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FIGHTING VERY HEAVY; BRITISH HOLD BATTLE POSITIONS

Enemy Has Made Failure of First Part of Programme

British in Counter Attacks Win Back Some of the Positions Abandoned Temporarily

German Losses Very Heavy—Fighting Rages Until Late in Night With Charging Teutons Unable to Pierce the Khaki Lines—First of Wounded Reach London

London, Mar. 22.—The great battle on the western front continued until late last night, the war office reports. The British are holding the enemy. The statement follows: "Fighting continued until a late hour last night on the whole front between the River Oise and the River Senese. Our troops continue to hold the enemy in their battle positions."

"During the enemy's attacks yesterday his massed infantry offered remarkable targets to our rifles, machine guns and artillery, of which full advantage was taken by our troops. All the reports testify to the especially heavy losses suffered by the enemy."

"No serious attack has yet developed this morning, but heavy fighting is still to be expected."

FIRST ROUND IN ALLIES' FAVOR

London, Mar. 22.—The eagerly awaited British official statement of today, which was expected to give further details of the tremendous fighting which in last night's reports, was read with great satisfaction, insofar as it revealed that the enemy had been held and had suffered great losses.

"The preliminary round appears to have gone in favor of the Entente, although as the official reports point out, further heavy fighting is still to be expected. The tremendous artillery duel was heated more distinctly than was in the case of last night. Heavier shells continuously struck as the result of the violent counter-attacks."

ENEMY HAS FAILED BADLY

British Army Headquarters in France, Mar. 22.—(By the Associated Press)—The fighting is still continuing, but the first stage of the offensive has passed. The enemy has failed badly in the execution of his programme, as is attested by captured documents showing what he planned to do in the early hours of his offensive.

Vigorous counter-attacks late yesterday restored some of the positions which the British had abandoned temporarily. The exact British line cannot be made public at present. The only reason is that it might furnish the enemy with valuable information.

Last night was fairly quiet along the front. This morning the Germans were attacking in the region of Croisilles. There were indications that they intended to continue their attacks today.

The weather is cold and black. A heavy mist makes a reconnaissance impossible. This is of advantage to the British, as the enemy is deprived of greatly needed aerial observation.

The Germans in many sections yesterday attacked in three waves of infantry, followed up by shock troops. As a result they have suffered very heavy casualties.

The heavily massed German artillery has been badly hammered by the British guns.

HEAR BERLIN

Berlin, Mar. 22, via London.—The British front line has been captured by German troops attacking from the southeast of Arras as far as La Fere, the war office announces. Heavy fighting continues in Belgium and the French Flanders. Reconnoitering detachments are said to have penetrated the opposing lines at many points. Ostend was bombarded from the sea.

TRIES TO RECOVER HINDENBURG LINE

London, Mar. 22.—It is not yet possible to give more than a very general and vague idea of the fighting on Thursday on the front between the Oise and the Senese, which continues with swaying fortunes, according to the accounts of correspondents at the British front the morning newspapers.

The German attack made on the British front west and southwest of Cambrai evidently aims at recapturing all the Hindenburg line, says a despatch to the Morning Post from British headquarters in France, which adds:

"The German army attacking south of the Scarpe seems to have delivered its first blow principally in the triangle of the Arras-Cambrai and Bapaume-Cambrai roads, while the German army south of Cambrai is striking against our trench systems in the region west of the Scheldt Canal. No doubt the enemy hopes that the attacking forces of their own armies may succeed in forming a junction and cutting off a considerable

COAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH UNITED STATES

Washington, Mar. 22.—Permits for April, May and June have been issued by the fuel administration to a large number of coal operators for exports of coal to Canada. Canadian Fuel Controller Magrath has been given the privilege of calling upon the fuel administration to issue permits to any shippers who may apply to him.

The administration announcement says that allotments of coal to Canada during the last season were on the same basis as if Canada were one of the states of the Union. In return, Canada furnishes coal to this country from mines of British Columbia.

AGREE WITH PLAN OF PILOT M'KELVEY

Today's Witnesses Favor Station Eight Miles Down Bay SOME INTERESTING EVIDENCE

GERMAN COMMENT

Berlin Says it is "Single Combat Between England and Germany Which is to Decide The War"

London, Mar. 22.—"We are now engaged in a decisive battle for general peace," says the Tagliche Rundschau, of Berlin, according to an Exchange Telegram Company despatch from Copenhagen, in announcing that the commencement of the German offensive in the west is received with great satisfaction by the German people. The newspaper adds:

"A single combat between England and Germany which is to decide the war, one future position in the world and whether the Anglo-Saxons shall continue to press their will on the world, opened today."

KAISER ON WEST FRONT; BULGARS AND AUSTRINIANS IN RANKS THERE

London, Mar. 22.—Empress Wilhelm Frieda, with several of her attendants and General von Ludendorff, has gone to the western front to witness the German attack, says an Exchange Telegram despatch from Copenhagen. The despatch reports Bulgarian and Austrian troops are now on the western front.

THIRTY SOLDIERS ARE KILLED AND 500 MUNITION WAGONS BLOWN UP

London, Mar. 22.—Thirty German soldiers were killed and more than 100 others injured, and 500 munition wagons were blown up in an explosion in Belgium, according to an Exchange Telegram despatch from Amsterdam, filed yesterday.

LOCAL NEWS

LITTLE ONE DEAD

Mr. and Mrs. Fred McCain of 908 Brussels street have the sympathy of friends in the death of their only son, a son, Andrew Bernice, which occurred yesterday.

A BUMPER YEAR

The results of operations for the year 1917 show a continuance of the notable expansion that has marked the career of Brager's cash and credit business. The year just closed was one of marked success, for which we want to thank our patrons and solicit continuation of same for 1918.—Brager, 185-187 Union street.

THE IDEAL STORE

We wish to draw the attention of our patrons and the general public that we have completed the remodeling of our store, and we are now in a more up-to-date and our place, which is second to none of its kind in the city. We can show you our lines in a more complete way and guarantee satisfaction.—Brager, 185-187 Union street.

CUT OFF TOPS OF FINGERS

A young man, named Spiney, who resides at Musquash, met with a painful accident a day or two ago. He was cutting wood with a large broad axe when he made a miss and struck his left hand, severing the tops of his fingers. He had the hand temporarily bandaged and later drove to the city where the injury was attended to by Dr. J. T. Dalton.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Mrs. John Armstrong of 97 Moore street, was tendered a surprise party last evening in honor of her seventy-ninth birthday. The party was composed entirely of her family. A feature of the gathering was the presence of four great grandchildren. Mrs. Armstrong is enjoying the best of health, and since the outbreak of the war has knit 500 pairs of socks for the soldier boys.

BIRTH RATE IN BELGIUM HALVED BY WAR

Washington, Mar. 22.—The birth rate in Hungary has been cut more than half by the war. In the year preceding the war, 765,000 children were born; in 1917, the number was 328,000. The peace-time infant mortality rate was thirty-four per cent. In 1918 it had increased fifty per cent.

ESTIMATES IN COMMONS

Ottawa, Mar. 22.—The main estimates will be tabled in parliament today. The House will vote an interim supply bill of one-sixth of each item to provide funds until the end of May. The senate will pass the supply bill before it adjourns tonight.

SEALERS DO WELL

St. John's, Nfld., Mar. 22.—Three sealers which set out from here with the sealing fleet in March 11, reported today that each had obtained several thousand seals and that five other vessels nearly had met with much success. A favorable start of the hunt is considered an indication of a probable big catch for the season.

KILLED IN WAR

Mrs. John Breen of 688 Main street, received a telegram this morning from Ottawa containing the sad news that her son, Pte. Leonard Philip Breen, who was previously reported wounded and missing, was now officially reported killed in action on Nov. 6, 1917. He was a member of an engineers unit. Prior to going overseas he was employed with Ches. H. Jackson, King Square. Besides his mother, who is prostrated with grief, he is survived by three brothers, Thomas, John, Timothy, and four sisters, Mrs. William Monohan, Mrs. Daniel McCormick, Mrs. John Hughes and Stella Adams.

This is the second son of Mrs. Breen who was killed during the war. Pte. Albert Breen was killed during the big battle at the Somme on October 3, 1916. There will be deep sympathy for the bereaved ones in their great loss.

COLLINGWOOD OFFICIAL SAYS NOTHING KNOWN OF ST. JOHN REPORT

A special despatch from Toronto to the Times says: "Nothing known here was the reply of an official of the Collingwood Ship-building Company when asked if they were going to establish a shipyard at St. John's."

GERMANS SUFFER HEAVILY IN AN EXPLOSION IN BELGIUM

Thirty soldiers are killed and 500 munition wagons blown up in Belgium, according to an Exchange Telegram despatch from Amsterdam, filed yesterday.

TRIAL OF COMMANDER WYATT SET FOR APRIL 4 IN HALIFAX COURT

Halifax, N. S., Mar. 22.—The trial of Commander Wyatt, former chief examiner of this port, on a charge of manslaughter in connection with the explosion in connection with the Mont Blanc-Inno collision, which resulted in the Halifax explosion, will be held in the Halifax court to take place on April 4 in the supreme court.

PHILIP AND FREDERICK WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, T. F. Stupart, director of meteorological service

Synopsis—Several shallow depressions exist on the continent this morning, while a feeble cold wave covers Lake Superior. Fair weather prevails over the dominion, except along the British Columbian coast, where rain is falling heavily.

Forecasts—Lakes and Georgian Bay—Northernly winds, fresh during the day, fine and a little cooler today and on Saturday.

Ottawa and St. Lawrence Valley—Fresh northwest to north winds, fine and a little cooler today and on Saturday.

Gulf and North Shore—Fresh winds shifting to northwest and north, generally fair; Saturday, fair and a little cooler.

Some Showers—Maritime—Fresh winds, generally fair; local showers tonight and first part of Saturday.

Lake Superior—Fine and cool today; Saturday, fine with a little higher temperature.

All West—Fair and mild today and on Saturday.

New England—Fair tonight and Saturday; slightly cooler tonight in Connecticut and interior Massachusetts; moderate northwest winds.

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DISCUSS WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT

Large Delegation Before Government in Fredericton—G. H. Green is in Capital on Matter of Teachers' Pay Under One-Session Plan

(Special to Times) Fredericton, N. B., Mar. 22.—A large delegation, representing various employers' liability insurance companies and large employers of labor in the province, waited upon the premier and members of the government this morning to discuss the proposed Workmen's Compensation Act. The delegation included J. Allen, manager of the Employers' Liability Co., F. F. Parkin, manager of 'Travelers' Insurance Co., E. Boden, manager of Canadian Accident Insurance Co. of Montreal, W. E. Anderson and W. A. Lockhart, St. John, for the provincial insurance interests; J. Fraser Gregory, Charles Coster of T. McAvity and Sons, Ltd., and A. D. Ganong, St. Stephen, on behalf of employers of labor; J. B. Cadell, L. W. Simms and J. L. Suggs, members of the compensation act committee, also were present.

The delegation asked that the government give careful consideration to the provisions authorizing the province to take over the liability insurance business. They suggested instead that the commission should fix the rates, adjust the claims, make the payments and exercise general supervision over the working of the act, but that the employers should be left free to place their insurance with companies instead of having the province assume the entire liability. The system they recommended is practically the one in Manitoba. They also urged delay so that the report of the first year's operations in Nova Scotia might be available to that province here could be received and also until the government could secure the report of the royal commission now investigating the operations of the Insurance act in another province.

LIQUOR MATTERS IN THE SUPREME COURT HERE TODAY

Arguments in Cases in Which Decision of Police Magistrate is Contested

In the Supreme Court Chambers this morning before His Honor Chief Justice McKown, argument was commenced in the cases of the King vs. Robert J. Ritchie ex parte Galbraith and the King vs. Robert J. Ritchie ex parte Kelly. In each case argument for the defendants was presented before His Honor on certiorari, counsel for the defendant contending that Magistrate Ritchie had exceeded his jurisdiction in imposing a penalty of \$200 on charges of having imported liquor into the province.

The defendant counsel contended that the penalty for the first offence of importation is not less than \$100 and the words not less could not be construed to mean more than \$100. Both defendants had been previously convicted by the magistrate on charges of having the same liquor which they were charged with importing, in their possession other than in their private residences.

At the hearing this morning Dr. W. B. Wallace, K. C., appeared in behalf of the attorney general to oppose the application, and Magistrate Ritchie was also present in support of his finding. W. M. Ryan appeared in behalf of Galbraith, and George H. V. Belyea on behalf of Kelly. Doctor W. B. Wallace opposed the application on several grounds. He took a technical objection to the effect that the affidavit on which the order of certiorari was granted was wrongly entitled, in as much as it was entitled in the "Supreme Court." He contended the words "in the Supreme Court" should not have been used. He further argued that, in as much as the defendants had been previously convicted of offence under the Liquor License Act, that the charge of importing was really a second offence, and that the magistrate has jurisdiction to impose a penalty of \$200 for a second offence. He also held that if the magistrate's finding was wrong, the court had the power to amend the same.

WAR NOTES

It is reported that Chinese troops on the Manchurian frontier are robbing Russians and fraternizing with the Bolsheviks.

It is alleged that Western Siberia is already economically under German control.

Omsk banks, shops, newspapers and public utilities are under German influence.

The Norwegian steamer Wedgask, which left Baltimore on Feb. 22 for Genoa, was the victim of submarine warfare on the passage. The crew was rescued.

There has been great activity by the aerial forces operating on the Macedonian front.

The United States destroyer Manley, on which one officer and some men were killed as a result of a collision, has arrived at a British port.

The British embassy in Washington has announced that since the beginning of the war, 11,827,272 tons of British shipping have been destroyed.

Ostend was bombarded by British monitors yesterday, and Helligoland was attacked by seaplanes.

Government To Insist On The Passage Of Daylight Saving Bill

Ottawa, Mar. 22.—No definite time is fixed for the coming into effect of the daylight saving bill. The act states that its provisions will be in force in each year during such time as prescribed by the governor-in-council. The expectation is that the time fixed will be the same as in the United States. While it is expected that many members of the house will be against the measure, the government will on this occasion insist upon the act becoming law.