

GENERAL HAIG'S ARMY TAKES SEVERAL VILLAGES

BRITISH MAKE TERRIFIC NEW DRIVE IN BELGIUM

Take Villages and Important Trench Positions All the Way from Observation Ridge, Southeast of Ypres, to Ploegsteert Wood, North of Arras-tieres.

General Haig has launched his expected blow at the German line in Belgium, striking early this morning along a nine mile front on the Messines-Wytschaete ridge between Ypres and Lille.

Success marked the opening of the offensive, the British winning all their initial objectives and pushing on. Their further progress is reported to be satisfactory along the whole front.

While a considerable stretch separates the field of this new offensive from that of Arras, the operation may be considered as in conjunction with the continuing battle on the Arras front. A sweeping salient in front of the city of Lille has been created by the Arras attack, and in a broad sense this salient is now under threat from both the north and the south.

Over the Ridge.

British headquarters in France, June 7, via London.—(From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press).—The British this morning on the Messines-Wytschaete ridge of the Belgian front took them well over the ridge, where they are now entrenching.

Belying the recent German boast that the British offensive from Arras had come to a halt, General Haig earlier this week proved that he had not lost his initiative. He made a successful drive to the south of Lens, carrying a mile of the German front north of the Scarpe.

The reverberations from this blow had hardly died away before today's

SOLDIERS HOME FROM EMPIRE BATTLE LINES

F. H. O'Leary and John A. McElhinney Arrived Last Night—Have Seen Much Service.

When the Halifax express arrived at 11:45 o'clock last night, two of St. John's brave soldier boys who have seen much service at the front stepped off the train to be welcomed home by a number of friends. The soldiers are F. H. O'Leary, of 17 St. David's street, who for sixteen months has been with Major Barker in the 4th Siege Battery, and his companion is John A. McElhinney, one of the originals of the Fighting 26th, and the son of Mrs. Margaret McElhinney of Summer street.

Both soldiers are home on furlough and will report back for duty early in August.

John A. McElhinney is one of three brothers, viz. John, Joseph and James, who went overseas with the 28th under Col. McAvity. The brothers were fighting side by side when Joseph was killed. James is still in the trenches doing his bit, and although John, who was wounded three times he expects to return to the front.

Gunner F. H. O'Leary spent sixteen months with the No. 4 Battery, and

attack was launched on the other side of the Lille salient.

A sharp, well defined curve in the German line, about three miles deep and the same distance across, is the immediate objective of this new attack. In common with other sections of the line in Belgium, along a front of some thirty miles, its defenses had been subjected to a tremendous pounding by the British artillery for days.

Conditions in Russia appear more promising from several angles. The incident at Kronstadt with its revolt of fortress garrison and declaration of independence has been adjusted, the self-constituted Kronstadt authorities recognizing the authority of the provisional government.

British Attack Opens.

London, June 7.—The British have opened an attack on a nine mile front between Messines and Wytschaete and have taken all their first objectives. The official statement says the British progress is being continued and that some prisoners have been taken.

The new British offensive is against a sharp German salient three miles south of Ypres. For several days the British have maintained a tremendous bombardment for almost thirty miles on this portion of their front. The salient itself is about three miles in width and the same distance in depth. An effective advance in this sector would seriously menace the German hold on Lille, which is about five miles from the nearest British position.

The first thing he had to say was that Major Barker is a most popular officer and extremely liked by all his men. Gunner O'Leary said he was in the battle of Vimy Ridge and the fighting continued hard in that vicinity from the 9th till the 21st of April. Last winter he was fighting on the Somme, was present when Courcelette was taken by the Canadians, and was also in battles at Ypres.

Both soldiers are looking in the best of condition and are glad to be home again if only for a short time.

Soldier Stole Automobile.

On Wednesday morning a soldier who is training in Fredericton stole an automobile and took a joy ride which lasted all day. The theft of the car was told to Chief of Police Finley, who, taking a bicycle, started out in search. The thief after a long ride came up with the thief and ordered him to stop. The soldier refused to do so but after a quick chase the police chief managed to capture him and locked him up in a cell at police headquarters. The soldier has been remanded to jail and from what can be learned of the case, he stands a chance of being sent to the internment camp at Amherst, N. S. He is an Austrian, but up to Wednesday, when he stole the automobile, he had been training faithfully in the King's army, and was regarded as a model soldier.

Methodist District Meeting.

The St. John district of the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Methodist conference continued its annual session yesterday morning at the Carleton Methodist church with Rev. Thomas Hicks in the chair. Only routine matters were discussed and the winter adjourned at noon.

DAVIS' "Perfection" Cigars

Now sold in 2 sizes: Perfection "Perfection" and Perfection "Straights"

(Illustrations show actual size)

1 Quality only—excellent.
1 Price only: 3-for-25-cents.

Sold under guarantee permitting the tobacconist to offer to the public cigars in prime condition.

Why not try one?

Originated by S. DAVIS & SONS LIMITED
Makers of good cigars for over 70 years.

"Perfection" "Straight"

ROBINSON PREDICTS A BIG DEFICIT FOR GOVERNMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

The crown lands were now being surveyed by a staff of skilled foresters under the policy of the old government, for which he gave them credit.

A report had been made on 500,000 acres already surveyed, and the chief forester had estimated that the crown lands of the province contained sixteen billion feet of standing timber, worth at least \$3,000 per acre, or a total of \$48,000,000. He considered this a bright spot and was sure all would be glad to have the information. The province was to be congratulated over the fact that it had been the policy of past governments to conserve the crown lands and not allow them to be given away.

He felt it was important that he should give the House some information as to how the crown debt had been incurred. He had a statement showing the increase that had been made in the debt from 1908 to 1916, which he read as follows:

Bonded debt 1908 \$5,834,532.99; bonded debt 1916, \$9,109,059.16 (Exclusive of \$1,700,000.00 Valley Railway bonds).

Increase in debt \$3,274,526.17; Valley Railway bonds, \$1,700,000.00; total, \$4,974,526.17.

Increased by the following amounts: permanent bridges \$2,107,185.17; Reversible Falls Bridge, St. John, \$416,788.64; New Brunswick Coal and Rail, \$212,000.00; International Railway, \$175,000.00; wharves and grain elevators \$15,500.00; Jordan Memorial Sanatorium, \$31,000.00; Bishopscote property, \$12,000.00; Normal School Annex, \$68,998.25; Farm Settlement board, \$150,000.00; contribution Imperial government and Belgium Relief \$120,041.88; discount on 5 per cent. bond issues 1915 and 1916, \$61,391.00—total \$3,247,844.96.

Decreased by the following amounts: Small pox bonds \$28,000.00; Late Deputy Surveyor-General's deficit \$4,025.49; interest on treasury bills paid, \$15,798.95; unexpended capital account 1908, \$25,515.35—total \$73,339.79. Net increase \$3,274,526.17.

Valley Railway bonds, \$1,700,000.00—total, \$4,974,526.17.

Special expenditure of 1916, does not appear in auditor-general's report of 1916, \$70,848.60—total, \$5,045,374.77.

Valley Railway bonds account, \$1,700,000.00, assumed, \$9,285,073.77.

He then read the following statement showing the deficit at the close of the last fiscal year together with the floating indebtedness of the province:

Amount of debt which should be funded as at October 31, 1916.

Capital Account.

Liabilities for expenditure one permanent bridge at October 31, 1916, Moncton bridge extras \$47,477.37. Other expenditures for permanent bridges \$128,757.77—total \$176,235.00.

Less unexpended balance of proceeds of bonds issued for construction of permanent bridges, \$55,050.65—total \$121,184.35.

Balance due to revenue for cash advanced from revenue account for capital expenditures to be funded, advance repaid to revenue account, \$43,443.15—\$184,647.54.

Current account deficit on originaly bonded debt, \$1,700,000.00, as per exhibit \$703,583.27.

Total debt to be funded as at October 31, 1916, \$8,250,831. Total as above, \$888,230.81.

Continuing he explained that the statement had not been made up by the auditor-general, but he felt that it could be depended upon as being strictly accurate. The auditor-general's report was prepared by the auditor-general, and was capable of considerable improvement. There was also a tendency in the past few years in the expenditure of money not to include certain items in the public accounts. For instance the Valley Railway bonds did not appear at all. Last year there was a loan of \$1,700,000 to complete the railway and there was no reference whatever in the auditor-general's report to this at all, and it had never gone through consolidated revenue. Therefore it was not a fair and complete statement of that revenue.

Some allowance should also be made for bad accounts.

Farm Settlement Board.

With regard to the Farm Settlement board too, while there are sinking funds provided the late government had certainly displayed a little more caution. The funds of the board were fairly well invested, but if the accounts were properly managed the sinking funds should increase every year. As to sinking funds generally one of the most important matters in this connection was to have them so carefully handled that they would be sufficient to retire the bonds at maturity.

Take the Crown Lands sinking fund for instance. In 1912 there was a very large payment made amounting to nearly half a million from the renewal of the timber licenses that was to be set aside, but as far as he could see it had never been invested in any way but had been kept in consolidated revenue. It had drawn no interest.

Reduced Stampage.

Instead of exacting the amount which the lumbermen were prepared to pay the late government, as a kind of Christmas present last year reduced the stampage to \$1.50, and they not

only made this reduction but they made a refund to the lumbermen of the amount they had previously paid in excess of it. That was certainly a peculiar transaction and rather difficult to explain.

Another question which had been under consideration of the late government, and also by the present one and also by some of the provinces, was that of refunding some of the bonded debts held across the water. Large amounts of ordinary provincial bonds and Valley railway bonds were held in England.

In making up the accounts for 1916 there was no item on the expenditure side for the charges for the operation of the Valley railway. The railway had been operated for the last two years by the Canadian government, and some amounts had been received on account under the 40 per cent. arrangement, but nothing had been charged up for interest on the Valley Railway bonds. It was not good business to go on charging up the interest on these bonds to construction accounts.

He did not think that sufficient attention had been given to place the claims of the province properly before the Dominion government. The time had arrived when the Dominion government should take over and complete the Valley railway.

Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba had got hundreds of thousands of extra territory given to them and this province had got nothing whatever in compensation to make up for it.

Disclaimers Responsibility.

Turning to the estimates of the present year the government had to take things as they found them and they would carry on the bus-ness practically under the direction of the old government for the balance of the current year. It was impossible to make any changes at this late date. They could make the best of conditions as they found them but they could certainly assume no responsibility.

Estimated Expenditure, 1917.

Administration of justice, \$25,450. Agriculture, general, \$50,689.97. Exhibitions, \$9,000. Farm settlement board, \$15,000. Greater production, \$5,000. Seed purchase of \$30,000. Annuities, \$750. Auditor general, \$4,500. Boy's Industrial Home, \$2,700. Campbellton relief, \$5,000. Colonization roads, \$7,000. Executive government, \$60,996.15. Education, \$302,350. Elections, \$15,983.84. Evangeline Home, \$300. Factory inspector and board of engineers, \$2,000. Moving picture cinema, \$1,300. Fish, forest and game, \$30,000. Guarantee bonds government officials, \$800. Home of Good Shepherd, \$250. Immigration, \$10,000. Interest (see below for interest on St. John and Quebec Railway securities, \$384,000. Jordan Memorial Sanatorium, \$43,000. Liquor licenses, \$12,600. Legislative assembly, \$37,914.50. Mining and mineral development, \$2,000. Maritime Home for Girls, \$400. Natural History Societies, \$600. N. B. Historical Society, \$125. Public health, \$2,300. Public hospitals, \$10,600. Provincial hospital, (insane), \$108,000. Probate fee fund salaries, etc., \$13,500. Printing, \$16,800. Public works, \$405,300. Provincial committee of military hospitals commission, \$2,000. Provincial prohibition act, \$6,000. Refunds, \$2,500. Revisors, \$1,567.64. Railway auditor, \$1,650. School books, \$20,000. Stampage collection, \$24,000. Surveys crown lands, etc., \$4,000. Succession duty collection, \$4,000. Sinking funds, \$23,585. Tourist associations, \$2,500. Tuberculosis sanatorium, St. John, \$24,240. Unforeseen expenses, \$10,000. Total, \$1,712,941.40. Interest on securities issued for St. John & Quebec Railway purposes, 4 1/2 per cent.

Province bonds for \$1,700,000, 376,500 interest on securities for St. John & Quebec Railway purposes guaranteed registered stock 4 per cent. for \$4,250,000, \$177,000, \$246,500. Total, \$1,959,441.40.

Estimated income, \$1917.

Dominion subsidies, \$637,576.16. Territorial revenues, \$546,000. Fees, provincial secretary's office, \$20,500. Taxes incorporated companies, \$65,000. Taxes on railways, \$53,600. Private and local bills, \$2,000. Succession duties, \$50,000. King's printer, \$2,500. School books, \$18,000. Probate court fund, \$17,000. Supreme court fund, \$2,300. Provincial hospital, \$43,000. Jordan Memorial Sanatorium, \$43,000. Motor vehicles, \$55,000. Factory inspector, \$320. Liquor licenses, \$2,400. Provincial prohibition act, \$6,000. Seed wheat sale of \$20. Seed purchase of \$27,675. Agriculture receipts, notes, etc., \$3,000. Miscellaneous receipts, \$3,000. Wharves half cost from Dominion Government, \$5,223.99. Total, \$1,564,365.15. Memo. Estimated receipts, \$1,564,365.15. Estimated expenditures, \$1,712,941.40. Total, \$1,048,576.25. Additional estimated expenditures, St. John & Quebec Railway, \$246,500. Total expenditure over receipts, \$995,076.25.

It would be noticed that the estimated expenditure was some \$148,576 in excess of the estimate of receipts. This was caused from various reasons. The estimated cut of lumber this year was considerably less than of late years, and there would be a loss in stampage necessarily. Succession duties were much as usual. The fees for motor vehicles were considerably increased. It was intended to fund these fees in the future, but he hardly thought it would be fair to do so this year. The receipts from liquor licenses, which hitherto had been about \$45,000 a year, were now reduced to \$24,000, an estimate, so they could hardly say what amount of revenue bear license would return.

From provincial prohibition they estimated to make about six thousand dollars and miscellaneous receipts were put down at \$3,000. In the matter of expenditures there were several items which were new and many were largely in excess of previous years. The cost of the greater production campaign was \$5,000. Education would absorb \$303,850, and this was an item which would not get any less. For elections \$15,983 was estimated, the greater part of which, of course, was spent in the recent general election, and provision had to be made for the by-elections which would take place some time before the next session. Interest absorbed a large amount, \$384,000, without including interest on the Valley Railway bonds. The estimated cost of enforcing prohibition was \$6,000, but they hoped to get this back. Interest on the Valley Railway bonds was put down at \$246,500, so that this made the total estimated expenditure over the estimated receipts \$395,076. Turning to the bond issues, there was a total loss on the issue of 1914 and 1916 of \$41,491, and on the issue of \$1,700,000 four and half per cent. drawn, there was a loss of \$149,430. The analysis of the bonded debt showed an increase in 1915 over the previous year of \$380,175, to which must be added the Valley Railway bonds of \$1,700,000 and the special road expenditures of \$70,548, making a total of \$2,150,723.

The estimated receipts for the current year compared with the actual receipts for 1916 showed an overplus in the latter over the estimates for the present year of \$16,054.

Estimated Expenditure.

The speaker next made a comparison of the estimated expenditure for 1917 with the actual expenditure for 1916. The total ordinary expenditure for 1916 was \$1,568,342.07, while the estimated expenditure in 1917 is \$1,712,941.40, an increase of \$144,599.33. The total decrease in the estimates as compared with 1916 was \$45,651.47, while the increases total \$438,650.80. He explained that the largest item of increase was for interest, which was placed at \$279,495.01. Proceeding, he said that the increase in public works estimate was largely due to expenditures made on the departmental buildings and in connection with the provincial hospital. Last year \$285,000 had been expended on roads and bridges, and it was proposed to expend \$300,000 this year. He thought it was exercised the expenditure for this important work could be kept within the estimate.

Heavy Budget.

When he last had the honor of a seat in the house the budget was less than one million dollars, while now it was close to the two million dollar mark. While the revenue seems large the controllable expenditure is only \$700,000 out of the total appropriation of the balance being fixed by law. While the policy laid down in 1908 to keep ordinary expenditure within the income was a good one it would not be possible to live up to that policy the present year.

It might be possible that before the session ended some means would be found to increase the revenue and thus reduce the deficit during the remainder of the year, but he was not very hopeful in this regard. Personally he favored an increase in the rate of stampage.

He would move, seconded by Hon. Mr. Foster, that the house resolve itself into committee of supply.

Hon. Mr. Foster, who the government was considering points raised by Mr. Baxter in regard to the status of two hon. members which had been questioned and would give answer tomorrow.

The bill relating to the Patriotic Fund and another to confirm agreement between town of Edmundston and Frasers Limited were agreed to.

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SAINT JOHN BILLS CONSIDERED YESTERDAY

Opposition to Some—Assessment Bill Laid Over Until Next Thursday.

The mayor and commissioners returned last night from Fredericton where they had been attending the session of the bill committee who were considering St. John legislation. The General Public Hospital bill met with considerable opposition from some of the county representatives, but will probably pass with some amendments. The principal objection was to the clause making the hospital claim take precedence of a mortgage and the claim was advanced that other counties which had hospitals should be placed in the same position regarding patients in their institutions from St. John.

Quite a strong opposition was developed to the Lancaster bill for permanent sidewalks, and consideration of it was deferred until this morning. Councilors O'Brien and Golding stayed over for this session.

The bill to give the C. P. R. permission to treat with the municipality for a portion of sea street was deferred for further information and plans.

The bills relating to business restrictions and Victorian Order Nurses passed the committee without discussion.

Consideration of the city assessment bill was deferred until next Thursday.

A PATHETIC CASE.

The pathetic case of a bright lad of thirteen was heard yesterday by Chief Justice H. A. McKeown. The parties concerned are all residents of St. George. The father of the boy petitioned the court for the custody of the youth, but is opposed by the boy's grandfather and the boy himself.

It seems that the boy's mother died when the lad was very young and the latter has lived with his grandfather ever since.

The father re-married and has six or seven children by his second wife. Recently he endeavored to have the boy live with him, but the lad did not care to, so, preferring to stay with his grandfather and the latter upheld him.

The lad appeared in court yesterday with his grandfather and two witnesses. The father was in court also.

Most of Us Will Q...

Two Misses of sweet age an escort for the fugitive section of the city where puts himself into great danger whenever he leaves the his hiding place.

The Magazine street "trick" were as strange as they were large brick school bull street, where the girls' parish are educated. One of the girls was helmet-shaped hat and mild blue and white and a large blue collar, and asked who the gent to find.

June

The month of Weddings

Commence your new life musically

The Victrola and Victor Records will furnish all the entertainment you require.

Appropriate Victor Record selections

Ten-inch double-sided Victor Records 90 cents for the two selections

May Heaven Bless Your Wedding Day Campbell-Barr 18271

When Grandma Sings the Songs She Loved at the End of a Perfect Day Campbell-Barr

Nesting Time in Flatbush Jones-Billy Murray 18270

I Wonder Why Marion Harris-Billy Murray

Give Me All of You Green-Hamilton 18162

Pretty Baby Orpheus Quartet

Latest Canadian Patriotic "His Master's Voice" Record

Til the World is Free John L. Hess 216010

Take Me Back to Old New Brunswick John L. Hess

Twelve-inch double-sided Victor Record—\$1.50 for the two selections

Rustic Wedding Symphony—Bridal Song Victor Concert Orchestra 35627

Rustic Wedding Symphony—Serenade Victor Concert Orchestra

Charming Red Seal Records

Face to Face (Tenor) Evan Williams 74477

Lakme—Bell Song (Soprano) Amelia Galli-Curci 74510

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Some Men Wear Pants, Others Wear Ordinary Trousers, but the Wisest Wear GILMOUR TROUSERS

To keep several pairs in your closet is about the best clothing "preparedness" move you can make.

They're good fabrics, handsome patterns, well tailored and finished.

Worsted, \$3.50 to \$6.75.

Outing Trousers, \$1.10 to \$5.75.

White and Khaki Duck, White and Striped Serges and other materials.

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but had no conversation with his son. Chief Justice McKeown took much interest in the case and had a ten minutes private conversation with the boy.

At the conclusion of the hearing he stated that he would give his decision later, but that he would permit the lad to return home with his grandfather. The St. George party leave for home this morning. It concerned are well to do.

Quiet As a Graveyard.

As far as arrests were concerned yesterday police headquarters was as quiet as the graveyard across the street. The only visitor who was a stranger to headquarters was a man who is unknown to the officers. He asked a number of questions of officers and then departed as quietly as he entered. It is now believed by the officers who were in the station at the time that their strange visitor was none other than "Fox the Fugitive," and that he made one more of his daring escapes.

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BRIG

Two Girl on The Country Res... Them