

TRIPLE MEMRAMCOOK TRAGEDY; ENTENTE PREPARING BIG DRIVE

IMPORTANT OFFENSIVE MAY BE UNDERTAKEN BY ALLIES

Teutons Show Little Indication of Starting Something Just Now—British, American, French, Belgian and Portuguese Troops Maintain Firm Control Over Front Running from North Sea to Swiss Frontier.

Entente May Start Offensive of Its Own at Various Points Against Teutonic Legions—Spirited Actions on Western Battle Fronts—Belgian Army Reorganized and Takes Charge of Coast Sector of Flanders.

As the allied world has, day after day, read the official reports from the allied and Teuton war office in the hope that some inkling of the real situation would present itself, the realization has come home that the British, American, French, Belgian and Portuguese troops are maintaining their control over the front running from the North Sea to Switzerland. Artillery fire, at some points growing in intensity, is reported, but the allies have held their own and their raiding parties are everywhere busy in the enemy trenches. The long-expected and confidently awaited German drive has not materialized and the allies threaten to start an offensive of their own at various points against the Teutonic legions.

There is hardly a sector on the western battle line which is not being marked by spirited actions, but Verdun, and the Vosges regions are apparently storm centres where big events may develop. At Verdun the opposing artilleries have been thundering for several days and on Monday the chorus of the guns was kept up, especially on the right bank of the Meuse.

Belgian Army Strong.

In the Vosges Mountain artillery fighting is reported to be very heavy, although no actions have been mentioned in the war office statements issued at Paris and Berlin.

One of the most encouraging features of the war news may be found in the fact that the Belgian army, reorganized and ready for battle, has taken over the important coast sector in Flanders. This part of the western front has heretofore been held by the French, although British troops have made their appearance there at various periods. That the Belgian army, which is said to be excellent in morale, has freed the French and British forces for action elsewhere on the front demonstrates that the past winter has been one of constructive work on the part of the Belgian and allied army staffs. The latest official report said that attacks by German shock troops have been repulsed by the Belgians.

Attack Americans.

Heavy guns are battering the American sectors along the front and many shells of large calibre have fallen. Here, however, the American guns have replied with good effect, and the excellent weather of the past few days has given American airmen an opportunity to take pictures of the terrain back of the German trenches. Apparatus installed preparatory to another gas raid on the Americans has been destroyed by American artillery fire, while American raiding parties, following out their traditional Indian fighting tactics, have kept absolute control of the territory between the hostile lines.

Muns in Russia.

In spite of the fact that the all-Russian congress of soviets has ratified the treaty of peace forced by the Germans at Brest-Litovsk, the advance of the Teutons, especially in Southern Russia, continues. In southern Ukraine the capture of the important city of Nikolsk, where vast stores of grain were reported to have been piled up, has been officially announced by the Germans who have also followed up their aggressive tactics in the provinces of Tchernigov and Orel, in the southern central regions of Russia.

Action by Japan in Siberia is still held in abeyance and there is no indication of what may be done there. Reports from Siberia continue to be grave. Liberated German prisoners of war are said to be co-operating with the Bolshevik leaders, and on March 16 participated in a battle with the forces led by General Semenov, the non-Bolshevik leader.

On Italian Front.

On the Italian front there has been

Much Wreckage Now Coming Ashore From Steamship Batisca

Special to The Standard.

Yarmouth, N. S., Mar. 18.—The spot where the steamer Batisca, Louisbourg for St. John, met her fate seems to be wrapped in complete mystery. Wreckage in considerable quantity is coming ashore all along the coast from Yarmouth bar to Tusket Islands and from the direction of the drift, seafaring men are of the opinion that she struck on the dreaded Trinity Ledges and went down in deep water. This spot is one of the most dangerous in the bay and has been responsible for more wrecks than any other spot in this locality.

Undertaker Sweeney went to Pickneys Point and brought the three bodies washed ashore to town. They are Chinese. Two of them are in engine room apparel and the third had on a heavy overcoat and wore a white collar. From this it is presumed he was not a member of the ship's crew but a passenger. An inquest will be held on Wednesday.

No attempt has been made yet to get at the contents of their pockets or find marks on their clothes which may lead to their identity. This will be done tomorrow.

The government steamer Aranmore has gone out to search for the wreck or possible survivors. It was clear today and a close search has been made of all the places where a wreck is liable to take place, but there is nothing beyond floating scraps which may have come from any of a hundred places.

TWO WOMEN ACCUSED OF BEING SPYS

Baron Henri De Beville and Count Robert De Clairmont Also Gathered in in United States — Supposed Agents of German Government.

New York, Mar. 18.—Two men and two women of foreign birth, living in fashionable quarters here and said to have had close correspondence with diplomats and high officials of foreign governments, were today arrested by agents of the department of justice and turned over to the immigration authorities for deportation. The four were described as Baron Henri De Beville, Count Robert De Clairmont, Madame Despina Davidovitch Storch and Mrs. Elizabeth Charlotte Nix. Although each stayed at different hotels or apartments, they were said to have been associated in activities objectionable to the government. Mrs. Nix is said to have admitted receiving \$3,000 from Count Von Bernstorff, although she claims it was a loan. The government seized a safe deposit box rented by Madame Storch and it was stated that the codes and much correspondence were found which is expected to throw more light upon their activities, the exact nature of which the authorities did not disclose.

Madame Storch is also known as Madame Nezie and is said to be the leader of the group. Madame Nezie admits receiving \$8,000 by an official connected with a foreign government just before she came to the United States, according to federal officials, and has been receiving remittances of \$1,000 each from a mysterious source since. She has been for some time under surveillance and has been repeatedly brought to the offices of the department of justice to be questioned.

Mrs. Nix is said to have been born in Germany and to have been in Germany prior to the war with the Count De Clairmont. Madame Storch, or Nezie, and the Baron De Beville were together in Madrid in 1915, where they were known as the Baron and Baroness De Beville, federal officials said, and were arrested there accused of being spies for the German government. Later they were released and made their way to the United States through Cuba. About the time the department of justice began investigating them the latter part of February, Madams Storch and Baron De Beville started ostensibly for Cuba, but went to Washington, where, it is said, they stopped at the Shoreham Hotel, again as the Baron and Baroness De Beville. They were in communication with prominent persons in Washington and then returned to New York. Once there they started for Cuba but at Key West, Fla., were stopped by the department of justice agents and brought to New York where they have been detained at hotels pending further investigation.

ALLIES PROTEST AGAINST HUNS

Denounce Action of German Which After Sign Peace Carries on War in Russia.

London, Mar. 18.—The foreign office tonight issued a statement embodying a protest of the entente premiers and foreign ministers assembled in London against Germany's action, in the name of German peace, toward the Russian people. The protest concludes: "Peace is loudly advertised, but under the disguise of verbal professions, lurk the brutal realities of war and the untempered rule of a lawless force."

"Peace treaties such as these we do not and cannot acknowledge. Our own ends are very different. We are fighting, and mean to continue fighting, in order to finish once for all, with this policy of plunder, and to establish in its place the peaceful reign of organized justice."

"As incidents of this long war unroll themselves before our eyes, more and more clearly do we perceive that the battles for freedom are everywhere inter-dependent; that no separate enumeration of them is needed and that in every case the single, but all-sufficient, appeal is to justice and right."

"Are justice and right going to win? Insofar as the issue depends on battles yet to come, the nations whose fate is in the balance may sorely put their trust in the armies, which, even under conditions more difficult than the present, have shown themselves more than equal to the great cause entrusted to their valor."

130 CANADIAN CASUALTIES

Ottawa, March 18.—Tonight's list of 130 names reports fourteen Canadian soldiers killed in action, nine seriously wounded, 13 dead, one accidentally killed, one presumed to have died, thirty-four wounded, fifty-four gassed and eight ill. The list:

Killed in Action—
J. S. Hester, Halifax, N. S.
Died—
H. V. Brown, Westmorland, N. B.
Wounded—
M. J. MacInnis, Hume Reef, N. S.
J. F. McManus, South Devon, N. B.
Cyclists.
Gassed—
E. Adams, Campbellton, N. B.
Died of wounds—
J. P. McQueen, Kings Head, N.S.
Wounded—
A. C. Stokes, Moncton, N. B.

THE DUTCH SHIPS

Washington, Mar. 18.—Preparations for taking over Dutch merchant ships in American ports tomorrow were completed tonight, while the government expected momentarily to receive from London the Dutch reply to the British mercantile shipping ultimatum.

THREE YOUNG MEN PERISH IN A FEARFUL BLIZZARD

Victims Were Aurele J. Gaudet, Philip A. Belliveau, C. G. G. Employes at Moncton, and Andre A. Belliveau, Employed as Painter in That City — Philip Belliveau Nephew of Rt. Rev. Mgr. Belliveau of Grand Digue, Kent Co.

PEACE DOVE ONCE MORE AT OTTAWA

Parliament Reassembles and Much Hand-shaking Marks Occasion.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER IN JOCLULAR MOOD

Mr. Mowatt, Liberal Unionist, of Toronto, Makes the Opening Speech.

DR. CHABOT, CONSERVATIVE UNIONIST, NEXT

Winning the War Keynote of Addresses—Sir Wilfrid to Speak Next.

Ottawa, Mar. 18.—The first sitting of the 13th dominion parliament, which commenced its labor today under union government auspices, made a record for an opening day. Not only was Hon. E. N. Rhodes, the speaker, re-elected to the position of chief commander at a morning sitting, but the speech from the throne was read by His Excellency, the Governor-General, in the afternoon, and the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne was commenced.

Mr. H. Mowatt, Liberal Unionist member for Parkdale, Toronto, moved the address in a reply in a speech in English. He was followed by Dr. J. L. Chabot, of Ottawa, who spoke first in French and then in English. By agreement the speeches of Sir Robert Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier were deferred until the Tuesday sitting of the House. The opposition leader, however, took occasion to congratulate the mover and second on their efforts, and referred to the spirit of union and harmony which had characterized the proceedings of the day. He indicated, however, that he did not agree with all the remarks which had been made.

All is Harmony.

An atmosphere of good fellowship pervaded both morning and afternoon sessions of the house. Only one note of criticism marked the proceedings when Sir Wilfrid Laurier doubted the legality of the morning session because the time had not been mentioned in the proclamation.

Sir Robert Borden explained that while, through some inadvertence, it had been omitted from the proclamation in the Canada Gazette, it had been mentioned in the formal order-in-council. The opposition leader observed with a smile, that so many order-in-councils had been passed the officials might be excused.

Subsequently, when Sir Robert Borden and several members of his cabinet tabled a large number of order-in-council, passed since the government came into office, Sir Wilfrid asked if an order-in-council had been adopted to dispense with parliament. The remark was greeted with general laughter, in which the members of the government joined and Sir Robert said that if the leader of the opposition cared to suggest such an order-in-council, it would receive the consideration of the government.

One Omission.

The omission from the speech from the throne of any reference to the general railway situation has occasioned some comment. This is taken to indicate that the government had not yet reached definite conclusions in regard to a permanent policy.

Mr. Mowatt in his address said that the late government came to the conclusion that the time had come to compel young men to enlist. Many on the other side maintained it was too early to take such action and that voluntarily enlistment should be continued for a time. Others adopted the

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Special to The Standard.
Moncton, Mar. 18.—Frozen to death within a few rods of shelter was the fate of three young men, Aurele Gaudet, Andre A. Belliveau and Philip A. Belliveau of the Memramcook district during the terrific blizzard that raged in many sections of the Maritime Provinces on Sunday night, March 10. The young men met their tragic end between Memramcook and College Bridge stations of the C. G. R. as a result of becoming lost on the bleak Memramcook marshes, but their fate was not learned until their frozen bodies were discovered today buried in the snow and the ice that bridges the Memramcook river. The story is a sad one and gloom has been cast over Memramcook and vicinity, where the young men and their parents are well known.

All three young men, who were unmarried, worked in Moncton and were in the habit of going home Saturday nights to spend Sunday. They went to their homes as usual Saturday, March 9, expecting to return on the Maritime Express Sunday night for work Monday morning.

Last Seen at Eight p.m.

About eight o'clock Sunday evening Gaudet and the two Belliveaus left the home of Byrns Leger for College Bridge C. G. R. station, about three-quarters of a mile away. That was the last seen of them alive. When they did not return to work in Moncton Monday morning it was supposed they had been detained at their homes and no special inquiries were made as to their absence although it was thought strange they would absent themselves from work without an explanation, particularly as they were known to be prompt and reliable in this respect in the past. Friends at Memramcook of course supposed the young men had reached the depot safely and were at work in Moncton. A week passed. Then other residents of Memramcook working in Moncton and going home for Sunday, went home last Saturday as usual. At mass Sunday morning enquiry was made of relatives as to why Gaudet and Philip Belliveau, employes of the C. G. R., had not been at work. News that the young men had not been at work came as considerable of a surprise to their friends at home. Still no thought that they had perished in the storm was seriously entertained. Enquiries as to their possible whereabouts were started at their boarding houses in Moncton, and friends elsewhere were communicated with, but no trace could be found of the missing men.

Friends Alarmed.

Then friends became alarmed, fearing that they had perished in the awful blizzard in Memramcook Valley on the night they set out across the marsh for the C. G. R. station, and this morning a party started out to search the marshes.

About one o'clock this afternoon Placide Cormier found one of the bodies on the ice of the Memramcook river. The head was protruding from a snow drift. The ghastly find soon led to the discovery of the other two bodies close by, completely buried beneath the snow. That the young men had perished from cold was evidenced by the fact that the clothing carried by Gaudet in a grip had been taken out and wrapped about their faces and bodies in an effort to keep themselves warm. Whether the young men were following the main road to the C. G. R. or were taking a short cut across the marsh and became lost and be-wildered in the blinding snow storm is not definitely known.

Probably Lost Way.

A report says that they were taking a short cut across the marsh in which event it would be much easier to lose their way. The bodies were found practically huddled together about half way across the ice on the river where they apparently became exhausted and made a last fight for life. The sad fate of the three young men

in the prime of life is one of the grimest tragedies known in the province for many years.

Aurele J. Gaudet would have been twenty-three years old today. He was a son of Joseph Gaudet of Conner's Cove. He had been employed in the C. G. R. lumber yard, Moncton, since last August. He was to have been married soon. Andrew Belliveau, aged thirty, was a son of Edward Belliveau, of Beaumont's, four miles from Memramcook station. He was a painter in the employ of Allan McDonald of Moncton. Philip Belliveau, aged twenty-one, was the son of Andre Belliveau, of Bellevue Village, and nephew of Rt. Rev. Mgr. Belliveau of Grand Digue. He was a machinist apprentice in the C. G. R., having entered the service February 27 last. Gaudet was a brother of Camille Gaudet of the Provincial Bank staff, Moncton.

No inquest will be held and the funerals of all three victims will be held Wednesday morning.

W. J. PORTER, ST. STEPHEN, DEAD

Special to The Standard.

St. Stephen, Mar. 18.—This community heard with very sad surprise this morning of the death of William J. Porter one of the oldest and highly esteemed residents of St. Stephen. He had been about town last week in his usual good health and cheerful spirits, but on Friday was taken ill with heart trouble and entered into rest at an early hour this morning. Egan having heard of his illness, the announcement came as a great shock. He was seventy four years of age and a native of this town, where he had spent all of his life. He was in the employ of F. H. Todd and Sons in the lumber business for nearly half a century and until that firm ceased to do business some few years ago. He was very widely known and universally respected.

He was twice married, both of his wives having predeceased him. He is survived by one daughter and three sons. The daughter is the wife of Hugh McBride, manager in Western Canada for Ganson Brothers, with headquarters in Winnipeg. His eldest son Frank Porter, has followed the sea for many years and since the outbreak of the war has been in the British navy. Another son, Ernest Porter, resides in Milltown, and the youngest son, William J. Porter, Jr., is with the Canadian forces in France. Two sisters, the Misses Bessie and Annie Porter, of St. Stephen, also survive.