

HAIG TELLS OF SUCCESS AND REVERSE AT CAMBRAI

CAMBRAI WAS ATTACKED LAST FALL BECAUSE LINE WEAK

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig Tells of Much Discussed Battles, Wherein British Won Spectacular Success and Then Met with Disaster—Latter Largely Caused by Heavy Gunfire and Rapidity With Which German Infantry Moved—No One to Blame.

London, Mar. 4.—(Delayed)—The war office tonight made public a long despatch from Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig covering the much discussed battles on the Cambrai front last November. It relates in much detail how the operations were carried out, tells of the successes at first achieved, and alludes, quite as frankly to the subsequent reverses which compelled a withdrawal from territory which had been captured, no blame being imputed to anyone for this latter occurrence.

Discussing the reasons for the decision to attack on the Cambrai front, Field Marshal Haig says that the repeated assaults in Flanders had caused weakening of the enemy's line elsewhere and that of these weakened sectors that of Cambrai was deemed the most equitable for the surprise operation contemplated, the ground being favorable for the employment of tanks, the plan being to dispense with previous artillery preparation, which would have prevented secrecy, and depend instead on the tanks to smash their way through the enemy's wire.

"The enemy," writes the field marshal, "was laying out fresh lines of defence behind those which he had already completed on the Cambrai front and it was to be expected his troops would be redistributed as soon as our pressure in Flanders relaxed. He had already brought large forces from Russia in exchange for the troops engaged in the struggle in western theatre and it was practically certain that heavy reinforcements would be brought from the east to the west during the winter. Against the arguments in favor of immediate action I had to weigh the fact that my own troops had been engaged many months in heavy fighting. The conditions of the struggle had greatly exhausted their strength. Only the losses of my divisions had been replaced, and many of the recently arrived draft were still far from being fully trained and included in the ranks of the armistice."

Essentially the British commander decided in favor of immediate action. "The infantry, the tanks and the artillery, working in combination," he continues, "were to endeavor to break through all the enemy's lines of defence on the first day. If this were successfully accomplished and the situation developed favorably cavalry were then to be pushed through to raid the enemy's communication, disrupt his system of command, damage his railways and interfere as much as possible with the arrival of reinforcements."

"It was explained to all the commanders that all depended upon secrecy practically to the moment of starting, and after that on bold, determined, rapid action. Unless the opposition could be beaten down quickly no great results could be looked for."

Started at 6.30 a. m. The attack, the field marshal notes, was started at 6.30 o'clock on the morning of November 10. The spectacular successes which first attended it have been told in the correspondents' reports written at the time. It was on the last of November that the triumph began to give way to disaster.

"At the northern end of the Bonavis Ridge and in the 'Goniest sector,' the commander relates, 'the swiftness with which the advance of the enemy's infantry followed the opening of his bombardment appears to have overwhelmed our troops, both in the line and in the immediate support, almost before they had realized the attack had been begun.'

"The nature of the bombardment, which seems to have been heavy enough to keep our men under cover with a first seriously alarming effect, contributed to the success of the enemy."

No steadily advancing barrage gave warning of the approach of the German assault columns, whose secret assembly was assisted by the many deep folds and hollows typical of the chalk formation, and was shielded from observation from the air by the early morning mist. It was only when the attack was upon them that great numbers of low-flying German airplanes rained machine gun fire upon our infantry, while the extensive use of smoke shells and bombs made it difficult for our troops to see what was happening on other parts of the battlefield or to follow the movements of the enemy.

"In short, there is little doubt that although an attack was generally expected, yet in these areas of the battle at the moment of its delivery the assault effected a local surprise."

Heroism of Men. How the advance was stemmed and the heroism displayed by the bodies of British troops, who sacrificed themselves to give time for the organization of the defence behind them has been already told. Field Marshal Haig does full justice to the courage and skill displayed in this crisis. He continues: "The strength the enemy had shown himself able to develop in his attacks made it evident that only by prolonged and severe fighting could I hope to re-establish my right flank on Bonnavis Ridge. Unless this was done the situation of my troops in the salient north of Plesqueres would be difficult and dangerous, even if our hold on Bourlon Hill were extended. I had therefore to decide either to embark on another offensive battle on a large scale or to withdraw to a more compact line on Plesqueres Ridge."

"Although this decision involved the giving up of important positions most gallantly won, I had no doubt as to the correct course under the conditions."

RHODES WILL BE SPEAKER

Parliament Will Assemble on Monday Morning, March 18—Business Will Be Expedited.

Ottawa, Mar. 5.—Parliament is called for Monday, eleven a. m., March 18. This is the first time since Confederation that parliament has been called to meet on a Monday. When a new Speaker has to be elected it has been customary to summon parliament for a Wednesday; otherwise the day has been Thursday.

The change has been made to push forward the work of the session as rapidly as possible. The plan of the government, it is understood, is to elect the Speaker in the morning and in the afternoon to have the customary ceremonial opening with the speech from the throne.

The debate on the address in reply to the speech can then be proceeded with on Tuesday and practically a full week's work completed by the end of the week. It is understood that the estimates will be tabled as soon as the debate on the address is concluded.

The Speakership. Hon. E. N. Rhodes, ex-Speaker of the House, whose re-election has been assured by the reverse vote, will be Speaker. It is not anticipated that there will be any objection to his re-nomination. A deputy Speaker to succeed Mr. Rainville, who was defeated, will be named after the debate on the address.

Hon. Mr. Seigny, minister of inland revenue, whose resignation is in the hands of the government, arrived in the capital this morning. He is still a minister, as his resignation has not yet been accepted. The matter of cabinet re-organization necessitated by the defeat of Mr. Seigny and Hon. P. E. Blondin will, it is said, engage the immediate attention of the prime minister and a definite announcement may be made before parliament meets.

WANT NATION-WIDE PROHIBITION IN U. S. Chairman of Prohibition National Committee Optimistic at National Convention.

Chicago, Mar. 5.—A demand for immediate nation-wide prohibition as a war measure was voiced by Virgil G. Hinshaw, chairman of the Prohibition National Committee, in an address opening the thirteenth national convention of that party in Chicago today. More than one thousand delegates from all parts of the United States were in attendance. In part Mr. Hinshaw said: "If all the prohibition forces of this country will pull together we can secure war prohibition within ninety days. We want prohibition for the period of the war, but we also want it permanently. We want it in the national constitution."

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thus discloses: "My intentions as regards a subsequent wide prohibition are not yet made public. I am, however, pushing westward and northward taking the Hindenburg line in the reverse from Maures to the River Scarpe and capturing all the enemy's defenses and probably most of his garrisons lying west of a line from Cambrai northwards to the Senese and south of that river and the Scarpe."

"Time would have been required to enable us to develop and complete the operation, but the prospects of gaining the necessary time, was in my opinion good enough to justify the attempt to execute the plan. I am of the opinion that on the 20th and 21st of November we went very near to success sufficiently complete to bring the realization of our full programme within our power."

Rate of Production. Regarding the rate of ship production, Sir Eric said that instead of a rise there had been a serious drop. "Why?" the First Lord asked. "The main fact is that owing to labor unrest and strike difficulties the men in the yards are not working as if the life of the country depended on their exertions. The employers are perhaps not doing all they could. The long strain of the war must have an effect upon their nerves as upon everyone else. The serious unrest which existed in January will have an effect on completions in later months. I am driven to the conclusion that even at this late date the situation is not fully realized."

Original Plans. Had Field Marshal Haig not met with a check which compelled him to abandon part of the captured territory what he might have accomplished he

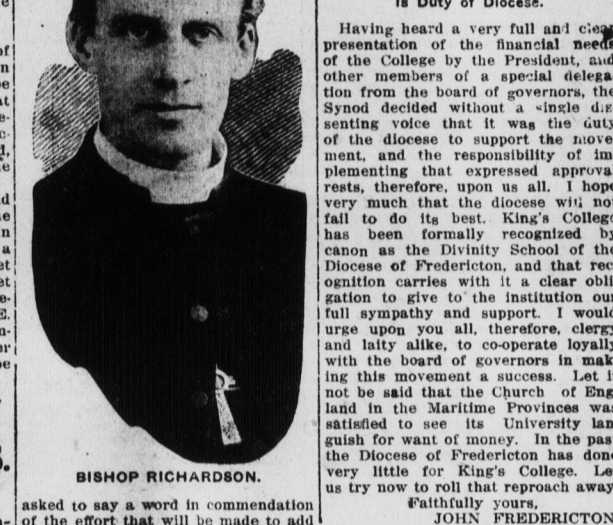
BISHOP OF FREDERICTON ISSUES APPEAL TO AID KING'S COLLEGE

Advance Movement in Behalf of Historic Institution at Windsor Has Official Sanction of Dioceses of Fredericton and Nova Scotia—It is Clear Obligation of Diocese, He Says, to Support College.

His Lordship the Bishop of Fredericton has addressed a communication to the diocese in behalf of the King's College Advance Movement. The communication follows: To the Clergy and Faithful Laity of the Diocese of Fredericton: My Dear Brethren,—I have been

\$125,000 to the endowment fund of our Church University, and I very willingly do so. This appeal is to be made with the express sanction and approval of the Synods of the two dioceses immediately concerned, and it speaks to us therefore with the voice of authority. In view of the extraordinary condition under which we are living, and the manifold demands that are being made upon us all for money, it was with great reluctance that I gave my endorsement to the movement, and then only subject to the judgment of the Synod in the matter.

Is Duty of Diocese. Having heard a very full and clear presentation of the financial needs of the College by the President, and other members of a special delegation from the board of governors, the Synod decided without a single dissenting voice that it was the duty of the diocese to support the movement, and the responsibility of implementing that expressed approval rests, therefore, upon us all. I hope very much that the diocese will not fail to do its best. King's College has been formally recognized by canon as the Divinity School of the Diocese of Fredericton, and that recognition carries with it a clear obligation to give to the institution our full sympathy and support. I would urge upon you all, therefore, clergy and laity alike, to co-operate loyally with the board of governors in making this movement a success. Let it not be said that the Church of England in the Maritime Provinces was satisfied to see its University languish for want of money. In the past the Diocese of Fredericton has been very little for King's College. Let us try now to roll that reproach away. Faithfully yours, JOHN FREDERICTON.



asked to say a word in commendation of the effort that will be made to add

COUNTY CLARE JURY SCORES GOVERNMENT

Blames Lloyd-George Administration for Outrages and Lawlessness in Ireland—Conditions Improved.

Belfast, Ireland, Mar. 5.—(Toronto Telegram Cable)—Conditions in Ireland are improved, Field Marshal Lord French today visited the disturbed areas and conferred with the militia. The presence of the militia has had a salutary effect on the Sinn Feiners. There have been more arrests of the leaders. If Secretary Dicks had taken similar measures months ago he would have smashed the Sinn Feiners and troops now holding the southwest could have been better employed in France.

Minor outrages are reported from Sligo, South and West Meath. The grand jury of County Clare expresses indignation at the state of the country and attributes it to the notorious neglect of the government which compels the police and military to be passive spectators of illegal proceedings.

LIGHT SAVING AIDS SPOONING

Springfield Mass., Postmaster Discovers His Building Has Been Transformed Into a Sparking Emporium.

Springfield, Mar. 5.—Postmaster Thomas J. Costello may have to give up trying to conserve fuel by cutting off some of the lights in the postoffice evenings. The curtailment of illumination leaves shaded corners in which "spooners" gather to such an extent that it has raised considerable comment.

MAY BE STRIKE AT SCOTIA STEEL CO.

Men Want Advance in Wages and Recognition of American Federation of Labor.

Sydney, N. S., March 5.—Unless the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company recognize the American Federation of Labor Union at Sydney Mines and grant the wage increases demanded by the steel workers, a strike at the Scotia plant is not unlikely. Today President Wallace, of the local union, said the men were determined to have the company recognize the union. In event of a refusal to this request the men will strike, although he intimated that the strike would not be called in the immediate future.

MAXWELL-ST. JOHN VALLEY RAILWAY CASE GOES ON

Benjamin Carson of Public Landing Testifies Concerning an Important Part of Contracting Work.

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, Mar. 5.—After a three days' hearing of the nisi prius case of Mr. Henry Maxwell vs. the St. John Valley Railway Company, the evidence for the plaintiff, which was not completed when the court adjourned on February 21, was resumed before Hon. Chief Justice McKeown today. For a suit where the figures set for damages are so large the attendance of spectators is very limited at the County Court house, being confined mostly to the witnesses summoned by the parties.

The testimony so far outside of the early part of Contractor Maxwell's, which went into particulars of his contract with the company, has had to do with the cost and circumstances of his removal of the buildings on the right of way under his agreement, and today the last witness for the plaintiff was called by Mr. Hughes to go into the

story of these operations. This was Benjamin Carson of Public Landing, whose direct evidence and cross-examination by Mr. W. P. Jones K.C., for the company, consumed the morning session of the court. The details supplied by the witness concerned an important part of the work.

YOUTH SHOT AND KILLED IN CHURCH SHOOTING GALLERY

J. Bertram Chapman, Amhers Seventeen Year Old Boy, Struck by Stray Bullet While Attending Target Practice.

Amherst, Mar. 5.—J. Bertram Chapman, seventeen years of age, died today as the result of an accident last night at the shooting gallery of Trinity Methodist church. Young Chapman was acting as range officer at the shooting practice and was looking at the target when in some mysterious way a stray bullet struck him in the back of the head. He was taken to the hospital, where he died this morning. An inquest will be held.

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