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# The Toronto World

VOL. XXXVI.—No. 12,937

## CANADIANS RAISED

"It has now been established that the gallant fighting of the Canadians in this neighborhood (St. Eloi) inflicted heavy losses on the enemy during the last week." Official British War Report.

### FOE VIOLENTLY BOMBARDED LE MORT HOMME

Another Attack Presaged by German Action Against Position.

### NO INFANTRY FIGHTING

Liquid Flame Assault in Early Morning Gained Enemy Nothing.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

LONDON, April 12.—In the battle of Verdun today no infantry action was fought, Paris reported tonight, but evidently the Germans have not abandoned the fight, for they directed a violent and continuous bombardment against Hill 304, in the region of Ennez and Le Mort Homme, west of the Meuse. The activity of the enemy was less marked east of the Meuse and in the Woivre.

The only fighting reported was early in the morning, when the Germans used flaming liquid projectors in an attack which spread from Le Mort Homme to Cumeres, but this offensive broke down after the Germans had suffered heavy losses. Great artillery activity prevailed in the night between Douaumont and Vaux, but there was no infantry fighting.

The French today exploded four small mines at La Fille Morte, Haute Chevreches and Vaurois, in the Argonne, and they occupied the southern edges of two craters in the sector of Les Courtes Chaussees.

Trenches of the Germans west of Verdun, in the region of Roye, were shelled by French fire between the Somme and the Oise, and French artillery was active in the region of Langemarck, Belgium.

The Germans today, in their official communique, said that west of the Meuse the French failed in an attack on their trenches at Avocourt. East of the Meuse, three counter-attacks of the French on the Poivre ridge caused them severe losses. Some ground was gained by the Germans in the salients Wood at one of two places, they asserted. A French airship, they claim, was shot down near Ornes, in the Woivre.

## WAR SUMMARY

### THE DAY'S EVENTS REVIEWED

It was sure enough the Canadians who were engaged in the week's stubborn fighting in the mine crater at St. Eloi, and their tenacity and daring have once more elicited the rare and signal honor of special mention in the British official communique, which said last night: "It has now been established that the gallant fighting of the Canadians in this neighborhood inflicted heavy losses on the enemy during the last week." Activity behind St. Eloi yesterday was confined to some heavy hostile shelling, but there was little shelling of the front lines or craters. This spot is a historic one for Canada, for it was there a little over a year ago that the Princess Patricia's won great fame. On other parts of the line warlike operations were more pronounced. Three attacks that the Germans made west of the Pilkem-Ypres road were repulsed after the first had temporarily given them a footing in the British trenches. Twenty-five dead Germans were left on the ground and three were taken prisoner. The British bombed the German trenches in this area afterwards. A small and successful British raid on foe positions near Richebourg l'Avoue resulted in the killing of ten Germans.

Altho their losses have run up into the hundreds of thousands the Germans have not given up the fight at Verdun, for they violently bombarded the Mort Homme position yesterday, indicating that another determined attempt to carry this height is coming. It is four weeks since the Germans came down against this hill from the north and claimed that they had stormed it, probably basing their false report on the belief that it would speedily fall into their hands, but it has defied a hundred attacks from the north between that day and this. It has shown no signs of falling and if it does fall, it will be only the loss of a first French covering position anyway, for the first of the main defensive positions that General Sarrail constructed lies on the Charny ridge, three to five miles in the rear.

It is a remarkable thing that in the face of the most determined attacks launched after the most lavish expenditure of shells and involving the most lavish expenditure of men that this war has yet seen on the part of the Germans, who have never been parsimonious in that respect, a French first covering position should have been able to hold out so long and still defy capture. It has cost the Germans the lives of thousands of men, and if they should win it, its value would be out of all proportion to the efforts expended to gain it. The tenacity of the French defence, with comparatively few troops, will go down in history as an unshakable proof of the marvellously efficient training of the French army. The whole position, with its bare and sloping sides, affords room for only a limited number of defenders, probably only two or three battalions, with a handful of artillery observers. These have often beaten off ten to twenty times their numbers.

Mendacity is becoming more and more the keynote of the German of-

(Continued on Page 2, Columns 1 and 2.)

### "Why Is the Government?"

Evidently the attorney-general has determined to find out if there be an answer to the problem "Why is the government?" We believe there is an answer and we believe that it can be found. Where there is a will there is a way. Hitherto the difficulty has been in refusing to let any will have its way, and the result has been a blockade of inertia and public inconvenience in consequence.

There does not seem to be any good reason why the city should maintain an open sore on Yonge street, merely from fear that the street railway company or the Metropolitan might secure an advantage. The government with the legislature should be able to arrange without prejudice such an accommodation for the public as the public are entitled to expect.

If the city undertakes to be dog in the manger in the matter, we believe that it will be ill-advised. In spite of any litigation now pending there is no reason why a working arrangement should not be concluded and the citizens relieved of an intolerable burden.

### PRICES OF NECESSARIES TO BE FIXED IN FRANCE

Limit to Be in Force Until Three Months After War Ends.

PARIS, April 12, 5:01 p.m.—The French senate has just adopted the principle of fixing by degrees the maximum selling prices of necessities of life. The discussion as to what articles shall be included in the regulations has not yet ended.

The government proposed to fix the prices of the following articles: Bread, meat, milk, butter, imitation butter, eggs, lard, potatoes, sugar, cheese, wine, vegetables, wine, cider, table beer, fertilizers, petroleum, and alcohol for burning purposes.

The proposed period of application is during the war and three months following the cessation of hostilities.

### GENERAL TOWNSEND EXPECTS SPEEDY HELP

Johannesburg Capitalist Receives Cheery Message From Kut's Defender.

JOHANNESBURG, Union of South Africa, April 12, via London, 6:38 p.m.—Sir Lionel Phillips, a leading South African gold mine operator, announced today that he had received a cablegram dated last Friday, from Major-General Charles Townshend, commander of the British troops besieged in Kut-el-Amara, Mesopotamia, stating that he was well and was expecting to be relieved shortly.

### BERLIN STATES VESSELS SUNK WERE WARNED

Note to U. S. Denies, However, That Sub. Attacked Sussex.

### INVESTIGATION ASKED

Von Jagow Professes Willingness to Abide by Result of Inquiry.

BERLIN, April 12, via London, April 12, 12:15 a.m.—In reply to the United States demands for an explanation of the sinking of several steamers, Foreign Secretary Von Jagow has addressed a note to the state department at Washington.

The communication admits that the steamers Berwindvale, Englishman, Eagle Point, Manchester Engineer were sunk by German submarines, but asserts that warnings were given and that the steamers tried to escape.

Admission is made that a steamer was sunk in the vicinity of the place at which the channel boat Sussex met her fate, but it is asserted that its description did not correspond with that of the Sussex. The suggestion is thrown out that the Sussex may have been sunk by a British mine and readiness to have the matter investigated through mixed commissions under the Hague agreement is professed. The following is the text of the note, dated April 12:

The undersigned has the honor to inform your excellency, Ambassador Gerard, in response to communications of the 29th and 30th inst., and the 3rd inst. regarding the steamers Sussex, Manchester Engineer, Englishman, Berwindvale and Eagle Point, that the mentioned cases, in accordance with our notes of the 30th and 31st ultimo, and the 4th and 5th inst., have been subjected to careful investigation by the admiralty staff of the navy, which has led to the following results:

Case of Berwindvale.—The Berwindvale, a steamer, which possibly was the Berwindvale, was encountered on the evening of March 16, in sight of Bull Rock Light, on the Irish coast, by a German submarine. The steamer, as soon as she noticed the submarine, (Continued on Page 4, Col. 3.)

### GOVERNMENT ACTS ON YONGE ST. GAP

Attorney-General Announces Intention of Forcing Agreement.

### TO PROTECT CITIZENS

If City Fails, Legislature Must Act, Says Proudfoot.

The attorney-general has instructed Edward Bayly, his solicitor, to interview the city solicitor to see if something cannot be done to force an agreement between the contending parties to fill the gap between the car lines on Yonge street. Hon. J. F. Lucas made an announcement to this effect in the house yesterday. He did not state the result of the conference which had taken place that morning.

The matter was raised by N. W. Rowell, leader of the opposition, who asked if anything had been done by the government since the matter had been discussed on the previous day to see what legal pressure could be brought to make the parties get together.

Mr. Rowell then suggested that the law should be amended so that any citizen could complain to the Ontario Railway Board and that the board could then compel the building of a line pending the settlement of matters in dispute between the parties.

Must Protect Citizens.—Hon. Mr. Lucas reiterated the point taken by him on the previous day that any application for such legislation should come from the city.

William Proudfoot (Centre Huron) said that if the city was unwilling to act the legislature should take the initiative in the matter. It was a matter of public convenience. The legislature was the guardian of the interests of the public. If the city failed to protect them the legislature should do so.

## CANADIANS LAUDED FOR GALLANTRY AND EFFICIENCY IN ST. ELOI FIGHTING

WEDNESDAY'S MILITARY WEDDING



Capt. and Mrs. Eric Egerton-Ryerson (Miss Mona Miller McClure), leaving Grace Church on the Hill after their marriage, yesterday afternoon.

### Heavy Losses Inflicted on Enemy During Last Week of Contest for Craters, British War Office Reports.

Special Cable to The Toronto World.

LONDON, April 12.—The ability of the Canadian troops at the front to hang on to their positions and to fight the Germans to a standstill at St. Eloi has won them the honor of special mention in the statement of the British war office which said tonight: "It has now been established that the gallant fighting of the Canadians in this neighborhood inflicted heavy losses on the enemy during the last week."

The fighting which has been purely defensive on the part of the Canadians was against bludgeon-like blows delivered by the Germans, who kept pounding away at the craters with artillery and grenades, but beyond their initial surprise the Germans could do but little save by the suffering of frightful losses. It is said that the Canadian Grenadiers can out-throw the Germans every time.

The operation today at St. Eloi consisted of heavy hostile shelling, but there was little shelling in the front lines and craters.

Three successive attacks which the Germans launched against the British lines west of the Pilkem-Ypres road were beaten off last night, altho the Germans, in the first endeavor, gained a footing in the British trenches and had to be ejected by a counter-attack. They left 25 of their dead in front of the British lines and three prisoners in British hands. The hostile lines in this vicinity today were subjected to bomb attacks.

A small and successful raid in which 10 Germans were killed was made by British troops on German trenches near Richebourg l'Avoue last night. Considerable artillery firing prevailed ed northwest of Wytschaete and there was some shelling about Souchez, Carency and Cabonne.

### VIRTUAL ADMISSION OF ATTACK ON SUSSEX

London Papers So Regard Von Jagow's Reference to Incident.

LONDON, April 12, 11:45 p.m.—A short summary of the Associated Press synopsis of Germany's note to the United States Government concerning the Sussex and other steamers which have met with disaster recently, was all that was available for the London morning newspapers. Even this synopsis came too late for extended comment by the newspapers. The passage referring to the Sussex were regarded in official circles here as proving that the Germans torpedoed the Sussex, as it is asserted that no other vessel was torpedoed in that vicinity at that time.

### CASH AND SECURITIES LISTED AS CONTRABAND

LONDON, April 12.—A royal proclamation was issued tonight extending the list of articles which will hereafter be treated as real contraband. Included in the list are gold, silver and paper money, and all negotiable instruments and realizable securities.

### SPRING THE SEASON OF THE SILK HAT.

With Easter at hand it becomes a man to be provided with a fashionable silk hat. Easter Sunday is one of the dullest days of the year. At Dineen's, 140 Yonge street, the new styles from London, New York and Paris are shown in all the smartest shapes. Dineen's are exclusive agents for the famous Henry Heutz, London, Eng., makers of "the hat the King wears." Decide to make your selection at this long and favorably known hat house.

### BECK PUTS IT UP TO MUNICIPALITIES

If Not Satisfied With Administration of Hydro, He Will Resign.

### DENIED WIDER POWERS

Admits He Electrified London and Port Stanley Road Off Own Bat.

Sir Adam Beck admitted in the public accounts committee yesterday that he had undertaken the electrification of the London and Port Stanley Railway practically off his own bat, that there were no minutes in the books as far as he knew to authorize the work, and that he was not sure that the other members of the commission were aware of the decision. Hon. J. W. McQuarry asked Sir Adam on these points.

Sir Adam took occasion to say that if the municipalities were not satisfied with the administration of the business of the hydro commission they could find immediate remedy by appointing his successor. "I am willing to take the responsibility," said Sir Adam, who insisted that the commission had asked for wider powers, which had not been granted. If they had been granted the commission would not have been forced to go beyond its statutory powers under the act.

### "HANDS OFF HOLLAND" IS ENTENTE ALLIES' POLICY

France Gives Assurance That Dutch Territory Will Be Inviolable.

The HAGUE, via London, April 12, 10:01 p.m.—The French minister to Holland, on behalf of France, has given Holland the assurance that neither France nor her allies ever contemplated, directly or indirectly, attacking the neutrality of Holland, or the inviolability of its territory, says a communication issued by the ministry of foreign affairs today.

The assurance adds that the recent conference of the allies in Paris did not occupy itself with Holland at all.

### BRITAIN TO ABANDON RAILWAY TICKET TAX

Investigation Showed Cost of Collection to Be Too Great.

LONDON, April 12, 7:30 p.m.—Edwin A. Montagu, financial secretary to the treasury, announced in the house of commons this evening that the government had decided to withdraw the tax on railway tickets. Mr. Montagu explained to the house that an investigation had shown that the expense and trouble required in the collection of the tax would so deplete the £2,000,000 which it was expected to gain from the tax, that the government had decided not to persist in the collection of it.

### PRESENTATION TO DAN PIERCE.

Dan Pierce, manager of the Star Theatre, celebrated his 55th birthday yesterday. Mr. Pierce was born in Iowa, and has managed the theatre for the past twelve years. Last evening, after the performance was over, the employees tendered "their best" a reception at his home. The celebration was present and played during the evening. Mr. Pierce was presented, on behalf of the men, with a handsome gold watch.

### HUGHES TO REACH OTTAWA TONIGHT?

Minister of Militia May Have Already Arrived in New York.

### HELLMUTH WILL ACT

Government Will Appoint Him—Laurier's Choice Not Yet Announced.

By a Staff Reporter. OTTAWA, Ont., April 12.—Altho no definite announcement has been made by the government, it seems to be generally understood that Sir Sam Hughes will arrive at New York tonight or early tomorrow morning and will get to Ottawa tomorrow night.

Sir Wm. Meredith and Mr. Justice Duff are prepared, it is understood, to commence their inquiry into the fuse contracts just as soon as the counsel are named to represent the government and opposition.

L. F. Hellmuth, K.C., of Toronto, will be nominated by the government, but Sir Wilfrid Laurier has not yet named the counsel to represent the opposition. It is also understood that the opposition will be invited to appoint F. B. Carvell or Geo. W. Kyte or any other lawyer on the opposition side to act as junior counsel, for which services he would be paid. If the opposition accept the offer, it will be necessary to pass legislation to enable the member so selected to act in this capacity in spite of the provisions of the Independence of Parliament Act which prevent a member from accepting a position of emolument under the crown.