

## ALLIED LINE IS HOLDING HARD A GAINST GERMAN ONSLAUGHTS

### THE BRITISH LINE REMAINS INTACT AND FRENCH ARMY IS BRAVELY AIDING HAIG

Fighting Lacks Nothing of Violence of First Days of the Week, but the Defences are Growing Increasingly Stronger—Battle Now Considered as Developing More Favorably for the Allies and Heavy Enemy Attacks Repulsed—No Attempt in London, However, to Minimize Seriousness of Situation.

(By Arthur S. Draper.)

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

London, April 18.—There are two satisfactory features in today's fighting. First, the line is intact; and, second, the French are co-operating with the British. From all accounts the fighting lacks nothing of the violence of the first days of the week, but the defences are growing increasingly stronger.

If it is appreciated that the German advances east of Ypres were made without opposition and as a result of the British decision to defend other positions, the battle must be considered as developing more favorably for the British down the west slopes of Messines Ridge and up the rising ground of Mont Kemmel and Mont Rogue, the German hordes are striving desperately to push forward, but their furious onslaughts have been checked and, where in a few places they have succeeded in penetrating the British defences, sharp counter thrusts have driven them back.

News is anxiously awaited from the southern portion of the front where the furious bombardment from Robecq, southeast to Givency has continued for many hours. Apparently the Germans are making real attempts to smash the British right flank and take Bethune, which in itself is of little military importance.

Two Enemy Objectives.

There are two enemy objectives here; first, to narrow the British salient, and second, to widen their path through Nieppe Forest toward Alro and Lillers. From the outset the southern portion of the front has been a difficult problem for the enemy because of the marshy ground. Besides, an advance here offers no such rich prize as success in the north would bring.

The enemy is avoiding a drive through Nieppe Forest and his thrust to the north is embarrassed as long as the British hold the heights running west of Baillou. The enemy wants to widen his path toward Hazebrouck.

What little change the last twenty-four hours have brought is viewed with satisfaction in high quarters here, but there is no attempt to minimize the seriousness of the situation which still exists. On the plains of Picardy there are no new developments of importance.

The world's greatest battle, for the struggles on the Somme and at Arras are all one now, is four weeks old. All experts are agreed that it is the decisive battle and that it will end in favor of the side that employs its reserves to the greatest advantage.

Germany has paid an enormous price for the territory she has won. She has yet to win a strategic success and she has failed to drive a wedge between the French and British forces. In all the heavy fighting after the first overwhelming thrust, the enemy has paid an infinitely greater price than the British and it is natural to expect that his superiority of numbers would have decreased considerably. He is definitely committed to a heavy programme and it must be carried out regardless of the cost, and it is a practical certainty that he will return to the attack soon. That will cost him more than the price paid in the first phase of the battle, but he cannot turn back now.

### MANY HONOR HON. JOSIAH WOOD, 75 YEARS OF AGE YESTERDAY

Reception Tendered by Citizens and Town Council of Sackville—Methodist Church, Mt. Allison University and Town Council Present Addresses—Messages of Greetings from Premier Borden and Many Prominent Men.

Special to The Standard.

Sackville, April 18.—A reception was tendered Hon. Josiah Wood Ex-Lieut. Governor of New Brunswick this evening by citizens and the town council of Sackville upon the occasion of his 75th birthday. Previous to the reception, which was held in the Methodist church, the town band serenaded Hon. Mr. Wood at his home. The church was thronged at eight o'clock when the reception opened with Rev. H. E. Thomas presiding. Rev. Mr.

Thomas referred to the prominent place Hon. Mr. Wood had occupied in the public life of the country in the capacity of member of Parliament, Senator and Lieutenant Governor of his native province and eloquently referred to the esteem with which he was regarded by all classes. A resolution from the official Board of the Methodist church was presented by Dr. J. H. Seacord and Rev. Dr. Morton which paid a high tribute to Hon. Mr. Wood. This was followed

### FIELD MARSHAL HAIG'S REPORT ENCOURAGING

London, April 18.—Field Marshal Haig's report tonight says: "There has been severe fighting again today on the greater part of the Lys battlefield. From La Bassée Canal at Givency to the Lys River, east of St. Venant, a bombardment was reported this morning, followed by strong hostile attacks, all of which have been repulsed.

The losses inflicted on the attacking German infantry by our fire are again reported to have been extremely heavy, and over 200 prisoners have been taken.

"The struggle has been particularly fierce in the neighborhood of Givency, where the enemy made determined efforts, without success, to retrieve his previous failures. The fighting in this locality has not yet ceased and the activity of the enemy's artillery is continuing on the whole of this front.

"Later in the day further attacks, accompanied by heavy shelling, developed against our positions south of Kemmel and were repulsed. "Beyond considerable artillery activity in different sectors, particularly south and north of the Somme, there is nothing of special interest to report from the British front."

by resolution from the Board of Regents of Mount Allison University, presented by Rev. Dr. B. C. Borden, Principal of the University and Dr. Palmer, Principal of the commercial department. Both paid glowing tributes to the worth of the Hon. Mr. Wood.

The Sackville Town Council were present in a body. A committee from the town council, composed of Capt. Anderson, H. C. Reed and Mr. Thomas Murray, town clerk, presented the following resolution from the council which was read by Mr. Murray:

"Hon. Josiah Wood, our first Mayor of Sackville, and our first Lieutenant Governor of the Province of New Brunswick, Honored Sir:

It is thought to be only just to you upon this the seventy-fifth anniversary of your birth that this board of the Town Council should with others of your friends meet you here and extend to you on behalf of ourselves and the town our hearty congratulations and our best wishes coupled with the hope that you may live to enjoy many more 18ths of April. We would for a moment recall the fact that you were our first mayor and continued to be our chief for five years and we think we can safely and truly state that your dignity, fullness, impartiality and good and sound common sense you have left an enviable record. You occupied the chair at a critical period in the town's history. We were just striking out for a town. The by-laws were to be made and the town divided into wards and numberless steps taken in order to change the country village into the town. We always found our Mayor equal to the occasion. In preparing this address we thought it wise to restrict our congratulatory remarks as far as possible to your connection with the town council as mayor, fully comprehending that many congratulatory addresses will be tendered you by the able speakers among your friends.

Again reiterating our congratulations you are honored Sir Yours very truly,  
The Sackville Town Council, H. M. Wood Mayor,  
Thomas Murray Town Clerk and treasurer.

Hon. Mr. Wood.

Hon. Mr. Wood was then called upon and was received with great applause, the crowd standing to its feet and saluting with handkerchiefs. Hon. Mr. Wood referred to how unworthy he was to be the recipient of such a reception and expressed his great appreciation and honor tendered him. He had his weaknesses and had made mistakes, but he always endeavored to do his utmost in the interest of all. The chairman read messages of congratulation from the following who were unable to be present: Sir Robert L. Borden, Lieut. Gov. Pugsley, Hon. W. E. Foster, Hon. F. B. Cavell, Rev. Thos. Hicks, Dr. H. A. Powell, A. B. Copp, M. P., Hon. C.

### FRENCH FORCES GET BETTER OF GERMAN ARMY

Capture Portion of Senecat Wood and Make Advances on Several Sectors.

Various Enemy Positions in Avre River District are Stormed.

Paris, April 18.—The French forces in the region of Amiens have captured a portion of the Senecat Wood and made advances against the Germans on several other sectors, according to the official communication, issued by the war office tonight. The text of the communication follows:

"We have attacked various enemy positions on the Avre on a front of four kilometres between Thernes and Matilly-Rainval.

"East of the Avre we have made progress and west of it we have taken the greater part of the Senecat Woods and carried our line to the outskirts of Castel. Further south we reached the slopes west of the heights dominating the Avre."

Prisoners Taken.

The number of prisoners taken by us exceeds up to the present five hundred, of whom fifteen are officers. We captured several machine guns.

"It is confirmed that an enemy raid last night east of Casleres Wood was dealt for our assailants.

"We found about forty German bodies on the ground. We took twenty prisoners, including one officer. "Eastern theatre, April 17.—There was great activity on the part of both the artilleries along a section of the front. An important surprise attack carried out by the British and Heilmic troops on the Struma on April 16, had most satisfactory results and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy."

### Lord Milner Appointed British War Secretary, Chamberlain in Cabinet

(By Arthur S. Draper.)

Special Cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard.

London, April 18.—The appointment of Lord Milner to succeed the Earl of Derby as Secretary for War, and of J. Austen Chamberlain to a place in the war cabinet, comes as a great surprise. Derby's appointment to succeed Lord Bertie as British ambassador to France arouses less interest.

Even before General Sir Wm. Robertson's withdrawal from the head of the Imperial staff it was generally believed Derby's tenure of the war secretaryship would be short. When Robertson quit, because he opposed the schemes of the Versailles conference, it was expected Derby would follow him because the latter had publicly announced his support of the British general in his disagreement with Lloyd George.

An influential Conservative, whose greatest bid to fame was his scheme for voluntary group enlistment, Derby had many opponents in various quarters and after Robertson's downfall it was inevitable he would go. The appointment of Milner comes as a welcome surprise, though it will undoubtedly inspire much adverse criticism.

Milner is the strongest figure in the Lloyd-George government with the exception of the premier himself, no member of the ministry has been assailed more bitterly but nevertheless Milner probably is the ablest. He is an advocate of war to a finish. He is called a Prussian by his enemies, he is not afraid and never worries about political consequences. At this crisis Milner is likely to run the war department with an iron hand and to oppose any form of compromise. Since he entered the Lloyd-George government he has been a member of the war cabinet without portfolio, devoting his time to the settlement of many important domestic, as well as international, questions.

Milner is Lloyd-George's right hand man, Chamberlain's entry into the war cabinet is considered in some quarters a direct rebuff, Chamberlain's appointment was probably prompted by political considerations. Many Conservatives have taken a hostile attitude toward the government during the debates on the Man Power Bill and the introduction of the Home Rule problem.

### HON. J. A. MURRAY CONFOUNDS FOSTER GOVERNMENT CRITICS

MR. JOHN RUSSELL  
DEAD, AGED 58.

Formerly Manager of Moncton Times and Connected with that Newspaper 44 Years.

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, April 18.—The death occurred at eleven o'clock tonight of John Russell, formerly manager of the Moncton Times, after a lengthy illness. The deceased was fifty-eight years old, a native of Moncton and had resided here all his life. Prior to his illness he was secretary-treasurer and manager of the Times Printing Company. He had been connected with the Times for forty-four years, working his way up from apprentice to head of the business. He was well known and highly esteemed citizen. He is survived by a widow and two daughters. He was half-brother of J. M. Ross, a well known Moncton merchant.

FREIGHT WRECK  
TIES UP N. T. R.

Train Goes Off Track at Canton—Miss McDonald, Superintendent of Moncton Hospital.

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, April 18.—A freight wreck on the N. T. R. at Canton at eleven o'clock this morning tied up traffic several hours on that road today. The express from Edmundston was detained west of the wreck six or seven hours. The track was damaged to some extent and one freight car smashed up. No one was hurt.

Miss A. D. McDonald of Montreal was appointed superintendent of the Moncton Hospital tonight. The salary is \$100 a month.

Opposition Leader in Brilliant, Dignified Speech Tears to Shreds the Imperfect Defence Members of Present Government have Attempted to Make of Their Deeds Since Their Elevation to Office—Hon. Mr. Murray's Eloquent, Statesman-like Utterance in Striking Contrast with Labored Efforts of Hon. Mr. Tweeddale.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 18.—Hon. James A. Murray, leader of the opposition, has delivered many addresses in this province, both from the public platform, in the heat of a political campaign and from the floors of the Legislative Assembly, but never has he risen to greater heights than tonight.

In an address of two and one-half hour's duration, starting at 8.15 and finishing at 10.45, he covered the whole ground of criticism against the former administration and tore to shreds and tatters the imperfect defence the members of the present government have attempted to make of their deeds since their elevation to office.

Hon. Mr. Murray's eloquent, statesmanlike utterance was in striking contrast with the labored efforts of Hon. Mr. Tweeddale during the afternoon, and the well filled galleries after hearing the leader of the opposition went away more than convinced that by far the greater portion of the ability and high purpose in the Legislative Assembly of this province is to be found in the group of men sitting to the left of Mr. Speaker and comprising His Majesty's loyal opposition.

Pleased With Acadians.

In opening Mr. Murray congratulated the members on both sides of the house on the splendid manner in which they had contributed to the debate on the budget. Particularly was he pleased with the Acadian members. Speaking in the house last year he had expressed the opinion that this session much would be expected in the way of oratory from the Acadians and he was glad to pay this tribute to their ability in that line.

New Brunswick was enjoying a fair share of prosperity despite the great war, but as the struggle in Europe had grown in intensity until now the Empire was confronted with the most serious crisis in her history many of the members felt that their time could be better occupied than in discussing matters of domestic importance. Members of the house all wanted to get through with their legislative duties and return to their homes, and he felt sure that all would be relieved when prorogation came and those of them who were interested in the pursuit of agriculture would be able to return home to engage in that which every man in the house had an interest, the greater production campaign, and he pledged himself to render his possible assistance in the promotion of that work.

It had been alleged by government speakers that members on the opposite side of the house had attempted to cast aspersions on the loyalty of members on the government side, but he wished to put himself on record as saying that no matter what political differences he might have with honorable members opposite he did not for a minute impute disloyalty to any of them. The word disloyalty should be banished from the house and never used again within its walls.

Hetherington's Break.

He also regretted that the member for Queens, Dr. Hetherington, had seen fit to insinuate that an effort had been made in his county to create a racial and creedal questions. He deprecated any attempt to raise the question of Protestantism vs. Catholicism. He did not believe in such a canvass, did not want it and never used it. In his life he had had many Roman Catholics as neighbors and never saw any difference between them and Protestants. The member for Queens would have greatly strengthened his case if he had refrained from such utterances.

He then passed to a general criticism of the speeches of government speakers, both in condemnation of the government of which he had the honor to be the leader and in defence of their own administration. Regarding financial matters he quoted the remarks of the provincial secretary to the effect that the policy of the former government had been to grovelly add to the debt of the country by providing

something for the party and something for the private pocket." He then showed by statistics that when the Hazen government came into power in 1908 it found the debt of the province at \$5,834,558 and in 1916 this debt had increased to \$9,109,059, which figure did not include the debt on the Valley Railway. For the increase, however, Mr. Murray claimed, proved the claim by statistics that there were tangible assets that could be shown. In that connection the government had issued \$2,107,145 for permanent bridges, certainly an asset, the bridge over the Reversing Falls had increased the debt by \$416,788 and there were other items all of which would show that the province had obtained good value for the money expended.

Increase in Debt.

The increase in debt was \$3,274,505 and of this there was \$402,500 for which the former government was responsible, deduct this and the net increase was shown to be \$2,872,005. As items going to make up this increase he showed that the government had invested \$31,000 in the Jordan Memorial Sanatorium, \$12,000 in the purchase of Bishop Scote for the purpose of the Normal School additions, \$150,000 in the Farm Settlement Board work and \$120,000 in contributions to the Imperial government and Belgian relief. These he thought were very tangible assets.

Members of the government now in power had, when in opposition, criticized the administration of his day for bonding for permanent bridges, yet in their very first year they had bonded to the extent of \$224,000 for the same purpose as well as \$500,000 for permanent roads. If the principle was bad for the old government to adopt why had the men who criticized them adopted it when they came into power. The action of the present government was a complete admission that permanent public works could not be created in the province without using the credit of the province.

Some speakers on the government side had been inclined to show much enthusiasm over the statement of the government that the probable revenue for the year 1918 would exceed the estimated expenditure by something in excess of \$10,000. That was but an estimated surplus and at the end of the year his friends would probably find it to be a very different thing from an actual surplus represented by cash.

The 1907 "Surplus."

There had been more or less claim that the former government had given such an impetus to the increase of the public debt that the momentum it has acquired could not be checked. Hon. C. W. Robinson had particularly dealt with this sort of criticism. That can-

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