

The Herald

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Provincial Legislature

The House resumed, after the week end recess, about 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon the 10th. After routine, some private bills were advanced a stage. At six o'clock the House took recess.

The House assembled after recess, at 9 o'clock. The debate on the budget was resumed by Hon. Mr. McKinnon. He referred again to Mr. G. E. Hughes's reckless statements regarding the Falconwood Hospital. He showed the falsehood of Mr. Hughes's assertion that all the turnips on the farm at the Asylum had been lost. He stated from the records that an excellent crop of turnips had been saved in good order. He proved false the statement of Mr. Hughes that there were 24 permanent employes in the Dalton Sanatorium. He showed from the official records that the number of permanent employes is 12. In addition to these there were 5 occasionally employed. He emphatically contradicted from official figures, Mr. Bell's reckless and unfounded statements regarding the expenditure of the agricultural grant. In reply to questions by Mr. G. E. Hughes, he said that every member of the Provincial seed fair who was in attendance on the occasion it was to be held last month, suggested the postponement of the fair for a year.

Hon. Mr. McKinnon concluded his speech at 10.10 o'clock and the debate on the Government side was continued by Hon. J. A. McNeill, who gave a full account of the Public Works Department over which he presides. We will refer to this later.

Mr. Lea on the part of the Opposition, continued the debate. He was followed by Mr. Dennis on the same side.

It was ten minutes to 12 o'clock when the House met on Wednesday forenoon.

After the usual routine proceedings, several bills were moved forward from stage to stage. On the motion for the passing of the bill for a war and health tax, the Opposition called for a division and the vote being taken the motion carried the vote standing 13 to 12 in favor of the Government. It being 6 o'clock the House took recess.

The House resumed at 4.15 p. m. Several bills were advanced a stage before the House took recess at six o'clock.

The House resumed at 8.50. After a private bill had been read a third time and passed Sir Charles Dalton resumed the budget debate. He referred to the extravagant and unfounded statements which had been made by the Opposition regarding the operations of the Government in the different departments. He went on to show the progress that had been made by the present Government, in the Departments of Public Works, Education and in other ways. He showed that the work in the Department of Education was done for less now than in the days of the Crit rule and more efficiently performed. Among other actions of the Liberal Government upon which he animadverted was the Walter Lowe claim which they had persistently refused. It remained for the Mathieson Government to settle this matter. He said that

never had any tax been so willingly, so fully and so cheerfully paid as this war tax. The different members of the Opposition could not agree among themselves as to the amount of the Provincial debt. One says one thing and another says something else, each one moving further from the truth. He created considerable amusement by reading a letter sent out by Captain Joseph Read to the different polls in Prince county, seeking nomination for the House of Commons for that County. Sir Charles concluded his speech at 10 o'clock.

Mr. Howatt continued the debate on the Opposition side. Before he got through quite a little excitement sprang up on questions of order. Mr. Howatt moved an amendment to the motion to go into committee of supply. This was declared to be out of order by Mr. Speaker. The debate continued by Messrs. Dewar, B. Gallant, James Paton and McNevin. The Opposition were disposed to filibuster, and obstruct the proceedings; but Mr. McNevin quite outwitted them. He made it appear, from the multiplicity of documents with which he fortified himself, that he intended to speak at considerable length. The Opposition, off their guard, nearly all went to the ante-chamber, and then Mr. McNevin suddenly ceased speaking. Mr. Speaker put the motion to go into committee of supply and declared it carried before the members of the Opposition were able to reach their seats. Mr. Paton took the chair of the committee of supply and the voting of the estimates continued all night. At 6.20 the estimates were all passed, the committee rose and reported and the House adjourned.

It was within a few minutes of 6 o'clock when the House met Thursday afternoon. There was just time enough to go through the usual routine before recess. The House resumed at 9 o'clock. Several bills were read a third time and passed; then the House went into committee of the whole on the bill to incorporate the town of Montague with Dr. A. A. McDonald in the chair. Progress was reported. The House adjourned at 10.30.

The House did not meet on Friday until shortly after 12 o'clock. After the usual routine Premier Mathieson moved that the special committee, investigating the charges in connection with the Infirmary, be permitted to go on with their work during the adjournment of the House. This was agreed to, and on the motion of the Premier the House then adjourned till Tuesday 17th, at 8 p. m.

Progress of the War

London, April 19—In the face of heavy snowstorms and, in places, strong resistance by the Germans, the British have pushed their lines as far as Monchy-Le-Prez, five miles east of Arras, and made further important gains on Vimy Ridge. The official statement from British headquarters describing the operations now in progress on the Arras-Lens line reports the capture, up to this evening of 11,000 prisoners, including 235 officers more than 100 guns, including heavy guns up to eight inches, sixty trench mortars, and 163 machine guns. The text reads: "Our operations have been continued energetically today, in spite of heavy snowstorms and generally unfavorable weather. We have reached the outskirts of Monchy-Le-Prez, five miles east of Arras, and have cleared Farbus and Farbus wood.

"Hard fighting took place again this afternoon on the northern end of Vimy Ridge, in which we gained further important positions and took a number of prisoners and machine guns. In the direction of Cambrai we advanced our line north of the village of Lognyval. Such

counter-attacks as the enemy attempted at different points along our front met with no success.

London, April 11—The operations along the Arras-Lens line were greatly impeded by snowstorms. According to the official report from British headquarters tonight, the Germans delivered two counter-attacks against the British positions in the neighborhood of Monchy-Le-Prez, but these failed. The text of the statement reads: "Snow has fallen heavily and continued throughout the day, rendering observation impossible, and greatly impeding the operations of our troops.

London, April 12—The British official communication says: "South of the Arras-Cambrai road our troops this afternoon stormed the villages of Heninell and Wancourt with their adjoining defenses, and crossed the Cojeul river and occupied the heights on the eastern bank. "Further progress also was made during the day north of the Scarpe, and on the last Vimy Ridge. Our gains reported this morning north of Vimy Ridge have been secured and our positions strengthened.

Swarming up the height, they attacked the enemy troops specially brought up to hold the position. Among them were the Fifth Battalion Prussian Grenadier Guards, which fought under orders to hold the position at all costs. The Canadians were not to be denied, however. Over the shell-plowed land, under machine gunfire, they climbed to the summit, and by seven o'clock the flower of the German army was fleeing to the east, sought shelter in the village of Givenchy.

London, April 13—The British official communication issued this evening announces that the total prisoners taken in the offensive begun early last Monday morning now aggregate more than 13,000. Guns to the number of 166 also have been taken.

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, April 12—(By Stewart Lyon, Special Correspondent of the Canadian Press)—There has been a remarkable change in the demeanor of the prisoners recently taken by the Canadian corps, as compared with those taken in the Somme offensive last season, so Canadians who were engaged in "gagging" the German prisoners then, and again the past few days say. The most notable difference is an increase of anti-dynastic sentiment. Our prisoners are chiefly Bavarians, with Prussian officers. The latter still retain the pride of caste, with an admixture of insolence. One of these told his captors, condescendingly, that if the assault on Vimy Ridge had not been made with such a rush the whole top of the ridge would have been blown off by an explosion of mines provided for that very purpose. His hint was useful in a sense other than he intended.

London, April 16—The British last night captured Villers, southeast of Hardcourt, according to an official statement issued by the British War Office. They also made progress northwest of Lens. The official despatch reads: We captured last night the village of Villers, southeast of Hardcourt and progressed northwest of Lens. Full particulars of the booty we took at Lens and in Souchez River are unavailable but the fact is established that our captures were exceedingly large, including long range six inch naval guns many thousand rounds of ammunition of all calibres up to eight inch, many trench mortars and great quantities of bombs and grenades of all kinds. In addition truckloads of new tools, many lengths of tram lines with trucks complete and two large engineer dumps have fallen in fact into our possession.

London, April 16—Although British patrols have been in the streets of Lens and General Haig's men are in the outskirts of St. Quentin the fall of neither of these towns has as yet been

officially announced. The Germans, it is apparent, have sent in their reserves and are making a desperate defense to enable their engineers to complete the destruction of the mines and factories of Lens which have been useful to the Allies.

Paris, April 16—Noon The French entered the German second line last night at several points in Alsace. Many prisoners and much booty were taken.

Paris, April 17—Germany suffered another crushing blow on west front, today, when forty miles of the strongest part of her line were wrested from her with an estimated loss of nearly one hundred thousand killed wounded and prisoners. All France hails this victory as a brilliant demonstration of the skill of her Generals.

Canadians Get Place of Honor

Canadian headquarters in France, via London, April 9—(By Stewart Lyon, special correspondent of the Canadian Press)—The crest of the Vimy Ridge has been carried. The strongest defensive position of the enemy on the western front has been captured by the army of Sir Douglas Haig, and the Canadian Corps was given the place of honor in the great event, being strongly supported by some of the most famous of the British formations. The attack was preceded by a bombardment which continued for several days, and in which guns of the heaviest calibre, formerly used on only the biggest battleships, took part. The results, as revealed by aerial observation, were a repetition of the battle of the Somme. Aeroplanes, flying low, could find only shapeless masses of churned-up earth where the enemy's first line had been.

By Saturday afternoon Thelus, the chief village held by the enemy on the ridge and lying due east of Neuville-St. Vaast, was pounded out of all recognition, only two houses remaining. Prisoners taken told of heavy enemy losses. Even in deep dugouts, where the Germans had hoped to be reasonably safe in that rain of death, no safety was to be found anywhere. In a desperate attempt to blind the eyes of the attacking army, the Germans on Saturday endeavored to destroy our observation balloons.

Saturday night our guns continued the work of devastation under conditions which made a spectacle that was majestic and awe-inspiring. A full moon in the east lit up the country-side with mellow beams on the horizon, while the flash of the guns made a continuous play like that of the northern lights in the Dominion, or distant sheet lightning. This was sharply broken now and again by a column of reddish-yellow flame, where on the ridge high explosives were bursting.

The gunners, with tireless energy, continued the cannonade throughout Easter Sunday. On Monday morning came the supreme moment, that in which our infantry was called upon to go out and reap the fruit of months of preparation. They had endured, unwaveringly, the answering fire of the enemy, which, however, was not comparable to ours. Some impatient to be at the foe, had gone out on small wars of their own, and it is recorded that in one of the individual encounters in "No Man's Land," a Canadian meeting a German, pursued him after emptying his revolver ineffectively at him. The Canadian cast about for some other weapon. The only one within reach was his steel helmet, and with the sharp edge of that he killed the armed German.

Such was the spirit of the infantry who, in the gray preceding the dawn, sprang from their shelters when the appointed time came. It was a great occasion and greatly they rose to it.

From the craters of the scarred front, which resembled the openings made in quarrying operations, the distance to the top of the ridge ranged from twelve hundred yards to a little short of a mile. Thereafter the ground falls easterly toward the great plain of Cambrai. Up the ridge,

amid the shattered Hun trenches, our men swarmed in successive waves. On the northern end a few trees along the skyline marked where the wood of La Folie had been, our troops' advance was through the remains of an orchard.

Within half an hour after the first German "S. O. S." rocket had been sent up, indicating a surprise attack, our objective was attained, with slight loss. The tanks which accompanied our advancing infantry had little to do, were seen in action later, near the crest of the ridge, on the extreme northern end of the line at a point east of Souchez, where much fierce fighting took place in 1915 when thousands of men fell.

The enemy put up a stiff fight. Hill 145 had been provided skillfully with concealed machine gun positions, and long after they had been driven from the surrounding ground with machine guns on the hill they continued to sweep points of approach to the hill with their fire. Encouraged by this show of resistance on what otherwise was a stricken field the enemy began to send up reserves in trains from Lens, Douai and perhaps a greater distance, with the intention of launching a counter-attack. That attack was never made. As reports came in from the front and from the aviators of this massing of the enemy in Vimy, and the trenches in the vicinity a tremendous barrage was turned on by our heavy guns, the range being too great for field artillery.

Probably for the first time in the war the twelve-inch weapons were used for this purpose at very long range. The splendid co-operation of the artillery arm in preventing this counter-attack did much to lessen our casualties on a difficult part of the front. On the southern and of the Canadian front the Germans yielded ground more readily than in the north. Many prisoners were taken, and as for Thelus, which had been strongly held before, our guns hammered it to pieces. It did not long hold out. By 12.30, seven hours after the battle began, no organized body of the enemy remained on Vimy Ridge, save the nest of concealed machine gun sections on Hill 145.

Of the casualties it can only be said this moment that they were surprisingly light, especially in view of the importance of the ground won. The prisoners taken on the Canadian part of the front numbered over three thousand. Our men were splendid, and proud that they have been counted worthy to furnish a striking force in so important an operation as the recapture of Vimy Ridge.

No ground in all France is more dear to the hearts of the French people than the front from which the Canadians set out to drive the enemy from his positions on the ridge of Vimy. The chapel of Notre Dame de Lorette, Souchez and the Sugar Refinery, to conquer the crumbling ruins of which men died during the war in thousands; the Caberets, Rouge Neuville, St. Vaast, the Labyrinth are names that will be forever glorious there.

In the spring of 1915, before the tremendous dramas of Verdun and the Somme had been conceived, the army of France made the first great attempt to drive the entrenched foe from his positions. The progress made, reckoned in miles, was almost negligible, but the French learned on the ridges and in the long shelterless slopes of the difficult terrain the lessons that enabled them and their allies to win at Verdun and the Somme.

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