

CONDITION OF BRITISH AND FRENCH FORCES IMPROVES WHILE GERMAN ARMY WEAKENS

KAISER'S ARMY WEAKENING UNDER TERRIBLE STRAIN

Fundamental Plans Failed at Outset and Seven Important Defeats Have Lessened Effectiveness of German War Machine—Allies Have Immense Resources of Men and Supplies While Enemy Shows Shortage of Both.

London, Mar. 27.—(Correspondence.) The French official review of the war, under the caption "The scarcity of primary material for projectiles," points out that the chief explanation of the imperfections noted in the German projectiles is to be found in the bad quality of the primary material. It declares there is "a terrible scarcity of rubber," and that still more serious is "the scarcity of copper, which is indispensable for the manufacture of shells and munitions."

The same condition, it is asserted, holds true of salt petre, and of the nitrate necessary for its manufacture. The review then deals at great length, and presents statistics, to prove the scarcity of food supplies within the Empire. It says: "It has been observed, on several occasions, that revictualing of the German army has not been as regular as that of the French. In the case of the battle of the Marne, and in the weeks which followed, the German prisoners were furnished, and declared they had eaten nothing for several days."

The writer proceeds to draw his conclusions, which he places under four heads, as follows: "The bearing of the German defeat," "The bearing of the French success," "The bearing of the French superiority," and "The bearing of the French army."

Under the first he says: "It remains to appraise the results of these six months of war, and to define the possibilities which those results have in store for us in the future operations. It may first of all be affirmed that the fundamental plan of the German general staff has completely failed. This plan has been superabundantly set forth by German military writers, as also in the Reichstag by the ministers of war. It aimed at crushing France by an overwhelming attack, and at reducing her to a condition of helplessness in less than a month."

Seven Important Defeats. "Germany has not succeeded in this. Our army is, as we have seen, not only intact but strengthened, full of trust in its leaders and profoundly penetrated with the certainty of final success."

"To sum up, the German general staff has placed upon its record since the beginning of the campaign, apart from the failure of its general plan, which aimed at the crushing of France in a few weeks—seven defeats of high significance, namely, defeat of the sudden attack on Nancy, defeat of the rapid march on Paris, defeat of the envelopment of our left in August, defeat of the attempt to break through our centre in September, defeat of the coast attack on Dunkirk, Calais, and the defeat of the attack on Ypres."

"The German army, powerful and courageous as it may be, has therefore succeeded in gaining the advantage upon no single point, and its forces, after six months of war, condemn it to a retreat, the pace of which may be accelerated by the Russian successes, but the necessity of which is now a foregone conclusion, independently of those successes."

The Bearing of the French Success. "Against the extent of the German defeat, has to be placed that of the French success. All that our enemies have failed to gain we have gained, and first and foremost confidence in ourselves."

"It is certain, and it could not be otherwise, that at the outset our troops and the country itself still remained under the impression of the defeats of 1870. The victory of the Marne, confirmed by the victory of Flanders, the impassable barrier set up against the most formidable effort which has ever been attempted in the military history of the world, has created a feeling of security which grows stronger every day."

"We have seen that the French army is strengthening itself every day, in heavy artillery, in explosive weapons for the trenches and in projectiles. It is known that the British army in France, which at first consisted of four divisions, is today (beginning of February) composed of ten British divisions, two Indian divisions, and two cavalry corps, with 900 guns, of which 100 pieces are of heavy artillery. It is known that the number of troops now with the colors and being trained in England is very large."

Russia Has Large Number of Recruits to Draw From.

"It is known that the Belgian army, which is reconstituting itself, will shortly have six divisions of infantry and two divisions of cavalry. It is known that the Serbian army, supplied afresh with material and munitions is once again prepared to show its splendid qualities. It is known

that Russia continues to draw upon the immense reservoir of her recruits, having, up to the present, utilized only the twentieth part. These are the reasons why the French commands have not hurried, and awaits the hour which it considers favorable. These reasons, based on precise motives, which are easy to test, are entirely irrefutable."

The French Superiorities.

"If then we turn to the future, we note that:

"The wastage of the German army is in all respects greater than that of the French army. The principal cause of this is the superiority of our artillery and the fighting methods of the German infantry, which attacks in closer formation than does ours. It is now certain that the losses of our adversaries are double ours."

"The possibilities of the German army, from the point of view of effectiveness, will go on decreasing more and more. The German population capable of bearing arms is, in comparison with the French population, in the proportion of three to two. Now at the present time, Landstrum, included, Germany is employing, on the French front, a number of men representing two-thirds of her resources, against one-third on the Russian front. On account of the Austrian defeat, Germany will be obliged to strengthen her forces against Russia more and more."

Offensive Faith of the French Army. "Out of all these elements has been born the offensive faith of the French army and its leaders. We have before us two systems. The one, the German system, demanded a rapid success at the opening of the campaign, a success against France before the Russians could come upon the field, before the British reserves could intervene, before the economic troubles could make itself felt. Hence the creation, in all haste, of new corps, whether or not they could be kept up for a long time. By pre-determination the victory was to be immediate. Now this necessary victory the Germans did not have."

"The other system, the French system, consists, with the advantage of the freedom of the seas, in maintaining in good and complete form a number of sufficient formations, and in creating new ones only in the measure in which they can, with certainty, be kept up and suitably and durably equipped with regimental organization."

"This system is established with a view to a prolonged war. Of these two systems which, after six months of trial, shall triumph? To put the question is to answer it. The Germans can no longer oppose us with forces superior to ours. They will, therefore, not be able to do in the future what they could not do in the past, when they were one-third more numerous than ourselves. Consequently our final victory must follow by the imperative necessity of the concordant force of facts and figures."

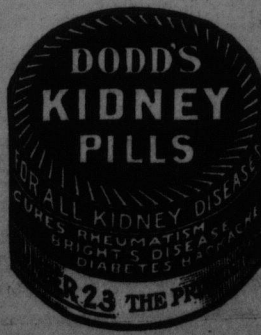
DIED.

McKEAN—In this city, on April 6th, 1915, John Winters McKean, leaving a wife and one son.

Funeral from his late residence, 6 Richmond street, at 2:30 o'clock Friday afternoon.

CARD OF THANKS.

Mrs. George T. Williams and family of Pleasant Villa, Queens County, N. B., desire to express their heartfelt thanks to many friends for kindness and sympathy shown in their recent sad bereavement.



OFFICIAL REPORTS

RUSSIA

Petrograd via London, April 7, 11:55 p. m.—The following official communication was issued to-night:

"In the Carpathians, despite counter-attacks by the enemy, who has obtained large reinforcements detached from the German and Austrian armies, our offensive continues between the River Topla and the region in the direction of the Uzzi-Slav."

"All the summits of the principal chain of the Beskid mountains to the west of the region of the village of Ustykli Gornia, are in our hands, and our troops are capturing, in succession, the northern spurs."

"On April 5 we took about 2,900 prisoners and three guns and several machine guns."

"In the other sectors along our front there is no essential change. Collisions of secondary importance and fusillades have continued."

An additional official statement issued to-night says:

"The German attacks in the region of Roslouke and Rosenska ceased March 27, after eight weeks of continued fruitless attempts to take the Russian positions by assault, the Germans suffered enormous losses."

"German seaplane was sunk off Liban April 6, after it had dropped bombs on the city. The aviators were rescued and made prisoners."

FRANCE

Paris, April 7 (10:30 p. m.)—The following official statement was issued by the War Office to-night:

"The very unfavorable weather conditions continue. Nevertheless activity has been pronounced between the Meuse and Moselle, where we have maintained all our gains and made further advances."

"Near Paris, east of Verdun, we have taken two lines of trenches. On Tuesday night at Eparges we made an important advance."

"All today the Germans were engaged in violent counter-attacks, but they regained nothing. Their last attack was particularly heavy, but they were mowed down by our fire."

DRUG SUPPLY CONTRACT ABOVE SUSPICION

Liberals Failed to Produce Part of Evidence to Prove all Was Not Right.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, April 7.—The Liberal members of the public accounts committee put a woman on the witness stand yesterday for the first time in the history of Canadian Confederation. She was Mrs. Plamondon of Quebec, widow of a Quebec druggist who has carried on her husband's business since he died five years ago. She had the contract for supplying drugs for the permanent force at Quebec and when war broke out she was directed, in virtue of this contract, to supply Valcartier camp with medical necessities.

There was not the slightest suspicion attached to her contract or her dealings in any way with the Militia Department, and she ought not to have been brought before the committee, but she happens to be a sister of Albert Sevigny, the Deputy Speaker, and the sole purpose of subpoenaing her was to attempt to throw some discredit upon him. The attempt failed entirely. Not a Liberal member was able to make anything approaching a suggestion that all was not right.

Mrs. Plamondon was compelled to ask for an increase in prices in certain articles because there had been an increase in the market values since the war. She had also increased her prices to the public.

Major Potter of the department of medical services stated that there had been a large increase in prices since war broke out. It was shown that in some cases the prices allowed by the department were lower than the wholesale prices she had to pay. H. W. Brown, director of contracts, who was Sir Frederick Borden's private secretary, said Mrs. Plamondon had asked for an increase in prices on 17 items. All were allowed except three. This showed that the prices she charged were all arranged by the Militia Department and all the officials who had the control were appointees of the late government.

COULD GIVE DAVID HARUM POINTERS ON HORSE DEALING

Public Accounts Committee Hears How Nova Scotian Horse Dealers Swindled Government—One Horse Too Old For Service in Boer War Panned off on Buyers.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, April 7.—The public accounts committee yesterday was a "scream." The largest room in the buildings, the railway committee room, was used for the sessions and standing room only was the sign which had to be hung out at times. Nova Scotia horse dealers, most of whom would be able to give the original David Harum pointers on horse trades, kept the committee in roars of laughter as they told with considerable gusto, and not the slightest tinge of conscience, how they put it over the Government buyers.

One horse which had been traded for a "drake and two ducks" was sold to the Government for ninety dollars. Another horse which was turned down at the time of the South African war as too old, it was claimed, was panned off on the Government buyers.

One seller, Mr. A. P. Harvey, frankly admitted he had sold five horses, not one of which was sound. One had two spavins, another had weak knees, a third was "crawling along" in age, a fourth had heaves and the fifth was generally poor. He saw nothing wrong in selling such horses to the Government for military purposes. He regarded the Government as legitimate prey. These horses were all purchased

in Kings County, Nova Scotia, at Berwick and Kingston. However, some honest witnesses were found, who had sold the Government sound horses and had sold to the Government at a bargain.

However, while the committee had lots of amusement out of the drollery of the horse dealers, the matter has its serious side. The Government is determined that every man who has swindled the Government shall suffer. Powell, the Ottawa drug clerk, has already made restitution of the \$6,300 he made on the sale of drugs. The Government is taking steps to have the department of justice take action in the case of the sale of binoculars. Someone will have to suffer in the case of the sale of horses, if the evidence of the horse dealers is borne out by future evidence.

The horses in Kings County were passed on by a veterinary, Dr. Chipman. One witness was not sure whether he was qualified or not. "Every one calls him Doc," he added. The buyer was Mr. W. P. MacKay. The witnesses all testified that there was no take-off or commission in any shape or form. The money went directly to the farmers and receipts to that effect were signed.

BILL TO AMEND CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS ACT IS PASSED

Ottawa, April 7.—The bill authorizing the government to lease the superior branch of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway was put through committee in the house this morning, and reported with amendment to the effect that an agreement to lease the road for more than five years, or to purchase it, must be ratified by parliament. During the discussion Hon. Frank Cochrane expressed the opinion that the railway, from the National Transcontinental to Port William, was the key to the west, and should have belonged to the Transcontinental, rather than to the Grand Trunk Pacific. Hon. George P. Graham thought that the Transcontinental should be operated, but did not think that there was any immediate necessity for expropriating the superior branch of the G. T. P.

Fears of members of the opposition that the legislation was intended to allow the government to purchase the branch line without consulting parliament were allayed by Sir Robert Borden, by agreeing to amend the bill also to require the consent of parliament before an agreement to buy the line or to lease it for a long term of years was consummated. He said that in the present state of the money market the government would be hardly disposed to undertake to expend \$30,000,000 or \$40,000,000 on the branch railway.

Bill to Amend Election Act.

The bill to amend the Dominion Election Act was then taken up in committee. An interesting debate followed upon the proposal of Mr. Edward Proulx of Prescott, that directors of companies having been declared ineligible for election to the House of Commons. Hon. William Pugsley said that at present there were in parliament men who contrary to the independence of parliament act, were shareholders of companies having contracts for the construction of public works. Senators who so infringed the law were liable to a penalty of \$200 a day and members of the House of Commons were liable to disqualification. Nevertheless, at the present time, Senator Curry was president of the Rhodes Curry Company, which had a contract for the erection of a post office which would involve an expenditure of several hundred thousand dollars.

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of the stock, should be excluded from sitting in the House of Commons. The Prime Minister suggested that the amendment be allowed to stand pending further consideration by the Minister of Justice.

Hon. George P. Graham said that if Mr. Proulx's plan were adopted some of the best men in Canada would be prevented from entering parliament. The question was a very complicated one, which could not be solved in a few hours. With this view Hon. Frank Oliver agreed. "Is it a crime to be a member of parliament, or to be engaged in business?" he asked. Almost everybody in the country was engaged in business.

Amendment Lost.

Hon. C. J. Doherty said that the idea of the special committee was to improve the machinery for enforcing the election act. There was no pressing need for the clause suggested by the member for Prescott, and it required consideration.

The amendment was declared lost.

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