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FAIR AND MILD

PRICE TWO CENTS.

Big Battle Brewing Is the Outlook Now; Serious Charge Against Speaker Currie

QUESTION OF HOUR IS WHERE WILL NEXT BIG FIGHT BEGIN

Important Battle is Brewing---With Improvement in Weather Artillery Fire Becoming Exceedingly Violent in Many Sectors Along the Battle Front---Canadians Experiencing Heavy Gun Fire which Rages from Lens Around Festubert Bend to Niophe Forest Covering Western Approach to Hazebrouck---Canadians Make Successful Raids Around Lens---Will Huns Try For Amiens and Paris?

Special Cable to N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard. (By Arthur S. Draper.)

London, April 22.—With the improvement in the weather, the artillery, assisted by aerial observers, is becoming exceedingly violent in many sectors along the battle front. Field Marshal Haig in today's communique reports a heavy bombardment from Lens around Festubert bend to the Niephe Forest, covering the western approach to Hazebrouck. Near Albert and at the junction of the British and French armies east of Amiens the big guns have also been decidedly active.

During the interlude much reconnaissance work is being done, Haig reporting that the British had made several successful raids around Lens.

There is a big battle brewing. Every sign of military significance points in that direction. The question is where and when will Ludendorff persevere in his attempt to reach the Ypres plain and the channel points beyond or, having forced the British off of Passchendaele and Messines Ridges, which in British hands would serve as jumping off places for strong counter offensives, will the Germans resume their effort to reach Amiens, to split the Anglo-French armies, and to move on toward Paris.

BRAZENLY BIASED BILL BY BYRNE

Attorney General and Foster Government Desire to Have Money Refunded in Valley Railway Case, but Refuse to Have Proceedings Taken Against Those of Their Friends who Figured in Central Railway Transactions---The Insincerity Hypocrisy and Humbug of the Fosterian "Purists" and "Reformers" Ably Shown Up by Hon. James A. Murray---Long Debate on Bill Probable.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 22.—The long expected "restitutionary bill" referred to in the speech from the throne, and over which it is known there has been considerable division of opinion on the part of the government, made its appearance in the Legislature this afternoon. While many of the opposition members were absent, while there was not a member of the legal profession present on the opposition benches, taking advantage of the absence from the city of Hon. Mr. Baxter, Dr. Campbell and Mr. Tilley, Attorney General Byrne arose in his place and introduced what will go down in history as one of the most brazenly partisan measures any government has ever dared to place before the consideration of a Legislature.

In brief the bill which is entitled "an act to enable His Majesty the King to recover monies illegally or improperly withheld or retained," authorizes the province to recover as a civil debt monies held to have been improperly obtained in connection with the construction of the St. John and Quebec Railway.

(Continued on Page 2)

FIELD MARSHAL HAIG'S REPORT

London, April 22.—Field Marshal Haig's report from headquarters in France tonight says:

"Hostile raids attempted early this morning south of the Somme, in the neighborhood of Hamel, and south of La Bassee Canal, opposite Cambrai, were repulsed. Northwest of Festubert, under cover of the bombardment reported this morning, the enemy succeeded in capturing an advanced post, which had already changed hands several times during the recent fighting.

"As a result of another successful minor operation which we carried out in the Robecq sector we advanced our line slightly and captured eighty-eight prisoners. Bodies of hostile infantry assembled in this neighborhood were engaged by our artillery."

SHEDIAC AND MONCTON DO NOT AGREE

Former Desires to Prosecute Own Cases of Violation of Liquor Law.

MONCTON WANTS THE PRIVILEGE

Moncton Delegation Leaves for Fredericton to Fight 'Dr. Smith's Bill.

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, April 22.—Temperance people backed by the Moncton City Council, will vigorously oppose legislation being promoted by the liquor interests of Shediac to prevent parties in Shediac being held outside of Shediac town and prosecuted in the town of Shediac, giving the police magistrate in Shediac the exclusive jurisdiction over summary offences in the town of Shediac. It is stated that the liquor element in Moncton is behind the movement to shut the Moncton police authorities out of Shediac in future, and Hon. Dr. Smith has the proposed amendment in hand.

Should the change being asked for be made there will be no more liquor raids on places in Shediac suspected of Scott Act violations.

At a special session of the city council today a delegation was appointed to go to Fredericton to oppose the Shediac movement.

The local branch of the Dominion Alliance has also met and taken steps to fight the change. This afternoon Mayor Toombs, City Solicitor Allen, Ald. F. C. Robinson from city council; Rev. P. A. Fitzpatrick, T. T. Goodwin and S. W. Irons from Dominion Alliance left for Fredericton to fight the matter out.

General Manager Hayes, assistant general manager C. B. Brown, Traffic Manager H. H. Melanson, General Superintendent L. S. Brown, Assistant Superintendent Devenish and General Freight Agent A. T. Weldon, left this afternoon for P. E. Island on inspection trip. The private car for Superintendent Grady, of P. E. Island crossed on the car ferry today to Port Borden.

THE CASUALTIES NUMBER 172

Thirteen Canadian Soldiers Killed in Action, Eleven die of Wounds, Seven Die and Three Presumed to Have Died.

Ottawa, April 22.—Tonight's list of 172 casualties reports thirteen Canadian soldiers killed in action, eleven died of wounds, seven died, one missing, three presumed to have died, one hundred and eight wounded, seven hundred and two ill.

Infantry.

Died of wounds: St. John.

R. V. Powell, St. John.

Wounded: L. L. Murray, New River, N. S.

K. J. Webber, St. Stephen, N. B.

T. E. Purdy, Amherst, N. S.

Lieut. W. E. Campbell, Amherst, N. S.

Gassed: H. Wandless, Fredericton, N. B.

H. Riley, address not stated.

Forestry Corps.

Wounded: D. L. Bruce, Little Shipigan, N. B.

A REGISTRATION OF MAN-POWER

Every Person Above Sixteen Years in Canada will be Obligated to Register by End of June.

Ottawa, April 22.—Registration of man-power throughout the Dominion is expected to be complete by the end of June. Announcement to this effect was made in the House of Commons tonight by Hon. F. B. McCurdy, one of the members of the Canada registration board.

Mr. McCurdy sketched, in some detail, the scope of the registration, and the means by which it will be carried. The Canada registration board, he said, was representative of all interests—of labor, of manufacturers, women workers, agriculture, with the addition of the chairman of the military service council.

The plan of operations is very similar to that employed for the purposes of a Dominion election. The electoral constituency will be the territorial unit. In charge of each constituency will be a registrar, whose duty it will be to provide a sufficient number of places of registration.

Upon a day that will be fixed by proclamation, every person sixteen years of age or over, will be requested to attend at one of the places of registration and there answer truthfully simple questions set forth upon a card.

FIVE CASES OF LIQUOR MISSING ON NORTH SHORE

Dominion Express Office at Chatham Broken Into and Spirit Taken.

CHIEF CONFRONTED WITH A MYSTERY

Mackenzie's Drug Store Also Robbed—Miramichi Ice Starts.

Chatham, April 22.—The Dominion Express office was broken into last night and five cases of liquor taken therefrom. A band of the front door was broken in by a heavy instrument allowing the thieves to enter. The goods had been held by the inspector on suspicion that the address was fictitious. Chief Coughlan in his search today for the stolen property secured a case, but it is doubtful if it is the stuff wanted. The impression is that the owners of the goods are the ones who carried them off.

Mackenzie's drug store was also entered Sunday night and the cash taken out of the till. Some cigarettes are also missing. In this case the front door was either left open or was easily forced. The door was found open with the lock turned. There were no marks of force being used.

The Miramichi ice took a start of Chatham this afternoon with the sobbing of the tide. The ice is still olding above town and to the north side and will probably hold till the full moon tides which come on a day or two.

THE HON. WILLIAM CURRIE IS CHARGED WITH DEFRAUDING PROVINCE IN LUMBER CUT

TRY TO AVOID BLOODSHED IN IRELAND

All Factions Endeavoring to Prevent Outbreak of the Physical Forces.

LABOR WILL HAVE A HOLIDAY TODAY

The Attitude of Nationalists Has Produced Unfortunate Situation.

By Arthur S. Draper. (Special Cable to the New York Tribune and St. John Standard.)

London, April 22.—Upon the developments in Ireland tomorrow much will depend. Organized labor is taking a holiday to consider its attitude toward conscription. It is expected the railways, tramways and electric light and power plants will shut down for the day as a proof of labor's hostility toward conscription.

After the lead given by the Roman Catholic church and the Nationalists and Sinn Fein politicians there is no doubt that labor will practically be in unanimous opposition to conscription. Both sides are exceedingly careful in giving no cause for a physical outbreak, as it is certain the first bloodshed would lead to a flood of violence which would dwarf the events of Dublin's Easter week.

Unfortunate Situation. The attitude of the Nationalists has produced a most unfortunate situation and though they have not adopted the Sinn Fein policy of refusing to take part in parliamentary proceedings their decision puts the government in an awkward position. The home rule measure will probably be introduced in the Commons next week. Ordinarily the Nationalists would take a leading part in the debate, but by absenting themselves they give the impression the bill is being passed over their heads and consequently they can refuse to put it into operation. That would mean nothing less than military rule in Ireland with a government similar to that which the enemy set up in Belgium.

Favor Moderation. One interpretation of the action of the Catholic hierarchy is that it intends to keep the opponents of conscription within the bounds of moderation. Then the decision to have the mayor of Dublin act as an emissary to President Wilson is also considered another step toward moderation. One government organ even suggests that both sides might welcome the president as mediator on the ground that the question is acutely interesting to America.

The third step toward moderation is found in the attitude of the Young Conservatives, of whose policy I have written already. They are becoming exceedingly active in efforts to find a harmonious solution for the sake of the whole allied cause.

At the moment Ireland is a highly disturbing factor, but her friends have not lost hope yet.

GEN. BRIDGES NAMED.

Washington, April 22.—Lieut. General G. T. M. Bridges of the British army, who recently arrived in Washington, has been made principal military advisor of the British ambassador and high commissioner, and head of all British military missions in the United States.

Accusations Made in Legislature Last Night by Hon. J. B. M. Baxter, and are Based on Affidavit Signed by Archibald Murchie, a Lumber Scaler of the Parish of Durham, Restigouche Co., who Alleges that Mr. Currie Induced Him to Reduce Figures Showing Cut of Continental Lumber Co.

Hon. Mr. Baxter Moves that Charges be Made the Subject of Investigation by Committee of Five Members of the House to be Given Power to Call Witnesses Under Oath—Speaker Currie Makes General Denial in an Affidavit of Mr. Murchie's Statements.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 22.—Just before adjournment in the Legislature tonight Hon. J. B. M. Baxter arose in his place and formally laid serious charges against Hon. William Currie, member for Restigouche, and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and gave notice that he would move that the charges be made the subject of investigation by a committee of five members of the House to be given power to call witnesses under oath.

The nature of the charges can be told in the formal notice of motion submitted by Mr. Baxter which is as follows:

"Whereas, John B. M. Baxter, a member of the Legislative Assembly of this province for the county of Saint John, has from his place in the House this day formulated certain charges against the Honorable William Currie, Speaker of this House and a member of the Legislative Assembly for the county of Restigouche, which he is credibly informed by the affidavit of Archibald Murchie of the parish of Durham, in the said county of Restigouche, lumber scaler, and believes he can establish by satisfactory evidence and which charges are:

The Allegations.

"That the said Honorable William Currie being then manager of the Continental Lumber Company, Limited, a duly incorporated company with its head office and chief place of business at Charlo, in the County of Restigouche, aforesaid, and a member-elect of this Legislative Assembly, in the month of April, 1917, did state to the said Archibald Murchie, being then a lumber scaler appointed by the government of the Province of New Brunswick, that he, the said Archibald Murchie, should not make his report on lumber cut by the said Continental Lumber Company, Limited, for the logging season of 1916 and 1917 too high but that he should keep it as low as possible and that he should not make it more than 4,500,000 feet for all lumber cut by the said company on crown lands during the winter season, 1916 and 1917, and urgently requested the said Murchie to keep his report down to 4,500,000 feet, that the said William Currie then knew that the said cut was upwards of 6,500,000 feet, that the said Murchie also stated to the said Murchie that he would look after him (Murchie) so the government would not make trouble for him if he should reduce the account to 4,500,000 feet, to which said William Currie replied that if he (Murchie) made the reduction he would have nothing to fear, that in consequence of such and other conversation of the said William Currie the said Murchie did reduce the statement of lumber scaled by him in the season of 1916 and 1917 cut by the said company on crown lands within the district for which he was manager from 6,789,853 feet to 4,615,562 feet, a reduction of 2,165,291 feet, that the said reduced statement was forwarded to the crown land department of the province by the said Murchie and such statement omitted altogether the

names of six operators of the said company whose operations were all known to said William Currie, that said William Currie caused stumpage to be paid by said company upon the said reduced amount, well knowing that it was not the full and proper amount of stumpage which was due to the province in respect of the operations of said company during the said season of 1916 and 1917 and thereby defrauded the said province of a portion of its revenue.

Committee Desired.

"Therefore resolved that a committee of the House consisting of five members be nominated by the House to examine into the said charges and to report whether they find the said Honorable William Currie guilty of so directing and requesting the said Archibald Murchie with reference to the returns which he should make of the cut of said company for the season of 1916 and 1917 and of thereby defrauding the provincial revenue, and that the said committee do proceed with such investigation until they have fully investigated such charges and reported upon the same to this House.

The Affidavit.

"The information upon which the charges are based is contained in an affidavit of Archibald Murchie, who in April, 1917, and previously was a lumber scaler in the employ of the government. Mr. Murchie's affidavit is as follows: I, Archibald Murchie, of the Parish of Durham, in the county of Restigouche and Province of New Brunswick, do hereby depose and say: (Continued on page 2)