

The general structural works were executed by The Dominion Realty Company, Limited, of Toronto, while the rock excavation was done by Mr. T. M. Manley, the plumbing and steam fitting by Mr. J. H. Delfarah, while all the handsome locks, bolts, hinges, etc., were manufactured under direct specifications by The Springer Lock Manufacturing Company, Limited, and supplied through Mr. J. W. Walker. The decorations were done by Messrs. McCausland, of Toronto, and the counters and desks were specially manufactured by The Canada Office & School Furniture Company, of Toronto, Ontario. The architect was Mr. V. D. Hetherington, F.R.I.B.A., of Toronto.