

MORE GROUND REGAINED BY FRENCH AT VERDUN

Advanced Over 200 Yards on Third of a Mile
of Front Near Douaumont

Paris Cable.—By means of a series of small engagements the French troops, who are slowly recovering ground between the Caillette wood and Douaumont, regained to-day 200 metres (219 yards) of positions on a front of 500 metres (547 yards). The gain was made by hand-to-hand fighting. A German counter-attack which was started toward night broke down under the French fire.

The Germans also appeared to be about to make an attack on this side of the river to-day, since they directed a violent bombardment against the Cote du Poivre, north of Bras, but the French artillery at once concentrated a heavy fire on the German positions, and the German infantry was unable to leave its trenches.

A heavy German attack on the western bank of the river last night gained a foothold in the village of Haucourt. The attack was made simultaneously at two points of the Avocourt-Bethincourt front, and continued through the night. The attack at the latter point was completely checked. Haucourt, which is in a hollow dominated by the heights to the east, is now under the fire of the French guns on these heights, the communication issued this afternoon says.

Simultaneously with the German attack the French forces at the Avocourt, redoubt, made a successful sortie for the purpose of connecting up their own position with another on the edge of the wood to the north. In the course of this operation the French occupied the greater part of the Bois Carre and took 50 prisoners. Two German counter-attacks last night on the positions retaken by the French north of Caillette wood, to the east of the river, were repulsed.

HAUCOURT WELL FORTIFIED.
German newspapers to-day carry comment on the capture of the village of Haucourt, northwest of Verdun, by

German troops," says the Overseas News Agency. "They point out that the village was exceedingly well fortified by all means of modern military artillery, the place being a redoubt with machine guns disposed in terraced formation, dominating the whole Forges Brook valley.

While Haucourt held out, the Germans could not cross Forges Brook. For this reason the French defended it with the utmost tenacity. The capture of Haucourt is an important step in the systematic rolling up of the French front. The German losses were insignificant."

FRENCH REPORT.
Paris, April 6.—The War Office issued the following communication Thursday night:

"In the Argonne we exploded a mine in the region of Vauquois. To the west of the Meuse the Germans continued to bombard persistently the Bethincourt salient and the villages of Esnes and Montzeville.

"To the east of the Meuse Cote du Poivre was subjected during the course of the day to a violent bombardment, which forbade an attack, but our certain fire prevented the enemy from setting out from his trenches.

"To the southwest of Fort Douaumont a series of small engagements of a hand-to-hand nature enabled our troops to progress in the underground passages and works of the enemy on a front of 500 metres to a depth of more than 200 metres.

"A counter-attack delivered by the enemy at the end of the day completely failed.

"In the Woivre our batteries concentrated their fire on various points of the enemy's front.

"In Lorraine our artillery displayed activity to the east of Lunville, between the Vesouze River and the Vosges.

"There is no other event to report on the rest of the front except the usual cannonading."

PROHIBITION TO BE EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 16

And Ontario Will Likely Remain Dry Until June, 1919, Perhaps Longer.

HANNA ANNOUNCES

That Hotel Men With Long Leases May Get Some Consideration.

Toronto Report.—Prohibition will be put into force in Ontario on September 16 next.

The referendum on prohibition will be taken on the first Monday in June, 1919. This means the Province will be "dry" until that date.

The liquor license act now in force in the Province will be repealed when the Ontario temperance act (prohibition) goes into effect.

If when the referendum is taken the people vote against prohibition, present licenseholders will probably get their licenses back, but districts where local option is now in force will remain "dry." In other words, the situation will be just as it is at present.

The Government is considering the case of licenseholders who have long leases on their hands.

These important announcements were made in the Legislature last night by the Hon. W. J. Hanna, Provincial Secretary. The House had spent the greater part of the afternoon and evening in committee on the prohibition bill, and all but the contentious clauses were passed. The sections of the bill which required more consideration were left over for discussion at some future time.

"There will be other sections to be added to the bill," said Mr. Hanna. "The important section that will be added is the section providing for the referendum. We do not intend as part of this bill to enact the law under which the bill will be referred, but we do intend to add a clause to the bill to the effect that the referendum will be taken on the first Monday in June, 1919. That will leave it always, of course, subject to change if there should be imperative need for, or imperative cause for a change."

GETTING SOLDIERS ON LIST.
The referendum could not fairly be taken, Mr. Hanna thought, until some very considerable time after the war is over. The reason for that was that the soldiers would not be back from the war until some time after the war was over, and then it would take them some months to get their names on the voters' list. Taking the month of June, 1919, for instance, persons in the rural districts would have to be back in this Province as early as April, 1918, in order to get their names on the list. If they were put on the list by the assessor they would have to be on as early as April, 1918. If they came back by August or September they could go on the list in June, 1919, would be too early to include the list as it was made up in the spring of 1919.

The delay in taking the referendum was absolutely unavoidable, said Mr.

Hanna. There would be the redeeming feature, however, that a vote in June, 1919, would give the act a trial of close to three years. The people would have an opportunity of judging whether they wished to continue prohibition with the experience they had had during the two years and nine months it would have been in operation. On the other hand, if they wished to repeal the prohibition act they would have experience that would enable them to vote intelligently.

PROTECT OLD LICENSE HOLDERS.
"If the act now before the House should be repealed we have been asked what would likely be the position of the Government of that day—which I doubt will be the Government of the present day," said Mr. Hanna, his last phrase creating laughter. "I have no hesitation in saying that unless some substitute for the present order of things is found, and should the result of the referendum be that the province will go back to the license system, then I think in the name of everything that is fair and right in regard to these interests (the present licenseholders) these interests should have the first call on the license that might be issued, as a result of the repeal. I would expect that it would be a strange thing indeed if any license holder or Government did not give these licenseholders first consideration in issuing licenses in that event."

RE-ENACTING LOCAL OPTION.
Mr. William McDonald, North Bruce—Why should not local option places go back then? If care is taken of the licenseholders, why not of local option places?

Mr. Hanna—It might well be that the Legislature at that time might enact that the liquor license laws now in force should be simply regarded as having been suspended, in which event the honorable member would find that everything would go back as it was before.

Mr. McDonald—Will things be just as they are?

Mr. Hanna—That might be a sane, sound, reasonable proposition.

CONSIDERATION OF LEASES.
Mr. John Allan (West Hamilton) observed that there was one thing that might be a hardship if the Ontario temperance act is passed. That was in reference to leases. A number of hotelmen had leases on their hands, some of them having two, three and four years to run. It would not be fair to put them out of business and keep them paying rent, he said.

Mr. Hanna said that was a subject that was receiving consideration; in fact they had given considerable thought and care to it. It was not an easy subject to dispose of. It would be easy enough to do it in some cases, but in other cases it would work out the wrong way. It might be that the solution for that again might be left somewhat to the discretion of the act.

To attempt to make a law to fit all cases might work hardships in one direction greater than those they were attempting to cure. It might be that the license Board would be authorized to make application of a law that would be added to the present act before they were through with it, although they had not fully decided on that.

FORM OF THE REFERENDUM.
In reply to Mr. Rowell as to whether the referendum in June, 1919, would be submitted in the negative or the affirmative, Hon. Mr. Hanna said the Government had not yet reached a decision.

Mr. Rowell—I thought perhaps the form of the referendum might have been drafted.

Mr. Hanna replied that it had, but

that it was safely locked upstairs, and the gentleman who had the key was not in the chamber just then.

This was evidently a reference to the law clerk, who opened the door and entered just as Mr. Hanna was answering the question.

DATE OF ENFORCEMENT.

"I regret that the Government has not seen its way clear to make provision for an earlier enforcement of the act," said Mr. Rowell. "Personally I would rather see prohibition put in operation on July 1, in view of the fact that it is a war measure."

Mr. Rowell would also have preferred to compensate licenseholders in some other way than by license extension. He had already stated that he did not want to be capricious or critical, and as he had pressed his views on the Government with reference to the date when he thought prohibition would come into effect, it was not his intention to divide the committee or the House at that time with respect to the date upon which the act will go into operation.

"The act is so important and so far-reaching in its effect that while the date is later than I would have wished, I have no desire to mar the feeling of harmony prevailing among the members by dividing the House on the matter in this time," said Mr. Rowell. "I would favor some other method of providing relief to the licenseholders than the method of extending their licenses for a consideration. However, I hope the licenseholders will accept this relief in the spirit in which the House gives it, and I would ask them not only to carry out the spirit of the act, but to consider they have received fair treatment from this Legislature."

Mr. Rowell thought that the extension of the licenses to September 16 would enable the hotelkeepers and liquor merchants to dispose of their stocks, and he thought this should satisfy them.

When the temperance bill was reached in committee Mr. Wm. McDonald (North Bruce) quoted the Hon. Mr. Doherty, Minister of Justice, to the effect that the Provinces already had power to prohibit the manufacture of liquor within their boundaries if it was bound to lead to the infraction of any prohibitory law passed by them, but had not seen fit to exercise such power.

Hon. Mr. Hanna—The matter is not regarded as sufficiently free from doubt to justify embodying it in this legislation, and then perhaps jeopardize the whole bill.

WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS' VIEWS.
Consideration was then given to various clauses in the bill. With reference to wholesale druggists' licenses, Mr. Hanna said a deputation had seen him that afternoon, and had strongly urged that the present status should not be interfered with.

"It may not be out of place to say here," he said, "that it was strongly urged that the wholesale end of the business would be better taken care of by a select one, whose standing in the trade would be some guarantee of the act being fairly observed." He had asked what number would be justified, having regard to the trade, and the reply was that it would probably mean unprofitable business beyond one or two.

Mr. Proudfoot (West Huron)—Is there any intention of charging the retail druggists a license fee?

Mr. Hanna—If there is any charge at all I think it should be strictly nominal—a dollar or thereabouts. There are those who refuse to pay a dollar, and not because of the amount.

It was also proposed, he added, to make the wholesale druggists' license fee only a nominal one.

WHAT CONSTITUTES INTOXICATING?

When the cause was reached as to what "liquors" mean, Mr. Hanna said in reply to Mr. Rowell that with regard to native wines it was proposed to give the license board absolute control.

Mr. Rowell—The alcoholic content of liquors will be defined in the act?

Mr. Hanna—I think if we can do it in the case of native wines that we would have the right to do it with regard to do any other beverage.

Mr. Rowell—For years we have had a very clear definition under our license act as to what constitutes intoxicating. It would be a rather serious departure to move away from that definition.

Mr. Hanna—We have not thought of putting a little joker in the act.

Mr. Rowell—The real point is: are we going to state that in the act?

Mr. Hanna—It has not been finally determined upon.

MORE TROUBLE
IN BULGARIA

Arrest of Ex-Minister Stirs
Flame of Revolt.

Sofia Garrison Strengthened
Owing to Fears.

London Cable.—According to a despatch from Bucharest, the arrest in Sofia of Gheneadiff, former Foreign Minister of Bulgaria, and others on the charge of high treason was ordered by M. Radoslavoff, the present Foreign Minister with King Ferdinand's sanction.

The purpose, it is reported, was to overcome the opponents of the Government's policy, whose members are vigorous and whose number is increasing.

The arrest, however, stirred popular indignation in Bulgaria to the point of threatening a revolution. The situation is extremely grave. The garrison of Sofia has been reinforced.

King Ferdinand, who continues to be discreetly absent from his country, has given Radoslavoff a free hand.

One-half the world doesn't know how the other half bluffs.

SHORT ITEMS OF THE NEWS OF THE DAY

Mine Dangers Prevent Holland Transporting Exchanged Prisoners.

SIR SAM ON HIS WAY

Torontonian Fell 5 Storeys and Was Not Seriously Injured.

The Senate reported the tariff bill without amendment.

Frank Sherwood fell five storeys in Toronto and was not seriously hurt.

The British Relief Fund for Belgium and northern France is now \$2,500,000. The year's expenditure by the Province of Ontario will exceed \$18,000,000.

Another arrest was expected in the John E. Peck murder case in New York.

Capt. McGill, of the C. P. R. liner Lake Manitoba, committed suicide at Plymouth.

An advanced development scheme for New Ontario was laid before the Legislature.

Perth County Council voted twenty thousand dollars for expenditure on county roads.

Mrs. Lillian Elliot, wife of Judge Edward Elliot, junior judge of Middlesex County, died suddenly.

Brantford Municipal Railway employees have been granted an all-round increase of 5 per cent.

Only half the lake fleet of steamers will be available this season, owing to the demand for ships by the motherland.

The prohibition bill is to go into effect on September 16 next, and the referendum is to be taken on the first Monday in June, 1919.

William Fenner, engineer at Hall's brick and tile plant, Tilbury, was instantly killed by being crushed between a fly-wheel and a belt.

The Y. M. C. A. at Ottawa started a campaign to raise \$250,000 to continue the association's work among Canadian soldiers in England and France.

The Broughton Arms, the principal building at the mining town of Broughton, N. S., where the 185th Battalion is quartered, was destroyed by fire.

Adam Kywash, a noted Indian diver, well known on the Great Lakes, died suddenly aboard the steamer J. E. Mills, at Amherstburg. He was 70 years old.

The British steamer Vesuvio has been sunk. Three injured survivors have been landed. The vessel was unarmed. The captain and several others were drowned.

France has been asked to give assurances that the rapid-fire guns on the liner Vulvain at New York will be used for defensive purposes only if the United States clears the ship.

Hector Caucet, aged 23, residing at Kenora, and employed as a brakeman on the C. P. R., was fatally injured by the overturning of a velocipede which he was testing.

Mr. Oliver Turner, 9th concession of Artemesia, near Fiesherston, met with a heavy loss when his large brick residence was totally destroyed by fire, together with the contents.

Earl Russell was married a month ago to the Countess von Arnim, widow of Count Henning August von Arnim, author of "Elizabeth and Her German Garden," and other books.

Charged with having burglarized a drugstore in Essex and carried off 1,500 morphine and heroin tablets, worth \$300, Roy Schneider, aged 18, was arrested at Windsor as he stepped off a Detroit ferry-boat.

Ernest Bank, aged 19 years, son of Wm. Bank, of Massena, was instantly killed at Cornwall by an explosion of dynamite and his body was hurled into the power canal, where it was found an hour after the accident.

Alderman A. M. Hunt, a representative of No. 1 Ward, London, whose eligibility for the Council seat was protested on the ground that he will be called upon to vote a grant to the Western Fair Association, of which he is a paid official, resigned.

Holland has notified Great Britain that, owing to the danger of navigation in the North Sea, the Holland Government will be unable to undertake the transport of exchanged British and German incapacitated prisoners of war.

THIRD DEGREE.

Alleged Baff Murderer Says Confession Was Forced.

New York Report.—Testifying in his own defence to-day Giuseppe Arichiello denied that he had killed Barnett Baff, the poultryman whom, the State alleges, he was hired by Baff's competitors, to murder, and declared that he had been beaten by detectives who coerced him into signing a confession.

Arichiello, a young man who came here five years ago from Italy, swore that after being held a day and a night at police headquarters, detectives showed him a paper and told "This paper will do you no wrong, they told me," the witness testified, "and then they took me downstairs and beat me to make me sign. I did sign it. I cannot read—I can only write my name; I never killed anybody."

Arichiello said that when first taken to the police headquarters he was beaten so severely that he fainted.

A GOOD RECORD

But 150 Failures in 1,000,000 British Air Flights.

London cable: (New York Times cable).—A high British authority states that the reports, published in American papers recently, relative to the air supremacy of Germany on the western front, are exaggerated. He also asserts that Mr. Pemberton-Billing's statements in Commons as to the number of accidents which have befallen British aviators, must be considered in relation to the total number of flights made by members of the Royal Flying Corps.

This total, it is said, runs to nearly a million, and that 150 out of a million flights should have been unsuccessful or even disastrous is held to be a small proceeding.

There was a period during which the Germans, thanks to the Fokker machines, had in certain respects a considerable advantage, but this lead, it is stated, was speedily made up, and during last month the British aircraft in France and Flanders more than held their own.

Flying men, back from the front on leave, are unanimous in their views that the optimistic statements made by Under Secretary Tennant in Commons, are entirely justified.

BAFF MURDER.

Case Against Arichiello is Nearing the Jury.

New York despatch: The case against Giuseppe Arichiello, the first of four men put on trial for the murder of Barnett Baff, a poultry dealer, in November, 1914, awaited only the judge's charge before submission to the jury to-day. The case is regarded as more than usual importance, owing to the fact that a band of gunmen is alleged to have been employed to kill a reputable business man. Baff had incurred the hatred of some of his business rivals, who are alleged to have contributed to a fund of \$4,500 to pay for his murder. He was shot down as he was leaving his place of business by men who fled in an automobile.

The prosecution charges that the murder fund was distributed by a man who made a specialty in employing gunmen to commit murder, and who was subsequently killed in a dispute over the distribution of a murder fund. None of the men higher up in the Baff murder conspiracy has been arrested. The prosecution asserts that the conviction of Arichiello and the others who actually took part in the murder is necessary before their employers can be punished for the crime.

A RENEGADE.

British Admiral's Son Would be Bavarian Subject.

Bayreuth, Bavaria, cable: Houston Stewart Chamberlain, the author, has applied for naturalization as a Bavarian subject. Mr. Chamberlain has lived in Germany since his youth, although he is still a British subject.

Mr. Chamberlain, the son of a British rear admiral, is the husband of Eva, reputed to be the eldest daughter of Richard Wagner, until her mother, the composer's widow, declared two years ago that Mrs. Chamberlain was the child of her first husband, Hans von Buelow. Mr. Chamberlain has written several articles supporting Germany and holding England responsible for the war. Last year Emperor William decorated him with the Iron cross.

Report of March Operations Clearly Shows Superiority

French Destroyed One German Plane a Day.

London Cable.—French and British aviators brought down 42 German planes on the west front during March, it was stated to-day in reply to the official German claim issued yesterday that only 14 German aeroplanes were lost.

A French official communication issued to-night says:

"During the month of March our aviators displayed much activity along the whole front, particularly in the region of Verdun. In the course of numerous aerial combats, 31 German aeroplanes were brought down by our pilots, nine of which fell in flames or were crushed on the ground within our lines, and 22 fell inside the German lines.

"No doubt exists regarding the fate of these 22 aeroplanes, which our pilots had attacked within the enemy lines. Twelve of these were seen to fall in flames, and ten were driven down in spirals under the fire of our aviators.

"In addition, four German aeroplanes were brought down by our special guns, one of them within our lines in the environs of Avocourt and three inside the enemy lines (one in the neighborhood of Sulps, one near Nouvion, and one near Ste. Madeleine-Py.)

"To this total of 35 German aeroplanes destroyed during the month of March should be opposed the number of our aerial losses which reached 33 aeroplanes, as follows: One French aeroplane brought down inside our lines and 12 French aeroplanes brought down within the German lines.

"The great disproportion between the falls effected within the French zone and those within the enemy zone with reference to French and German aeroplanes is significant. According to a document found on a prisoner German pilot received the order to cross their own lines as little as possible. The results of the month of March prove, on the other hand, that our pursuit aeroplanes have flown incessantly over the territory of the adversary seeking combat."

The higher education is not a failure. One hundred and six students learned to use tobacco at Yale, and 84 took their first drink there.—Rochester Herald.

THE GAINS IN MESOPOTAMIA

Taking of Felahie is of Great Importance.

Earlier Victory More Complete Than Reported.

London Cable.—The British relief force in Mesopotamia is again making progress up the Tigris toward the surrounded army of Gen. Townshend at Kut-el-Amara.

The capture of Felahie, a strongly entrenched position which has been attacked before unsuccessfully by the British force, is announced to-day by the War Office. Felahie has been a very strong bulwark against the British advance for some months. The relief force has strongly entrenched the Turkish positions which were captured at Umm-el-Henna, 23 miles below Kut-el-Amara yesterday. In driving the Turks out of their position the British forces took five lines of trenches.

General Goringe, who recently succeeded General Aylmer, directed operations on both sides of the Tigris River.

The official statement: "General Lake reports that the Tigris corps, under the command of Lieut.-General Sir George F. Goringe, who succeeded General Aylmer, attacked the enemy's entrenched position at Umm-el-Henna on April 4th. Our trenches had been pushed forward by means of saps, to within 100 yards of the enemy's position and the leading battalions of the 13th Division then rushed the enemy's first and second lines in quick succession.

"The third line was captured by 6 a. m., under the support of concentrated artillery and machine gun fire. The 13th Division continued their victorious advance and by 7 a. m. had driven the enemy out of his fourth and fifth lines.

"Aeroplane reconnaissances then reported that the enemy was strongly reinforcing his entrenchments at Felahie and Sannayat, positions respectively, 6,000 and 12,000 yards from the front trenches at Umm-el-Henna. As those positions could only be approached over very open ground, General Goringe ordered a further attack deferred until evening.

"In the meantime on the right bank, the 3rd Division, under General Keary, captured the enemy's trenches opposite the Felahie position. During the afternoon the enemy on this bank made a strong counter-attack with infantry and cavalry supported by guns. This counter-attack was successfully repulsed and the position won was consolidated.

"About 8 p. m. General Goringe continued his forward movement on the left bank and carried the Felahie position.

"The reports indicate that the Umm-el-Henna position was strongly entrenched, its left flank resting on the Suwaichi marsh and its right on the river. The front trenches are stated to be nine feet deep and the whole system extended in successive lines for a depth of 2,500 yards."

ALLY AIRMEN ARE MASTERS

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