

Waves of Teutonic Forces Recoil Before Rock of British Defence

AN OUTRAGEOUS AND HIGH HANDED ACTION BY THE FOSTERITE GOVERNMENT

Methods of the Russian Tsars Forced Upon Legislature and People of New Brunswick by a Cowardly Premier who Declines to Allow Women of Province to Vote in Provincial Affairs—Foster Obtains Consent of Lieutenant Governor to Disallow Woman Suffrage Bill if it Passed the Legislature.

The Chief Incompetent at Fredericton Involves Lieutenant Governor Pugsley in an Astounding Proceeding which Ignores Rights of the People and Sets Up a System of Ancient Muscovite Tyranny at the Capital—Tammany Hall Outdone.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 15.—Premier Foster fears the effect of the woman suffrage bill, fearful lest his own supporters might vote in favor of it, or that at least his own vote and that of those behind him would be spread on the records of the legislature of this province if they voted to save themselves and deprive our women of the franchise, and before he knew the contents of the measure which Hon. J. A. Murray is endeavoring to have the legislature pass, he ran to Lieut. Governor Pugsley and besought him to refuse the royal assent to the bill.

And the most disgraceful part of the proceeding is that the Lieutenant Governor of this province, the representative in New Brunswick of the sovereign authority of the Empire, so far forgot himself and the dignity of his office that like a ward politician he agreed to the premier's request and as a result the Honorable Walter E. Foster, the political accident who for a brief space has been entrusted with the administration of the affairs of this province, was able to stand up in his place tonight and announce in effect that there was no necessity for Hon. J. A. Murray pressing his motion for leave to introduce a bill enfranchising the loyal women of this province, that the royal assent to a bill, which he had never seen or read, and of which he knew nothing, would be withheld.

A Pretty Spectacle.

A pretty spectacle for the historic legislative chamber of the Loyalist province of New Brunswick, a pretty scene to be enacted almost directly beneath the portraits of the noble men who in years gone by have occupied with credit the exalted office of chief magistrate of New Brunswick, men, many of whom served with credit and distinction in the very office which Walter E. Foster incapably fills today.

It has been apparent for some days that the leader of the opposition would have difficulty in getting his motion for leave to introduce his woman suffrage bill before the legislature. True, the legislature, including all the Fosterite supporters, passed a motion approving the principle of woman suffrage. That motion passed unanimously, yet in the face of previous action of his supporters, Hon. Mr. Foster tonight implored the Speaker not to permit the introduction of a bill which would implement the resolution already adopted without a dissenting voice.

On Monday last Hon. J. A. Murray gave notice that he would move a leave to introduce a bill giving effect to the principle already approved by resolution. In that notice of motion all the necessary formalities were complied with, yet on Thursday, the day on which the motion should have come before the House, no reference was made to it until Hon. Mr. Murray asked why his motion was not called. The Speaker replied that through an error it had not reached the standing rules committee, but was in their hands at that moment and would be dealt with forthwith.

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GLOUCESTER BOYS DREW MEN'S PAY

Mr. Pinder of York Tells of Great Doings Under the Hon. Peter Venoit.

SOME METHODS OF THE BUSINESS (?) GOVT.

Men Working in Hay Fields Paid for Doing Work for The King.

FOSTERITES ARE MOSTLY LAURIERITES

Port Elgin Merchant Arouses Cheer for Old Chief in House.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 15.—F. L. Potts, of St. John adjourned the budget debate tonight and will resume it tomorrow when the order of the day is called. The House resumed this evening shortly after nine o'clock, but most of the session was taken up in discussing the speaker's rulings on points of order fully reported elsewhere in this issue of The Standard, and it was after ten o'clock before the budget was called.

Mr. J. K. Pinder was the first speaker. He made a striking criticism of the financial statement submitted by the government and paid particular attention to the Department of Public Works. The work of this department was not by any means what the people had a right to demand. Laxity of administration characterized it. In Mr. Venoit's own county of Gloucester he knew of cases where boys were drawing men's pay and men were put in as working on the roads when as a matter of fact they were working in the hay field.

(Continued on page three.)

ROW AMONG GREAT WAR VETERANS ON

Secretary Knight of Dominion Association heaves a Bombshell by Resigning His Office.

Toronto, April 15.—A bombshell has been thrown into the ranks of the Great War Veterans' Association, throughout the Dominion, by the resignation of N. F. R. Knight, who has been secretary of the Dominion organization since the first convention last year. In a letter written to the various branches, Mr. Knight states that in the making of this step he has done so with much pain and regret. While Mr. Knight gives ill-health as his main reason, he outlines some of the faults which, if persisted in, will only tend to wreck the organization.

"In order to convey my meaning," writes Mr. Knight, "I shall be frank, but I want it to be understood that there is neither insinuation or abuse in any of my candor. We cannot close our eyes to the truth that there is dissension and disagreement amongst our members. It may not be turbulent, but it smoulders incessantly and much harm is being done. In time it will destroy, if it is not smothered out."

TEUTONIC FORCES TAKE HELSINGFORS, FINNISH CAPITAL

Berlin, via London, April 15.—German troops, supported by naval detachments, have captured Helsingfors, capital of Finland. This announcement is made by general headquarters. The official communication from general headquarters says: "On the Lyra battlefield, hand-to-hand fighting frequently developed. Southwest of Neuve Eglise, as well as between Bailleul and Meris, English machine gun nests were cleared and their occupants made prisoners. Enemy counter-attacks launched from Bailleul and northwest of Bethune broke down with heavy loss. "On the battlefield on both sides of the Somme the artillery duels remained within moderate limits, the weather being rainy. "Eastern Theatre.—After a vigorous encounter with armed bands, our troops which landed in Finland supported by detachments of our naval forces, entered Helsingfors."

Helsingfors, the capital of Finland is a city of about 140,000 people. It is the chief commercial city of Finland, and is a port of the Gulf of Finland, being situated on a peninsula 180 miles northwest of Petrograd. It was founded by Gustavus Vasa. It is the seat of a university and numerous government buildings. It manufactures sail cloth, linen and tobacco, and has a large trade in timber, corn and fish. The harbor is one of the best on the Baltic.

GERMANY SHIPS SUBMARINES TO VLADIVOSTOK

Russians Snipe Japanese Patrols in that City and Serious Trouble May be Brewing.

Special Cable to The Standard.

Tokio, April 14.—It is reported that Germany has sent submarines to the Pacific at Vladivostok. A resident of Japan well informed on military affairs says that the submarines have been built by the Krupp and shipped in sections through Russia and across the Trans-Siberian railroad. Germany is said to have the command of the Bolshevik leaders. According to Japanese papers the Japanese government is paying serious attention to the reports.

Sniping Japanese. Tokio, Wednesday, April 10.—(By Associated Press).—Several instances of Russian sniping against Japanese patrols in Vladivostok are reported in a despatch from that city to the Asahi. One Russian was arrested. The message also reports that the local council of soldiers and workmen has telegraphed to headquarters urging the despatch of armed German and Austrian prisoners to Vladivostok as reinforcements. Bolshevik leaders are quoted as declaring that the Japanese action in landing forces in Vladivostok marks the beginning of the carrying out by Japan of her "long cherished ambition" in Siberia.

THE BOHEMIANS DETEST HUNS

Thousands at Prague, Austria, Denounce Germans and Cheer the Entente.

Amsterdam, April 15.—Thousands of persons gathered in the streets of Prague, capital of Bohemia, on Saturday, denounced the Germans and cheered the Entente and President Wilson, says a despatch from that city to the Lokas Anzeiger of Berlin. All the Czech members of parliament and party delegates, together with Slovaks and Serbo-Croat delegates, met in the town hall and adopted a manifesto. The crowd gathered in the streets outside the hall in support of the policy of the delegates. The principal demonstration occurred at the close of the meeting. The feeling against Foreign Minister Czerin with Slovaks and the shouts of approval with which his name was greeted. The crowds dispersed singing anti-German songs.

SITUATION IN YPRES BASTION CONTINUES GRAVELY SERIOUS

MEASURES TO REINFORCE THE ARMY

Important Secret Session of Canadian Parliament Tomorrow.

EXEMPTIONS LIKELY TO BE CURTAILED

Third Class May be Called out in the Very Near Future.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, April 15.—The first secret session ever held in a Canadian parliament will take place on Wednesday to discuss momentous matters arising out of the war.

To a British House today the Prime Minister announced that in view of the gravity of the situation overseas it had been decided after a conference with Sir Wilfrid Laurier that a secret session of the House should be held in which the government would impart to parliament confidential information pertaining to the military situation generally.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier expressed thanks to the Prime Minister for having taken him into the confidence of the government and added that under the circumstances there could be no objection to the course which Sir Robert had suggested.

Announcement Unexpected.

The Premier's announcement entirely unexpected made a profound impression upon the House, for while events of the past three weeks have awakened the parliament to a new and deeper realization of the extreme gravity of the war, few were prepared to admit that the situation was such as to admit the extraordinary measures which the government are about to take to meet it.

Members of the senate will participate in the secret session which will be called at the regular House of three o'clock in the afternoon and which is expected to last until late into the evening.

The Prime Minister, at this session, will lay all the government's cards upon the table, disclosing confidential information bearing upon the war as received from the British authorities and submitting measures which the cabinet has decided upon to meet the situation.

Caucus Today.

What those measures are no one outside members of the cabinet knows and the cabinet is maintaining an impenetrable secrecy. A caucus of the Unionists or government supporters is to be held tomorrow morning and the new proposals whatever they are will be submitted for its sanction. All that could be learned of their character tonight was summed up in the statement of a member of the cabinet: "The proposals which the government will submit will be drastic. They will be designed to reinforce rapidly Canada's army at the front and to meet the present critical situation."

Today the capital fairly teemed with rumors of probable government action. It is persistently stated that all exemptions excepting those granted for physical disability and vital agricultural necessity are to be abolished. The government basing this policy upon advice that the situation is desperately critical and that the needs of no industry no matter how essential, are as compelling as the present demands of the war. Another report is that the third class "including unmarried men, and widowers over thirty-five years of age," are to be called up immediately. Still another report is that married men without children are to be called.

British are Fighting Brilliantly and Gallantly But Will Probably have Difficult Time to Prevent Bailleul from Falling into Hands of the Enemy—Town at Foot of Series of Heights which Guard Plain of Flanders and Any Enemy Advance in this Direction Embarrasses the Whole Army in the North.

(By Arthur S. Draper.)

Special Cable to N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard.

London, April 15.—Though the British are fighting brilliantly and gallantly the ever increasing German masses have forced them back slightly and again the situation around the Ypres bastion is gravely serious.

Haig reports the enemy has taken Neuve Eglise a second time and consequently the British hold on Bailleul is precarious. The loss of Bailleul is a secondary matter now for the town has been under the enemy's direct fire for four days and is of little consequence as a railway centre. But Bailleul even now means much to the British, who have their backs to the wall. It is at the foot of a series of heights which guard the plans of Flanders and any enemy advance in this direction embarrasses the whole army in the north.

Ludendorff has collected divisions from every quarter, he has brought up more guns and he seems determined to press against the British left until it breaks or exhaustion overpowers his forces.

On this side of the line every weak spot is being reinforced, every opening closed, by the Anglo-French reserves. In the centre and the southern portions of the battle front their presence is shown by the counter thrusts in the neighborhood of Merville and Robecq.

CANADIANS NOT IN HEAVY FIGHTING

Cavalry Have Been in Thick of Flanders Battle—About 1800 Casualties in Past Two Weeks.

Ottawa, April 15.—The Canadian corps as such has not yet been engaged in the terrific battle in Flanders. The cavalry, and some subsidiary units have been in it and a much heavier casualty list points to the seriousness of the fighting.

The militia department has received a cable from Sir Edward stating that the Canadian corps has been bombarded but that no determined attack has been made on it. The present stage of the big drive is centralized considerably farther north while the Canadian corps hold Vimy Ridge and territory adjacent to Lens. There is every confidence here in their ability to withstand any assault. The fact, however, that in the past two weeks there have been about eighteen hundred casualties indicates that many Canadian units have been busy, even though the main force has not been engaged.

Big Toronto Fire

Toronto, April 15.—Fire broke out this evening in the refrigerator plant of the Harris Abattoir Company at the Union Stock Yards, West Toronto, and is still burning fiercely. All hope of saving the plant, which has a large amount of frozen meat and meat in the process of curing, stored in it, has been abandoned.

Four N. S. Men Lost

Halifax, April 15.—The former Lunenburg schooner Wantauga, purchased in Newfoundland, has been torpedoed. Six members of the crew were lost when a boat, which had been adrift from the date of the sinking, (March 27th) was capsized just as the crew were about to effect a landing.

From Mont Kemmel and Scherpenberg the British are able to shell Neuve Eglise, which is about five miles to Dickebusch, the first place on the plain of Ypres to the north. That is the width of the natural defences behind the British. Bailleul is almost pocketed, its present position greatly resembling that of Armentieres at this time last week.

The direction of the German attacks is from the east, south and southwest, the latter waiting on the developments in the neighborhood of Neuve Eglise. As illustrating the enemy's determination it is only necessary to turn to Haig's report where he states the Germans made seven attacks near Merville. Though he does not mention the number around Neuve Eglise, it is known division after division was thrown in there and at Wulverghem. Such fighting means unprecedented losses and there comes in the question of the size of the reserves. Counter attacks are also costly. It is unreasonable to expect the allied reserves to be thrown into a big counter thrust because the enemy holds the initiative and has men to strike in two or possibly three places simultaneously.

Plumer has handled his army with great skill and the loss of Neuve Eglise has not weakened in the least confidence in his ability to block the way provided the supply of reserves is adequate.

The bull rushes of the enemy on this front cannot continue indefinitely and though there still are no signs of a pause the pace is likely to slacken soon, not however until the enemy's progress is checked definitely for two or three days. The Germans hitherto have made no attempt to penetrate the considerable forest of Nieppe, covering the southeastern approaches to Hazebrouck and protecting Aire. If they develop their success at Neuve Eglise a circling movement towards Hazebrouck may be expected.

Summarizing the situation in the north it might be said the tide is still running in favor of the Germans, but that apparently it is nearly at full.

The Kaiser is reported to have paid a visit to the Armentieres front, spending two days in Lille. The "Frankfurter Zeitung" states that sector is expected to blaze up soon.