HAZY ABOUT THE TWO END SECTIONS OF VALLEY ROAD

Government Has Not Had Any Correspondence With Company Regarding Immediate Construction—Many School Book Vendors Have Not Made Returns—Considering Aid for Steamship Service on Kennebeccasis—Flemming Drew Full Pay as Hospital Commissioner While "On Leave."

The following important matters were disclosed in the legislature at Fredericton, in reply to questions of opposition members:—

Hon. Dr. Landry, in reply to Mr. Pelletier's inquiry, said:—

Q. 1—What school book vendors failed to make returns during the fiscal year of 1914?

A.—Godard Brothers, Albert county. S. C. Barter, H. S. Broad, H. P. Gillespie, Neva Jaackson, London & Flemming, J. F. McCain, D. W. Olts (since remitted), W. A. Smith, Stevens Brothers, J. N. Tompkins, all of Carleton county. C. D. Goodell and P. A. Laughlin of Charlotte county.

P. J. Devereau, William Ferguson, Kelley & Hall and C. A. Stewart of Gloucester.

S. S. Carmichael, W. A. Fowler, W. H. Hill, Mills & Everleigh (since remitted), W. W. Patterson, Hilyard Reid and H. L. Williams, all of Kings.

A. A. Goguen, Archie Lisen (since remitted), R. Saulnier and St. Anthony Trading Company (since remitted), all of Kent.

Jos. C. Levesque, Madawaska county. Matthew Carrol, Mrs. Thos. Johnston, H. Morehouse, Horace McKinley, Renouse Bridge Lumber Company, Thomas Russell, Jaames W. Robertson, and Romain Savoy Est., all of Northumberland.

John Cooper, A. D. Case, William Christie, J. R. Dykeman, W. H. Kirkpatrick and W. H. White, all of Queens. A. A. Andrews, Laura H. Alford, J. S. Bassett, Thomas A. Landry, Angus McKenzie, Richard Parker, all of Restigouche.

J. Major Howell, Mrs. Thos. McCann, L. C. Prime, John Roberts, W. H. Smith, Watson & Company, all of St. John county.

D. A. Alton, H. Michaud, J. F. McCluskey Est., Wade Drug Company, all of Victoria.

T. Whit Colpitts, W. A. Forest, J. H. Goodwin, Chas. Hicks, A. E. Jones, W. R. Williams, C. L. Jones, P. T. Leger, L. G. Oupiton, all of Westmorland.

T. M. Brewer, B. U. Dyer, J. G. Douglas & Company, R. S. Evans, S. Johnson, W. H. Lawrence, Samuel McNutt, Azor Nason, Chas. E. Parker, F. S. Williams, P. S. Watson, all of York.

Q. 2—What amount was due the province October 31, 1914, for school books?

A.—The value of books in the hands of vendors on the 31st of October, 1914, was $15,382.08, but as the books are sent out on commission, the amount due would only be for books sold and not remitted for at that date, and, as we do not receive a statement of books on hand from vendors who have not remitted, it would be impossible to give a definite statement as to the amount due, except we send out and check up the books. We are in the habit of doing this from time to time in all cases where vendors do not report within a reasonable time.

Q. 3—Have any amounts been written off as bad debts, if so, how much and upon whose accounts?

A.—No.

The Valley Railway

Hon. Mr. Clarke, in reply to Mr. Dugal's inquiry, said:—

Q. 1—Does the government intend to insist that the St. John and Quebec Railway Company shall begin construction of the two end sections of the Valley Railway, viz., from Rothesay to Gagetown and from Centreville to Andover, this spring or summer?

A.—The government has not yet decided what means shall be adopted for the construction of the two end sections of the Valley Railway, namely, from Rothesay to Gagetown, and from Centreville to Andover, but it is the intention of the government to proceed with the work as soon as practicable.

Q. 2—Is the money in the hands of the Prudential Trust Company available for this purpose when required?

A.—Yes.

Q. 3—In view of the importance of carrying on large public works at this time, has the government had any correspondence with the St. John & Quebec Railway urging immediate construction?

A.—The government has had no such correspondence.

Mr. Flemming

Hon. Mr. Clarke, in reply to Mr. Pelletier's inquiry, said:

Q. 1—How many meetings of the Provincial Hospital commissioners did James K. Flemming attend during the last financial year and at what dates?

A.—James K. Flemming attended all the meetings of the Provincial Hospital commissioners during the last financial years except two. The two meetings which he did not attend were held during Mr. Flemming's leave of absence granted him by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor-in-council on account of ill health.

Q. 2—What amount was paid him for attendance?

A.—Mr. Flemming was paid the regular quarterly allowance of $24, amounting in all to $96 for the year, which is the amount allowed each of the commissioners of the Provincial Hospital for expenses and attendance at board meetings held during the year.

St. John-Hampton Service

Hon. Mr. Morrissy, in reply to Mr. Dugal's inquiry, said:

Q. 1—Is it the intention of the government to make such arrangements that the people between St. John and Hampton on the Kennebeccasis will be assured this year of steamship service for passengers and freight on that route?

A.—The question of granting a subsidy for a steamship service between St. John and Hampton on the Kennebeccasis river is now under consideration by the government.

Q. 2—Have representations been made to the government showing what inconvenience and loss the people on this route suffered by reason of no arrangements having been made for a service last season?

A.—Representations setting forth the desirability of such service have been made to the government.

BOOTS SCANDAL GROWING WORSE

Ottawa, April 1—Rubber-cemented leather in the manufacture of military boots for the Canadian soldiers was discovered and stopped by the militia department.

Superintendent Matthews, of the Ames Holden Company of Montreal, testified that 1,200 to 1,500 boots turned out by that company were of such character. Colonel Brown, chief inspector of the department, told the parliamentary committee today that he discovered what was being done himself, "and," he added, emphatically, "when I did find out I stopped it at once."

H. B. Ames, Conservative M. P. for St. Antoine and officer of the Canadian Patriotic Fund is vice-president of the Ames Holden Company.

Colonel Brown was examined by F. H. Markey, K. C., who last week visited the committee room early one morning and himself cut open one of the Ames Holden boots, making public his discovery of the cemented vamp. The witness stated that he dealt promptly with the situation when he discovered it. He denied the allegation that Mr. Matthews had informed him of what the company was doing.

"Then Matthews was stating what was not true?" asked Mr. Markey.

"I won't say that Mr. Matthews deliberately stated what was untrue," replied the chief inspector, "but he never told me of the use of double leather. I found it out," and with emphasis, "when I did find it out I stopped it at once."

H. W. Brown, director of contracts, was called and questioned by Hon. Chas. Murphy concerning the purchase of 5,000 pairs of boots from Winnipeg jobbers who had purchased them from the manufacturers for $3.40 per pair and sold them to the government for $4 per pair.

Officials Didn't Know.

"Why did the government not purchase direct from the manufacturer?" asked Mr. Murphy.

The witness said he did not know anything about it. Colonel Hallock would know who gave authority for the purchase.

Colonel Hallock was called, but could shed no light on the matter. "The order was made by Colonel J. F. MacDonald," said he. I cannot tell where he got his instructions."

Colonel J. F. MacDonald was called. He declared he had no knowledge of "who was buying or from whom they were buying."

W. H. Brown recalled, was questioned about the order-in-council dated Feb. 11 last, appointing S. R. Wickett, of Toronto, "chief adviser on boots," at a salary of $10 per day with living of travelling expenses.

As Mr. Wickett swore yesterday that he had never manufacturer a boot in his life," observed Mr. McDonald, "we would like to get the report by which the privy council was misled into passing this order."

When the order-in-council, appointing Mr. Wickett, was produced there was a somewhat ludicruous development. This order, which was passed in February last recites that it is the opinion of the minister of militia that T. R. Wickett, of Toronto, "who has had large experience in the manufacture of footwear," be appointed to advise the officers of the department and to supervise the work of inspection.

General Sam Hughes told the public accounts committee today that the militia department had not received a single one of the letters which the auditor-general claimed to have written to the department concerning its business methods.

General Sam at It Again.

As General Hughes was leaving the committee Auditor-General Fraser spoke privately to him and there was an inaudible conversation between them. Finally the auditor-general was heard to remark that the officers of the militia department must have received his letters.

"My officials told me they had not, and my officials tell the truth," said General Hughes.

"So do I," replied the auditor-general.

"I am not talking about you. I don't know anything about you and I care less," said General Hughes.

"Come, come that is beneath the dignity of General Hughes to talk in that way," said Mr. Carvell.

"When a man insults me, I know how to reply," answered General Hughes.

FACTS OF HISTORY SOMEWHAT DISTORTED

(Boston Globe.)

Truly the educational "places of desolation" are not all to be found in the rural districts if, as R. P. Green asserts, boys in the upper classes of a New York City elementary school, promoted for merit last month, gave the following answers to examination questions:

Q.—What was the Acropolis?

A.—The Acropolis was an idol the Greeks carried into battle with them and won battles with.

Q.—Tell about witchcraft.

A.—Witchcraft was a man sent over by the king. As he was going the king gave him a strip of land.

Q.—What happened in 1492?

A.—Discovery of America by Spinach.

Q.—What happened in 1776?

A.—Decoration of Independence.

The teaching of history with such sad results, upon whomsoever rests the responsibility, is a waste of time and money.

AMENDMENTS TO ELECTION LAW DISCUSSED

Clause for Polls to Be Open from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m. is Adopted

PATRIOTIC FUND

Amount is Nearly $4,000,000—Contributions by Provinces Given in House—House Adjourns for Good Friday and Will Resume Sittings Saturday.

Ottawa, April 1—The house this morning adopted a resolution for adjournment over Good Friday, with sittings on Saturday and Monday.

Hon. Louis Coderre informed Major Sam Sharpe that the total receipts of the Canadian patriotic fund were now $3,496,918, the contributions by provinces being as follows: Quebec, including the C. P. R. contribution, $1,399,554; Ontario, $1,168,103; Nova Scotia, $111,689; New Brunswick, $121,971; Prince Edward Island, $25,000; Manitoba, $88,720; Alberta, $149,837; Saskatchewan, $141,628; British Columbia, $141,763; Yukon, $9,219. Citizens of the United States contributed $7,632.

The contributions from the larger cities were as follows: Montreal, including C. P. R. contribution, $1,055,017; Toronto, $466,880; Ottawa, $236,690; Sherbrooke, $17,805; Berlin, $22,756.

On the second reading of Hon. C. J. Doherty's bill to amend the Dominion Elections act, considerable discussion took place upon the clause repealing the provision under which persons in Saskatchewan and Alberta may cast their votes, even though not on the list, if they swear they are entitled to do so.

Mr. MacLean, of Halifax, said he had been inclined to favor the repeal of the Saskatchewan and Alberta privilege, because he had not believed in the enrollment of voters on election day. However, he had since come to the conclusion that if the amendment were adopted there should be provision for the adoption of the provincial lists for federal elections.

Mr. Bennett, of Calgary, said that the existing law served first to limit the exercise of the franchise by those entitled to it, and secondly to permit currupution of the worst kind. Men could be brought into a western constituency in large numbers, could be sworn, voted and spirited away. Under the present law enumerators who made the list might be violent partizans. At the last election he had even been left off the list himself.

After some further discussion the section was dropped.

Polling Hours.

The committee then took up the clauses providing that polling places shall be kept open from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m., and that employers shall grant their employes an hour on election day, in addition to the noon hour, without deduction of their wages.

A. K. McLean explained the numerous suggestions as to the hours for polling which had been made to the special committee. One of these was that the polls should be open for twenty-four hours. He said that the extension of time proposed in the bill was intended to give certain class of workers, for instance, railway men, opportunities for casting their votes.

Mr. Nesbitt, of North Oxford, failed to see how the change would helt the railway men, and Mr. Proulx, of Prescott, thought that it would be of value to persons living at a distance from the polls.

A. C. McDonnell said that Canada was behind other countries in respect to the facilities provided to electors to exercise their franchise. Half of the corruption which took place in elections in urban centres arose out of the effort to get the voters to teh polls within the specified time. He was inclined to favor the keeping of the polls open from 8 a. m. till 8 p. m. Working men did not leave their places of employment until 5 p. m. and the provision that employers must allow their employes time to vote was sometimes exercised in a partizan manner. Mr. McDonnell said the present system of voting between 9 a. m. and 5 p. m. was unsuited for cities, where many voters lived far from their places of employment.

Mr. Carvell, of Carleton (N. B.), thought that opening the polls at 8 a. m. might help the office man, but would be of no advantage to the laboring man.

Mr. Grey, of London, pointed out that ordinarily only twenty per cent. of the 25,000 commercial travelers of the country were able to cast their ballots. In their interest election day might be fixed for Friday. He favored the opening of the booths at 7 a. m.

Frank Glass, of East Middlesex, did not think there should be any discrimination as between the city and the country, and thought the situation might be met by proclaiming a half or a quarter holiday on election day. The latter idea appealed to Mr. Turiff and to E. B. Devlin. Mr. Devlin was inclined to the view that the voting might begin at 7 a. m.

Mr. Blain, of Peel, and E. M. MacDonald, of Pictou, and other representatives of rural ridings, were opposed to any extension of time in such constituencies. The former said he had heard no demand for such change. In fact, he was inclined to the vicy that in the agricultural districts it might be better to even shorten the hours.

This section, too, was dropped. Mr. Proulx, of Prescott, then moved to insert a section enacting that persons having a controlling interest in corporations contracts from the government should be incligible for election to parliament.

This was ruled out of order, on the ground that it was embodied in another bill still before the house.

The clause was finally declared to stand.

Mr. MacDonnell then moved, in amendment, that the Ontario election law apply so that in cities of over 200,000 and ridings formed in part of portions of such cities, polls should open at 8 o'clock in the morning and close at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. This would only affect two cities in Canada, Montreal and Toronto, and would obviate the congestion there at polling time.

Hon. Charles Marcil said that Montreal workmen would favor a change in the evening hours, rather than the morning ones.

Hon. C. J. Doherty pointed out that Mr. MacDonnell's amendment would create a different law for two cities from all the rest. Workmen in Montreal, he said, went to work before 7 o'clock in the morning, as a general rule, so that the extending of the hour to 8 o'clock would not help them.

The amendment was also declared lost.

After some discussion an amendment, based upon a suggestion of E. M. MacDonald, of Pictou, was adopted. It provides that the requirement that employes shall be given an hour, in addition to the noon hour, on election day, in order to vote, "shall apply to railway companies and to government railways and their employes, with the exception of employes engaged in the running of trains, to whom such time cannot be given without interference with the running of trains."

Progress was reported on the bill, and then the house took up for a short time before adjournment another bill from the elections committee dealing with the proposed amendments to the Controverted Elections act.

Hon. William Pugsley was not disposed to proceed with the bill at this stage, but A. K. MacLean urged that some action be taken, the question having been before parliament for years. The present Controverted Election act, he said, was a nullity.

The minister of justice described the bill as a measure intended to simplify procedure. He was complimented by Mr. Carvell upon the care which he had taken toward working out a perfect measure.

The bill was still in committee when the house adjourned, the minister of justice and Sir Wilfrid Laurier agreeing that better progress might be made if the members were permitted to sleep on the measure and think it over.

The house adjourned till Saturday.

Votes for Soldiers.

The resolution to give votes to soldiers was passed formally and the bill was given a first reading.

The bill provides for the collection of votes at the front or wherever the soldiers may be. The votes are to be sent to the clerk of the crown in chancery. The soldiers may vote for the government or opposition or independent candidate. The decision as to who is a government candidate is left to the prime minister, and the leader of the opposition decides who are opposition candidates.

Ottawa, April 4—Mr. Just, Canada's trade commissioner in Germany when the war broke, was held there for several months by the Germans before he was exchanged for a German consul in the hands of the British. It was not until February that he was enabled to leave Hamburg for Rotterdam, and it was not until then that he heard that Canada had sent her troops across the Atlantic to aid the Motherland. Sir George Foster told this to the commons on Saturday, as an illustration of the close censorship on war news in Germany.

Another interesting bit of information he gave the house was that Mr. Just will shortly go to Russia to drum up trade for Canada with Great Britain's new ally. Mr. Just will go to Petrograd and visit all parts of the Russian empire, including a tour of Siberia. He will come home via Vladivostok and the Pacific, and will, on his return to Canada, confer with boards of trade and business men as to trade openings for Canada in Russia.

Questioned by Mr. Turriff as to whether the government was doing anything in the way of encouraging the refining of nickel in Canada, the minister of trade and commerce said that while he was in favor of the "Made in Canada" idea, the government as yet had not come to any conclusion with regard to the prohibition of the export of nickel matte or any measure of government refining.

On a vote $625,000 for the administration of the Canada Grain act, the minister of trade and commerce said that three large internal elevators, under government operation, would be in use for next year's crops. Two of these at Saskatoon and Moose Jaw are already in operation, and the new one at Calgary is expected to be ready by August next.

The evening sitting was taken up with the estimates of the department of public works. "We have a clean bill of health," said Hon. Robert Rogers, "no increases."

A vote of $200,000 for repairing the famous collapsible tower of the Victoria Memorial Museum at Ottawa was explained by the minister. Experts had examined the tower, which was parting from the rest of the building, and had reported that the cost of making the structure safe would be about $200,000.

During the discussion of the Nova Scotia estimates for public works, E. N. Rhodes paid a tribute to the 22nd French-Canadian Regiment, located in the town of Amherst. He said that they had made a splendid impression upon the people of Amherst.

P. E. ISLAND FOX BREEDERS FORM AN ASSOCIATION

Charlottetown, April 2—As a result of the three months' deliberation of a fox conference made up of delegates from all parts of the island, a bill to incorporate the Fox Breeders Association is now before the local legislature.

This association is to keep a record of the breeding of all foxes in captivity, establish a standard of breeding, a system of registration, provide inspection to prevent fraud, exercise the oversight of the personnel and finances of campanies, etsablish a sales board and adopt other measures for advancement and protection of the industry.

Every fox owner must give evidence under oath as to pedigree of his stock. Every company must submit its prospectus for examination by the association before it is made public.

Over-capitalization and misrepresentation will not be permitted. In registering the highest class will be known as Island Standard Breed, the foundation stock to be pure silver blacks held in captivity in this province prior to June 1, 1910. The other class registered, all known as imported ranch breed provided parents and grand-parents are pure silver blacks.

The Land of Make Believe is the title of a show appearing in Calgary. They struck it right. Four o'clock and oil's well.—Saskatoon Star.

NON-COMBATANTS SUFFER HEAVILY FROM GREAT WAR

Italy Fears Peace Will Come Before She Can Assert Her National Strength

PEACE PROSPECTS

U. S. Ambassador to Italy Expresses Wish That Italy Will Remain Neutral and Join in Effort at Mediation—Finances of Italy in Deplorable Condition as Result of War—The Balkan Nations.

(Special Cable to N. Y. Herald).

Rome, April 2—An inspired article published in the Giornale d'Italia manifests Italy's fear that the war may end before she ca ndevote her strength to the attainment of her national aspirations. Thomas Nelson Page, the American ambassador, told me today that important unofficial persons had expressed to him similar views.

"America," said Mr. Page, "would rather see a peaceful solution of the Italian question.

He said that personally he would esteem it one of the greatest acts in the history of the United States government if it could help to bring peace out of present conditions in Europe.

The Idea Nazionale says President Wilson has asked the ambassadors for guarantees of support of the neutrals in a mediation move, but Professor Luigi Luzzatti, formerly premier, denies the report.

The Idea Nazionale says it hears Professor Luzzatti eventually will be the Italian plenipotentiary to negotiate preliminaries intended to lead to peace.

General Sir Arthur Paget, head of the British military mission which recently was in Russia and who has called at the capitals of the Balkan States on a special mission to arouse sympathy in favor of the Allies, has arrived in Rome. He is said to be of the opinion that the moment the campaign becomes entirely favorable to the Allies, if Great Britain, France and Russia can agree on terms of settlement, it will not be difficult to reconstruct the Balkans.

The eight months of hostilities have brought economic distress to non-combatant states to a degree hardly realized by outside observers. This is true of the Netherlands, Switzerland and Italy, but particularly of Italy.

The declarations of war brought back to Italy about 1,000,000 Italians who were living in France, Germany and Austria. Many of them joined the ranks of the unemployed through the stoppage of work in factories and the paralysis of industry. Efforts were made to find employment for them, but in spite of all that could be done the end of March saw 100,000 men without work in Italy and threatening disorder.

In normal times Italians abroad send $20,000,000 yearly into Italy. This sum was reduced in 1914 to $700,000, and it threatens to be much less in 1915. Foreign travelers were counted on to spend in Italy $150,000,000 a year; this source of revenue also has almost entirely ceased.

The budget of the government, which for years has shown a surplus, shows for the last eight months a deficit of $13,800,000, due chiefly to the loss of duties on grain, amounting to $7,600,000. The duty on grain was reduced in October of 1914 and abolished on Jan. 31 of this year. Nevertheless, the price of wheat has doubled. The remainder of the deficit is due to shrinkage in the tax returns. The deficiency has a tendency to augment, and at the same time taxes are increasing. Hand in hand with this go advances in the price of food. Bread now costs more in spite of the restricted consumption of flour, and other products of first necessity are today dearer. This is especially true of vegetables.

The heaviest burden on the government is represented by the expenses of the army and the navy. About $400,000,000 was spent to bring these two branches up to their present standard of perfection and efficiency. Today they are costing to maintain $2,000,000 a day.

This is the economic situation of Italy, one of the few powers in Europe which has not as yet entered the war.

REPLENISH YOUR BLOOD IN THE SPRING

Just now you are feeling "out of sorts"—not your usual self. Quite exhausted at times and cannot devote real energy to your work. Sleep does not rest you and you wake up feeling "all tired out." Perhaps rheumatism is flying through your muscles and joints, or may be your skin is disfigured by rashes, boils or pimples. Headaches, twinges of neuralgia, fits of nervousness, irritability of temper and a disordered stomach often increase your discomfort in the spring.

The cause—winter has left its mark on you. These troubles are signs that your blood is poor and watery, that your nerves are exhausted. You must renew and enrich your blood at once and restore tone to your tired nerves, or there may be a complete breakdown. The most powerful remedy for these spring ailments in men, women and children is Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, because these Pills cleanse bad blood and strengthen weak nerves.

New, rich, red blood—your greatest need in spring—is plentifully created by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and with this new, pure blood in your veins you quickly regain health and increase your strength. Then your skin becomes clear, your eyes bright, your nerves strong, and you feel better, eat better, sleep better, and are able to do your work.

Begin your spring tonic treatment today for the blood and nerves with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills—the Pills that strengthen.

These Pills are sold by most dealers, but do not be persuaded to take "something just the same." If you can't get the genuine Pills from your dealer they will be sent you by mail, post paid, at 50 cents a box or six boxes for $2.50 by writing The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

TRAWLERS BLOWN UP BUT CREWS SAVED

Newcastle, Eng., April 2, 2.53 p.m.—Three Tyne trawlers, the Gioxiana, Jason and Nellie, were sunk by the German submarine U-10 yesterday. After all the members of the crews were safely in small boats the Germans blew up the trawlers.

They then towed the fishermen towards the Tyne until they encountered fishing craft, which brought the men ashore.

The fishermen say that the commander of the submarine was quite genial. He supplied hot coffee and tobacco to them, but told them: "We have orders to sink everything. It is war, and England started it."

Norwegian Sunk.

London, April 3, 1.50 a.m.—The Rotterdam correspondent of the Daily Telegraph sends the following despatch relative to the sinking of the Norwegian bark Nor, which was torpedoed yesterday in the North Sea by a German submarine. The Nor's crew being inaded at the Hook of Holland by the steamer Unita.

"Captain Simensen, of the Nor, states that he was signalled to stop, and was ordered aboard the submarine. He was told that his cargo, which consisted of seasoned wood, was contraband, and that he and his crew must go aboard the steamer Unita, whose cargo already had been examined and passed.

"'The Unita, whose destination was Hull,' says Captain Simensen, 'then was ordered to go to Rotterdam to land my crew. The captain of the submarine told me that my ship would be destroyed but it was still afloat when I left. I have learned since that she was set on fire by the Germans who could not easily have sunk with shells owing to the nature of the cargo. The commander of the submarine gave no certificate to the effect that the Nor was destroyed for carrying contraband.'"

Raiders Fled.

London, April 3—The Central News says that in the fighting along the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier the casualties were few. The raiders fled to Bulgarian territory after being put to rout.

An official telegram from Nish to the Serbian legation here says the Bulgarian invaders captured ten Serbian guns. They are said to be fighting under regular officers and it is expected that in reality they are regular Bulgarian troops.

Serbian reinforcements are arriving on the scene of battle. The fighting continues, the Serbian legation is informed, and there have been considerable losses on both sides.

Bulgarians Repulsed.

Paris, April 3—An official despatch from Ghevegheli, Serbia, to Saloniki, forwarded to the Havas Agency, confirms the statement that Bulgarian bands crossed the border. They are said to have captured from the Serbian frontier guards two cannon, with which they bombarded the railway station at Strumitsa. Railway and telegraph communications were cut.

After heavy fighting, this message says, the Bulgarians were repulsed and fled closely pursued by Serbian troops.

Serbia Protests.

Paris, April 4—The Petit Journal says that Serbia protested to Bugaria because of the invasion of Serbian territory by a force described as Bulgarian irregulars. While couched in moderate terms, the protest is said to request the arrest and imprisonment of the persons responsible for the raid.

Further details of the incident received today confirms the report that the invaders were driven away from the railroad station at Strumitsa, the Serbian town near the Bulgarian border where the attack was made. The railway station master at Strumitsa reports that the line to Ghevgheli is now clear of the raiders, and apparently has not been damaged.

Serbian frontier guards, who pursued the fleeing irregulars, retook the two cannon which had been captured.

Six bodies were found in the railway station at Strumitsa. The extent of the losses inflicted upon the attacking force is unknown, but it is believed to be large. Thirty bodies were found, and the raiders themselves picked up and buried a number of others.

This is said to be the fifth incident of its kind since the beginning of the European war, and there is much speculation in Paris as to their exact significance. It is felt that the attitude of Bulgaria on this occasion will indicate what policy she intends to pursue.

The Havas Agency received today from Nish, Serbia, a despatch saying that the losses of the Serbian troops were sixty killed and fifty-three wounded, including five officers.

Communication Stopped.

Rome, April 4, via Paris—D. Rizow, Bulgarian minister to Rome, expressed the opinion today that the incident on the Serbo-Bulgarian border was the work of Macedonian revolutionists in Serbia, who are opposed to the Serbian regime in the territory gained in the Balkan wars, in which the fighting occurred. M. Rizow asserted that the Bulgarian government was in no way responsible for the affair, and that its only desire was to preserve neutrality.

M. Ristitch, the Serbian minister, took issue with M. Rizow's statement. He said that, having spent thirty years in the region concerend, he knew it thoroughly, and could affirm that the Macedonians in the part of Serbia had no desire to oppose the present order of things. Responsibility for the incident, he asserted might be determined by considering to whose interests it would be to provoke such an outbreak. This, he said, pointed clearly to Bulgaria, which by occupying the left bank of the Vardar river could threaten to cut Serbian communications with Salonika, the only source from which the country could bring in its supplies. Already, he said, communication by telegraph and telephone had been cut.

Bulgaria's military reputation was made in the swift, fierce war against Turkey in the summer of 1912 and the following year the first and second line forces numbered 340,000 men, taking no account of the reserves. In peace times the standing army consists nominally of only 65,000 men. The area of the country is 42,000 square miles, less than twice the size of New Brunswick and the population, 5,000,000. Sofia is the capital with a population of 103,000.

Austrians Annihilated.

London, April 4—A Reuter's despatch from Petrograd gives a semi-official account of the defeat of the Austrian forces which penetrated Bessarabia. It says:

"The Austrians were defeated and in part annihilated. A division of Austrian infantry and a brigade of cavalry held an organized position near the villages of Sheilovtzy and Malintzy. Two columns of Russian infantry attacked them and enveloped their front of the morning of March 30, one column from the north and one from the south.

"The enemy resisted desperately, while the Russian troops delivered many assaults with the bayonet. Cossacks came up and dismounted. They also used cold steel and the heights were carried.

"Meanwhile at the village of Roukso-tine, about eight miles north, an Austrian force was driven out by Cossacks with the bayonet. The Austrians then began a retreat along the whole front."

The Dardanelles.

Nothing new has been received from the Dardanelles, or the other Turkish fronts, although a Russian semi-official report says that the Turkish protected cruiser Medjidieh struck a mine and sank.

So far as the Balkans are concerned, interest centres in the raid by Bulgarian irregulars into Serbia, which has been successfully countered. As usual, recriminations are being indulged in, the Serbians charging that the raiders were led by Bulgarian, Austrian or German officers, while the Bulgarians reply that the outbreak was the result of the Serbian administration of that portion of Macedonia, which is largely inhabited by Bulgarians. It is expected here that the matter will be settled by Bulgaria promising to punish those responsible for the raid, if it is proved that they actually organized the operation on Bulgarian soil.

The question of the prohibition of alcoholic liquors for the period of the war was discussed from the pulpits throughout the country today, the preachers urging that the example of the king and the cabinet ministers should be followed, and that the use of alcoholics should be voluntarily given up.

A meeting of the Labor party at Norwich, on the other hand, strongly protested against the accusation that the output of war munitions was being delayed by drinking among the men.

DARING RUSH OF FRENCH ON VOSGES PEAK

Paris, April 4—A vivid description of the capture by the French of the summit of Hartmanns-Weilerkopf, a peak of the Vosges mountains, a few milesnorth of Thann, is given in an official communication today from the war office. The occupation of the height was announced on March 27. The final phases of the struggle for this important strategic position, which had long been in dispute, are pictured by the French military observers as follows:

"A small number of soldiers succeeded in reaching the summit early in January and in establishing a position in a small fort, but although they resisted continual attacks they were forced to surrender, on account of starvation, notwithstanding many continued efforts of their comrades to succor them.

"All the troops were now aroused by a spirit of revenge, and were only too eager for the command to attack. During the remainder of January and February siege operations were carried out, and on March 5 an assault was made. The German trenches were subjected for two hours to a heavy artillery fire, and our men succeeded in capturing the strongest German block houses and a portion of the first line of trenches. The enemy made four vigorous counter attacks on March 5 and two on the morning of March 6 and 7, but was repulsed by our fire.

A Terrific Effort.

"On March 17 we attacked again, but on March 28 the greatest effort was made, under cover of the tremendous cross-fire from our 'black mouths' cannon of all calibre, including many rapid-firers. Trees could be seen falling, and portions of German bodies falling high in the air. Our infantry, with a bound, made a heroic charge, pouring like a living stream into the two lines of trenches under a wall of fire.

"The work of fortifying the conquered trenches was begun, and the German counter attacks, although violent, were not sufficient to drive out our men, who continued to look forward to the other lines of German fortifications, confident of an ultimate victory.

"The night of March 25 passed without counter attacks, and the morning dawned without the usual fog, allowing a splendid opportunity for our artillery. The artillery and infantry surrounded the mountain were eager to begin the final assault, which had been planned and awaited for three months.

"Observers reported at least three lines of German fortifications and redoubts between our position and tht summit. A general bombardment was begun by our artillery of all calibres at 10.30 o'clock, continuing until 2.30, and sweeping everything before it. Large pine trees were sawed off, disclosing concealed German batteries and fortifications. The ground was strewn with portions of the bodies of dismembered soldiers.

Gained the Height.

"At 2.35 o'clock, with a tremendous rush, our troops made a concerted effort, charging the enemy's positions and sweeping all before them. They reached the summit shortly after. On the highest point, despite the continuous rain of shot and shell, one of our infantrymen waved the flag triumphantly, signalling to the artillery that the position was ours, and now to direct the fire to the eastern slope.

"The Germans, utterly put to rout, dropped their guns in flight, we captured what remained of one company—eight men."

The European armies celebrated St. Patrick's day in the old-fashioned way with a fight all along the line.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.