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WEDNESDAY MORNING OCTOBER 24, 1917—FOURTEEN PAGES.

VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,496 TWO CENTS.

FRENCH MAKE BIG HAUL OF PRISONERS IN DRIVE ON AISNE GENERAL HAG'S TROOPS MAKE GAINS FLANDERS DRIVE FAILURE OF HUN EFFORTS TO

A. K. MACLEAN JOINS FUSION GOVERNMENT

Nova Scotian Parliamentarian Will Act First Without Portfolio.

LABORITE IN CABINET

Senator Robertson Will Act on Reconstruction and Development Committee.

Ottawa, Oct. 23.—A. K. Maclean was sworn in at 12.45 as a member of the union government without portfolio.

Senator Robertson has been sworn in as minister without portfolio. Pending re-adjusting in the cabinet, Mr. Maclean will be made chairman of the sub-committee of the cabinet on domestic affairs.

The new minister will bring with him the endorsement and backing of Premier Murray's former chief lieutenant in that province. In fact, it is believed that one of the results of the Liberal accession to union from Nova Scotia will be the finding of a seat for Mr. Fielding during the coming election.

There is a vacancy in Yarmouth due to the death of Mr. Law, and Mr. Fielding may run as a unionist candidate there.

More Labor Representatives. The following official statement covering today's cabinet appointments was issued tonight.

The prime minister has partially completed his arrangements for the representation of labor in the government. This morning Hon. G. D. Robertson, a prominent representative of the railway employees of Canada, was sworn in as a member of the privy council. For the present Mr. Robertson will be without portfolio, but he has been appointed a member of the reconstruction and development committee, which is a permanent committee of the privy council, and which is invested with very important powers and duties, including labor conditions and the relations between employers and employed. As this committee has the power to appoint persons outside of the government, it is anticipated that

(Concluded on Page 7, Column 1).

TELLS OF A GERMAN PLOT TO LAND ARMS IN IRELAND

London, Oct. 23.—In the course of a speech in the house of commons today, Premier Lloyd George declared the government was aware that arrangements were being made, partly by Count von Barenstorf, to land arms in Ireland.

In discussing his motion in the commons deploring the government's policy in Ireland, John Redmond said he was convinced there was a serious danger of destruction of the Irish convention if the policy at present pursued by the Irish authorities was continued.

Addressing the house, H. E. Duke, chief secretary for Ireland, said that last February the British Government had deported prisoners from the Ireland because Germany was again offering a helping hand to the Sinn Fein.

Mr. Duke declared that the recent troubles in Ireland had arisen because the convention was doing well and the Sinn Fein leaders wish it to fail. He said the government intended to do its utmost to prevent criminal acts with such intention.

SINN FEINERS WORK FOR SECESSION OF IRELAND

British Premier and Irish Secretary Denounce Treasonable Activities of Organization—Say It is Co-operating With German Leaders.

London, Oct. 23.—In the house of commons today Henry E. Duke, chief secretary for Ireland, said that last February the British Government had deported prisoners from Ireland because Germany was again offering a helping hand to the Sinn Feiners.

Mr. Redmond said he was convinced that there was as serious danger of destruction of the Irish convention if the policy at present pursued by the Irish authorities were continued.

The secretary did not complain of the action of the Sinn Feiners, but felt that all the action taken by the administration in Ireland was justified. The Irish convention, he declared, was a working demonstration of the fact that, if given a fair chance, Irishmen could administer their own affairs.

Treatment of Sinn Feiners. He defended the Irish policy generally, and pointed to the unprecedented magnanimity with which the Sinn Feiners had been endeavoring to stir up a revolt had been treated. Dealing exhaustively with the seizure of arms and the death of Ashe and the Irish volunteers, he said that for a period running into months there had been steady organization in every parish in Ireland and to an obvious extent in the large towns of the new force—the Irish volunteers—a rebel force. These organizations had been told: "We have a considerable store of arms and shell have more before the fateful day arrives."

Prof. De Valera, the new member from Clare, was quoted by the secretary.

(Concluded on Page 2, Column 7).

GERMANS FAIL TO RECAPTURE GROUND LOST

British and French Consolidate Practically All Their New Positions.

ATTACKS BREAK DOWN Three Separate Counter-Drives of Huns Meet With Total Repulse.

London, Oct. 23.—In Flanders both the British and French troops are holding on to the gains made in Monday's drive northeast of Ypres, except at one place on the southern fringe of the Houthulst Forest where the Germans in a furious counter-attack forced a slight retirement by the British.

Field Marshal Haig's report from the front states that the Huns' counter-attacks were repulsed. In one case the enemy's troops attempted to advance along the line of the Westroosebeke-Poelcapelle road, but when some two hundred yards from our new positions they were engaged by our infantry with rifle and machine gun fire and beaten off with loss. As the survivors endeavored to withdraw they were caught by our artillery barrage and again suffered heavily.

The second attack was delivered immediately north of the Ypres-Staden railway in a completely unexpected direction. Here the Huns' attack was repulsed by rifle and machine gun fire and driven off.

Early this morning another hostile attack against our positions in the Houthulst Forest, northeast of Veldhoed, was completely repulsed, prisoners being left in our hands. A less serious attack against one of the fortified farms captured by us yesterday southeast of Poelcapelle was equally unavailing.

During the day the artillery was active on both sides along the battlefield in spite of the unfavorable weather.

An Associated Press despatch from the British front, under date of Oct. 23, says:

The well-entrenched line established in Monday's limited attack astride the Ypres-Staden railway was intact Tuesday morning with the exception of the loss of the Houthulst Forest. One fortified farm from which the British were forced to fall back Monday evening when the Germans delivered a heavy local counter-attack.

Monday's operations may now be regarded as a success, and while only limited objectives were sought, their attainment has greatly improved the allied position.

It was hard fighting at numerous points and the Germans lost heavily, especially in the region of Poelcapelle. Large numbers of enemy dead were reported Tuesday morning lying in front of the British advanced position.

Monday's fighting was especially near the point of junction of the British and French forces. The German defences on the outskirts of the wood were strong and the enemy fell back, battling determinedly with machine guns and rifles. At one point north of the Ypres-Staden railway, at the edge of the wood, the British advanced posts were unable to maintain the most forward positions reached because of the violent enfilading artillery fire. The main line, however, was today well north of the strong line of German positions which skirted the outlying copse of the wood.

Monday night the British and French forces were active and Tuesday morning, doing much to offset the effects of the recent few days of sunshine.

COALITIONIST WINS

London, Oct. 23.—In the East of England election, made necessary by the death of Sir George Radford, Edward Smallwood, candidate of the coalition, was returned by a vote of 2769 against Edmund Barnard of the new Liberal Party, 1532, and Alfred Baker, Villante, 513.

The French share in Monday's fight was small, but what they had to do they did well and quickly, reaching all their objectives in a little more than three hours of fighting. The front involved is approximately 1,000 yards south of the Houthulst Forest. The old French line north of Mangelaere had taken a bend at a place known as Jean Bart House towards the southeast and had run on down by the eastern side of Veldhoed to join the British line.

Line Straightened. In yesterday's operations the French swung a thousand yards of their extreme right flank northward, advancing more on the right than the left. This straightened out the line, and it corresponded to the British advance. Generally speaking the French did not meet with hard resistance. There were numerous trench positions and pill-boxes in this section over which they moved forward, but the Germans were holding the line thinly here.

The main trouble came from the machine guns, and the pill-boxes temporarily were held up on their center by a heavy fire from enemy pill-boxes. This delay, however, was brief, and the French stormed their

(Concluded on Page 2, Column 2).

75 PRISONERS ARE TAKEN IN NEW DRIVE BY FRENCH

German Lines Penetrated North of the Aisne to a Depth of Two Miles—Many Prisoners, Guns and Villages Taken in Swift, Dashing Offensive—Hun Casualties Heavy, is Official Report From Paris.

Paris, Oct. 23.—In one of the swiftest and most dashing blows of the war, the French troops today smashed thru the German lines north of the Aisne to a depth of more than two miles at one point, inflicted heavy losses on the enemy and captured more than 7500 prisoners and 25 heavy guns and field guns.

Several important villages also fell into the hands of the French according to the war office announcement tonight.

The text reads: "North of the Aisne the attack which we launched this morning developed under extremely difficult conditions. Despite mist and rain, our troops attacked with admirable enthusiasm formidable organizations of the enemy which were defeated by the best troops of Germany, supported by heavy artillery."

"In their first dash our soldiers captured the line indicated by the dotted line on the map. A quarry of Pruty and Doenay. A little Malmisain Fort, in the center fell into our hands.

Chased Out the Enemy. "Pushing their advance still farther, our troops, after a desperate engagement, in which they gave proof of their irresistible snap, drove the enemy out of the quarries of Mont Parnasse, which had been partly crushed by our big shells.

"On the left our progress was continued with the same success, the villages of Allemant and Vudesson remaining in our power. Prisoners on the right of our troops carried their line on to the heights dominating Parany-Flain.

"Finally in the center, our troops drove fresh enemy reserves helters-skelter, and captured in a violent struggle the Village of Chavignon. At this point our advance reached a depth of three and a half kilometres (about two and a half miles).

"The enemy losses in the course of the day were large. In addition to these inflicted on him by our artillery preparation. The number of prisoners counted up to the present exceeds 7500. In the enormous amount of material captured we have counted 25 heavy and field cannon.

"Notwithstanding the unfavorable weather, our aviators carried out with success the missions imposed upon them: their machines flying fifty metres above the lines.

"Eastern theatre, October 23.—The enemy attempted the Serbian front, and at the Corn Bend several sur-

(Concluded on Page 11, Column 4).

FRENCH TROOPS STILL KEEP UP THEIR VICTORIOUS ADVANCE

Attack, Launched on a Six Mile Front, Sweeps Aside German Defence and Badly Mauls the Crack Troops of the Enemy.

With the French Armies in France, Oct. 23.—(By the Associated Press)—The French troops this morning fought one of the most cleverly executed and most brilliantly executed actions of the war. More than one thousand prisoners belonging to the famous Fifth Prussian Guards were taken, and the French still continue their victorious progress.

The battle opened before dawn along a nine-kilometre front from the neighborhood of Laifaux, about the neighborhood of Vauxillon, to La Royere farm. Amid inky darkness the French troops left their trenches and with a terrific barrage fire from the most powerful concentration of

French guns ever gathered on such a short front preceding them, they made forward into and over the German positions, sweeping all resistance aside.

Altogether six German infantry divisions were engaged, but none of them was able to withstand the onslaught. The advance continued like clockwork.

The correspondent observed the battle from a point whence he could see the entire line and was able to watch the precision with which the artillery prepared the ground for the advance of the infantry and the methodical manner of the infantry's progress.

EXPECT ELECTION IN WEEK OF DEC. 17

Writs for a General Election to Be Issued Nov. 1, is the Latest Report From Ottawa.

Ottawa, Oct. 23.—Writs for a general election, it is expected, will be issued Nov. 1. This would bring the election in the week of Dec. 17.

The exact date of the elections, Canadian Press Ltd., is officially informed, has not yet been determined. But they will most probably be held on or near the day indicated.

BRITISH NAVAL LOSSES

London, Oct. 23.—The British merchant cruiser Orana, a vessel of 12,927 tons, has been sunk by a submarine, and a British destroyer has been lost by striking a mine. There was no loss of life on the Orana, but only two officers and 21 men are reported to have been saved from the destroyer.

HUNS WANT PEACE BEFORE WINTER REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT GROWS

Washington, Oct. 23.—An Italian workman interned in Germany since the beginning of the war has escaped thru the Alps to his own country, with a report that the German people want peace and expect it to come in November. Official despatches received here today tell the man's story, according to which the Germans have abandoned all hope of victory which the Germans have threatening to leave the factories if the war continues another winter, and the civil population generally is living under terrible conditions. He said 800 soldiers attending a circus at Essen were killed at one time by bombs of allied aviators.

Washington, Oct. 23.—Interesting statements about Germany's unsettled political situation and treachery in the ranks of the army, made by an East Prussian prisoner, have been received here in official despatches. According to the despatches the Socialist spirit is growing so rapidly that it is expected to endanger the supremacy of the Junkers, and the military authorities are adopting most severe repressive measures. He also told a story of how German privates left their officers' safe in the face of fire, and of how officers hated by their troops fell on battlefields with bullets in their backs.

GOVERNMENT FILLS FOUR SENATE POSTS

J. D. Taylor of New Westminster Secures Appointment—Five Other Vacancies.

Ottawa, Oct. 23.—It is announced that four of the nine senate vacancies in the western provinces have been filled by the appointment of Dr. P. F. Schaffner of Manitoba, W. S. Willoughby of Saskatchewan, and Col. J. D. Taylor and G. P. Barnard for British Columbia. It is understood that these appointments are made in pursuance of arrangements consummated before the union government was formed. There are still remaining five vacancies in western Canada, one each in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, and two in Alberta. It is also anticipated that these will be filled in the immediate future.

UNION GOVERNMENT

The country is in a much better frame of mind since union government came into life; a lot of the dread that the public had of a bitter general election has been modified, and the two parties are actually trying to get together instead of sitting up at night devising means of snuffing one another.

PERSONNEL OF WAR CABINET ANNOUNCED FROM OTTAWA

Sir Robert Borden Becomes President, N. W. Rowell Vice-President—Hon. A. K. Maclean Holds Prominent Position.

Ottawa, Oct. 23.—Canada's war cabinet is announced, also the committee of the cabinet which will have charge of the domestic problems arising out of the war. The war cabinet—technically known as the war committee of the cabinet council—will have the prime minister as its president and Hon. N. W. Rowell as its vice-president. The other committee, which will be known as the reconstruction and development committee, will also have the prime minister as its president, Hon. A. K. Maclean, minister without portfolio, will be vice-president.

The personnel of the two committees is as follows: War cabinet—Chairman, Sir Robert Borden; vice-chairman, Hon. N. W. Rowell; president of the privy council, Major-General Newburn, minister of militia and defence; Sir Thomas White, minister of finance; Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, minister of marine and fisheries and naval service; Hon. C. J. Doherty, minister of justice; Hon. F. B. Carroll, minister of public works; Hon. A. I. Sifton, minister of crown lands; Hon. P. E. Blondin, postmaster-general and Sir Edward Kemp, minister of overseas military forces.

Reconstruction and development committee—Chairman, Sir Robert Borden; vice-chairman, Hon. A. K. Maclean; Sir George Foster, minister of trade and commerce; Sir Thomas White, minister of finance; Hon. J. D. Calder, minister of immigration and colonization; Hon. Arthur Meighen, minister of the interior; Hon. T. A. Cresser, minister of agriculture.

Each committee, it will be observed, consists of ten members. Duties of War Committee. The duties of the war committee, which will exist during the progress of the war and until after demobilization, are defined in an order-in-council based upon recommendations made by the prime minister.

Sir Robert Borden, in his recommendations, observes that the constitution of such a committee of the cabinet is advisable "for the purpose of co-ordinating the efforts of the several departments of the government for the prosecution of the war, for ensuring the maximum of effort with the minimum of expenditure and generally for the purpose of throwing the full power of Canada into the national endeavor."

The prime minister further recommended that the committee shall inquire into and report upon the status and maintenance of the military forces of Canada, the enforcement of the Military Service Act, the defence of Canadian coasts and the patrolling of territorial and adjacent waters, the arrangements for garrisons and outposts in Canada, the training and equipping of troops upon internment of aliens, the prohibitions and regulation of imports and exports and the granting of licenses therefor, the arrangements with the government of the United Kingdom and with the governments of the allied nations respecting any of these matters, and generally speaking, all matters relating to the

culture; Sir James Loughheed, chairman of the military hospitals commission, and Hon. Senator Robertson, minister without portfolio.

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ASQUITH SEES END OF IRISH PROBLEM

London, Oct. 23.—Ex-Premier Asquith, speaking on the Irish question in the house of commons today, expressed the belief that within a few months a scheme of Irish government, sanctioned by a majority of the Irish people, would be presented to parliament.

MACHINE GUNS FURNISH CHIEF BAR TO ALLIES

Germans Fill Every Shell Hole With These Weapons.

ARTILLERY ENFILADES

British Sweep Away Fresh Enemy Divisions in Brilliant Advance.

By R. T. Small, Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.

British front in France and Belgium, Oct. 23.—The advance of the entente allies yesterday northeast of Ypres has developed bitter fighting along the southern edge of the Houthulst Forest, confirming statements made by German prisoners that the enemy is determined to hold this wood at all costs because of the effective screen it offers for artillery work and for other operations behind it.

The enemy's defences opposite the British in this section have offered most strenuous resistance, and the British have been forced to fight hard for every foot of ground they have taken. Their advance has been made in the face of grueling machine gun fire from numerous pill-boxes. In addition they have been heavily enfiladed from two directions by German artillery stationed on high ground northeast of the forest and beyond Poelcapelle.

Fresh Enemy Troops. The Germans had strengthened their infantry line in this region and had replaced many of the tired troops with fresh divisions. Three of these divisions fought determinedly to retain their hold.

The French share in Monday's fight was small, but what they had to do they did well and quickly, reaching all their objectives in a little more than three hours of fighting. The front involved is approximately 1,000 yards south of the Houthulst Forest. The old French line north of Mangelaere had taken a bend at a place known as Jean Bart House towards the southeast and had run on down by the eastern side of Veldhoed to join the British line.

Line Straightened. In yesterday's operations the French swung a thousand yards of their extreme right flank northward, advancing more on the right than the left. This straightened out the line, and it corresponded to the British advance. Generally speaking the French did not meet with hard resistance. There were numerous trench positions and pill-boxes in this section over which they moved forward, but the Germans were holding the line thinly here.

The main trouble came from the machine guns, and the pill-boxes temporarily were held up on their center by a heavy fire from enemy pill-boxes. This delay, however, was brief, and the French stormed their

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Ulster, in... with deep... military... waist to... all-round... Sizes 36 to... 28.50

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