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## GERMAN ATTACKS ON VERDUN GRADUALLY DWINDLING AND SHOW NO FURTHER PROGRESS

### Artillery Attack on Forts Six Miles to the East—Several Hundred Germans Cut Off in Fort Douaumont and Cannot Escape—War Risk Marine Insurance Sharply Advances—Another British Steamer Sunk and all Hands Lost.

#### GERMAN DRIVE GRADUALLY FADING.

PARIS, March 1.—The German drive on Verdun has made no further progress and is now dwindling according to latest reports from the front. The French troops still surround the remains of Fort Douaumont in which several hundred Germans are cut off.

The official statement today reports no change north of Verdun or in the Woëvre district.

A brisk artillery attack is being made by the enemy on forts De Vaux and De Tavatis, six miles east of Verdun.

#### BRITISH STEAMER SINKS WITH ALL ON BOARD.

LONDON, March 1.—The British steamer Thornby from West Hartlepool for Palermo has been torpedoed and sunk; all the crew were either killed or drowned.

#### INSURANCE RATES ADVANCE.

NEW YORK, March 1.—Rates of war risk insurance on Transatlantic

steamers and cargoes were advanced today in anticipation of the enforcement of Germany's policy of striking armed merchant ships without warning.

#### "NOTHING NEW" SAYS CONSTANTINOPLE.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 1.—There is nothing to report from any of the theatres of war, the war office announced today.

#### GERMAN SUBMARINE DID THE WORK.

PARIS, March 1.—The Minister of Marine today announced that a German submarine torpedoed and sank the French auxiliary cruiser Provence in the Mediterranean on Saturday with a loss of life now estimated between 900 and 1,100.

#### DISLOYAL COLONELS ACQUITTED.

ZURICH, March 1.—The court martial in the case of the two colonels accused of communicating secret military information has acquitted them, but has ordered them to be handed over to the military authorities for disciplinary proceedings.

## NINE HUNDRED LIVES ARE LOST WITH CRUISER

LONDON, March 1.—It is estimated that 900 persons were killed or drowned in the sinking of the French auxiliary cruiser, formerly the Transatlantic passenger steamer La Provence, in mid Mediterranean on Saturday. It was announced by the French ministry of marine today. Eighteen hundred men were on board the vessel when she went to her doom. About 870 were saved, of whom 296 have been landed at Malta, and 400 on the Greek island of Melos. About 175 others have also been rescued. Ten boats have been sent to the scene of the disaster in order to pick up, if possible, others who may be floating round on wreckage.

It is believed that she was being used as a transport for troops.

## Turk Army Cut to Pieces Through Russian Onset

PETROGRAD, March 1.—The Russian General Staff has issued the following further statement in reference to the Erzerum operations: "During the assault on the fortress several Turkish regiments were annihilated or taken prisoner with all their officers. On the line forts alone we took 197 artillery pieces of various calibres in good condition. In the defence works of the central fortress we took another 126 pieces. In the fortified region of Erzerum we took a large number of storehouses of various kinds, which have already been mentioned by the headquarters staff.

"The exact number of Turkish prisoners is 235 officers and 12,753 men.

"It is possible to estimate the force of the blow which we dealt the Turkish army by the fact that some of their army corps of three divisions now number only from three thousand to five thousand men, with a few guns. All of the remainder have either fallen into our hands or perished in the fighting or from cold.

"The Turkish prisoners captured in Erzerum or in the pursuit complain bitterly that their headquarters staff was concentrated in the hands of the Germans, who during the assault on the fortress were the first to abandon the fortified positions, causing panic and disorder among the already shaken Turkish troops."

## Thurlow Boy Wins Military Cross in France

Another Bay of Quinte boy has won great honor for himself and his native province in France. We refer to Lieut. E. Frank Lynn of Thurlow who has been awarded the Military Cross by the British War Department for distinguished gallantry on the field.

Lieut. Lynn held an angle jutting into the German lines with a small party after all the others had retired and with the assistance of a machine gun he prevented the Germans' advance.

He enlisted with the Canadian Engineers at Toronto and went with the First Contingent. He is a veteran of the South African war, and has of late years been employed with the Hydro-Electric Company.

## Funeral of Mrs. Wm. Cross

The funeral of the late Mrs. Chloe Cross took place from the home of her daughter, Mrs. Reid, Yeomans St., this morning. Service was conducted at the house by Rev. E. C. Currier, pastor of John Street Presbyterian Church. There were many beautiful floral tributes. The bearers were immediate friends of deceased. Interment took place at Roslin.

## Laid at Rest.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Elliott took place from her home 100 Bridge St. West yesterday afternoon. Religious services at the house were conducted by Rev. H. S. Osborne, assisted by Rev. R. N. Adams and Rev. A. M. Hubby. There were numerous beautiful floral tributes. The bearers were Messrs. P. C. Jones, C. N. Sullivan, C. S. Clapp, E. B. Frederick and F. S. Deacon. Interment took place at Belleville Cemetery.

**A Safe Pill for Sufferers.**—There are pills that violently purge and fill the stomach and intestines with pain. Parmelee's Vegetable Pills are mild and effective. They are purely vegetable, no mineral purgative entering into their composition and their effect is soothing and beneficial. Try them and be convinced. Thousands can attest their great curative qualities because thousands owe their health and strength to timely use of this most excellent medicine.

## KING FERDINAND VISITS FRANZ JOSEPH.

AMSTERDAM, March 1.—It is announced from Vienna that King Ferdinand of Bulgaria has arrived in that city on a visit to Emperor Francis Joseph.

## BILINGUAL CLAUSE REPEALED ON SECOND READING.

WINNIPEG, March 1.—The Manitoba Legislature gave the second reading last night to the bill repealing the bilingual clause by a vote of 16 to 8.

## G.T.R. STATION AT MONTREAL BURNED.

MONTREAL, March 1.—Fire starting in a file room destroyed the Bonaventure station of the Grand Trunk Railway this morning. The cause of the outbreak was thought by the police from their first investigation to have been faulty electric wiring, but there are suspicions of incendiarism. The loss is estimated at \$300,000, as the building was an old one. The station was also used by the government railways Bellevue and Central Vermont.

## CONGRESS WILL HAVE TO ADOPT WILSON POLICY

WASHINGTON, March 1.—President Wilson decided today that he cannot proceed with the German submarine negotiations while discussion in congress weakens his position before the world, so he called for a show-down on the pending proposals to warn Americans of merchant ships of the European belligerents armed for defence.

Making clear that he considers the President, and not congress, charged with the conduct of foreign relations of the United States, he wrote a letter to Representative Pott, acting chairman of the house rules committee, asking him to provide parliamentary means for bringing the agitation into the open on the floor of the house for full discussion and a vote.

Later he summoned Senator Stone and Representative Flood, chairman of the foreign affairs committee, and Senator Kern, majority leader in the Senate, for a conference at the White House today, at which he will request that one of the various pending resolutions be acted upon in both houses. Administration leaders are so sure of their position that they plan to end all agitation with a vote of confidence in the president.

## British Columbia Also to Vote on Prohibition

VANCOUVER, March 1.—Premier Bowser came to terms today with the prohibitionists and at the end of the year this province will be almost certain to join the dry column. The premier agreed to the prohibitionists' proposal to submit a referendum to the electors at the election, which must take place before June 1. A majority of the electors will be sufficient to carry the measure, which is to become law on Jan. 1 a year later.

**A Chance For Those Going West.**—Homeseekers' Excursions O.P.R. Homeseekers' Excursions to Western Canada at low fares via Canadian Pacific each Tuesday, March 7th to October 31st inclusive. Particulars from any Canadian Pacific Agent, or W. B. Howard, District Passenger Agent, Toronto.

## MILITARY NOTES.

Two more 15th handmen have enlisted; Messrs. Brown and Bell.

The enlisted strength of the 155th is now over 750 men. They hope to be full strength by April 1st.

It has not been determined yet whether the 155th will mobilize at Belleville, Barriefield or Valcartier.

Col. Hemming, officer commanding the Third Division came to the city yesterday in order to be present at the 80th Band Concert last night. He was accompanied by Col. Stewart, Inspector of Supplies, Major Wilson, Major Gillespie and Capt. Kane of the 148th. In the afternoon, Col. Hemming inspected the detachment of the 155th located here, and the non-commissioned officers' class of about fifty members made up of the newcomers from the various recruiting centers in the Hastings and Prince Edward district. He expressed himself as greatly pleased with the proficiency shown by the class.

From the 15th to the 28th of Feb. the 155th has taken in 113 recruits. It is gratifying to learn that a much higher percentage of Canadians are offering, and now reaches nearly 75 per cent., as will be shown by the fact that of the 113 recruits mentioned 80 are Canadians. Of the remainder 25 are English, 3 Scotch, 3 Irish and one American.

The results of the recruiting campaign for January have just been published. The highest award goes to Q.M. Sgt. Birdin who made the splendid record of 23 recruits. Pte. S. Sinclair comes next with 9 recruits and Pte. A. Dunn 3rd with 8.

At the Bridge St. recruiting office of the 155th five god recruits were secured yesterday. These were: F. D. Adams, F. Smith, D. Brown, H. H. Lawrence and J. Huddleston. Fifty-six recruits have been secured at this office since the 24th of February.

The only change in the position of Capt. Hyman, Capt. Willis and Q.M. Sgt. Birdin. In the work of recruiting they are being ably assisted by Sgt. J. Boyle, Corp. Rowe, Corp. Tilbrook and Ptes. Assisting, Edmundson, Winters and J. Coughlin.

An energetic and systematic canvass of the entire city is shortly to be instituted in the city in which every man of recruiting age will be requested to fill out blanks giving particulars as to age, military fitness and reasons for not enlisting. It is hoped in this way to establish recruiting upon a more business-like basis.

Lieut. L. E. Birkett of the 80th Battalion, Belleville, who has been ill with pneumonia at the home of his parents in Kingston, for the past five weeks, was removed to the Kingston General Hospital Sunday night for a slight operation which it is expected will hasten his complete recovery. Lieut. Birkett, the son of Mr. John Birkett of the Locomotive Works, and his host of friends will hope for a complete and speedy recovery to health and a return to duty with his Regiment in the 80th Batt.

Lt. Candwell, Capt. Harper, Capt. Hudgins, Capt. Gimney and Capt. Nichols will proceed to Kingston this afternoon to take their final qualifying examinations.

Field officers' course is being held in Kingston commencing March 7th. The following officers of the 80th will attend—Capt. Watson, Capt. Gilroy, Capt. Ketcheson and Capt. Lockert. The course will last about two weeks.

The strength of the 155th battalion at the various centers is as follows: Belleville 218, Madoc 64, Trenton 65, Tweed 48, Marmora 44, Pictou 96, Deseronto 46, Gos Hill 37, Bancroft 56, Wellington 32, Marlbank 25, Making a total of 759.

The 155th orchestra went to Stirling last evening.

Col. Adams has returned from Picton.

Ten members of the Signalling Class of the 155th battalion went to Kingston yesterday to attend the school.

**The Flood Subsiding.**—The flood which yesterday threatened to become serious in the business and low-lying sections of the city fortunately started to subside about noon yesterday. The level is now about a foot lower than it was yesterday morning. It is hoped that the arrival of somewhat milder weather will cause the trouble to pass harmlessly.

## Belleville Branch Patriotic Fund

The total amount subscribed to the fund in Belleville as stated in the press on 10th April, 1915 was \$46,182.50. Sundry additional contributions, and promises from citizens who were away when the canvass was in progress, increased this amount by about \$300 more, and \$5.94 of bank interest, brought up the grand total promised to \$47,600.

The total amount of cash paid in to 21st Feb. 1916 was \$4,743.69. The unpaid balances of the amount promised as per auditors' list is \$174.95 of which 2,500 (the second half of the city's contribution) will come in as the balance of 1916 taxes are collected. The remaining 2,274 is made up of three balances overdue between \$20 and 100, each note between 50 and 100, and 150 amounts of 25 each and under.

Subscribers in arrears have been notified by mail, but in case notices have been mislaid they are requested to call upon the Bank of Montreal or the Public Library or at the Citizens' Bank and ask for the Auditor's Lists to make sure that their own promises really have been made good. It is important that there should be no further delay in closing up the fund's accounts by the 19th of Feb.

The total payments to soldiers' families in Belleville from 24th August 1914 to 28th Feb. 1916 is \$24,828.46.

The present monthly disbursements are about \$2,600 which will grow larger as more families are added to the lists.

The treasurer begs to acknowledge with thanks the following payments since added to the lists published up to 19th February:

Dr. A. E. MacColl, Feb. 5.00  
Marchants Bank staff, Feb. 5.00  
L. B. Cooper, Feb. 10.00  
W. A. Rodbourne, Feb. 25.00  
W. B. Deacon, Dec. Jan. Feb. 30.00  
Jno. Parker and Son, Feb. 20.00  
R. W. Adams, Feb. 2.00  
Belleville Lodge No. 81 I.O.O.F. Feb. 5.00

## Details of Arthur Johnson's Wound

Arthur L. Johnson, 21st Battalion who was wounded at the front recently, received a sniper's bullet just below the left eye. The missile passed out at the left side of the neck. The same bullet also passed through the right side of the neck, and a sharp fragment of bone was cut out in a charge of a wire snare. The wound was very serious, and the latter was returning when the crack of a rifle was heard. Almost instantly the bullet struck Mr. Johnson.

This information was conveyed in a letter from Col. Hughes, commanding officer of the 21st, to Mr. Johnson's brother in Toronto.

The bullet wound is a clean cut and no serious complications have followed.

## At Osgoode Hall

Before Hon. Mr. Justice Brannon in Chambers, Monday, Feb. 28th. Way vs. Shaw.—W. C. Mikel, K.C. on behalf of defendant applied to have date fixed to receive the evidence of Aida Shaw, Birk and any evidence the plaintiff was allowed to give, and also to put in further evidence.

Order made that no further evidence be received and that Thursday, March 23rd be fixed to receive evidence in the above case at 10 o'clock. E. Gus Fortet, K.C. for Plaintiff.

## Presentation to Past Chief

Last evening a very pleasant gathering took place at the residence of Mr. Wm. McIntosh, Fortin street, on the occasion of presenting Mr. D. H. McRae, past chief of Rob Roy Camp of the Sons of Scotland with a past chief's jewel and a wrist watch. Mr. McRae filled the office of chief of the camp during the past year, and to show the great appreciation of Mr. McRae's valuable services to the Society he was asked to accept a beautiful past master's jewel. Mr. McRae has resided in the English Hotel at Ottawa for overseas service and as a further evidence of his popularity and the high esteem in which he is held, he was presented with a beautiful wrist watch suitably inscribed. All who were present joined in wishing Mr. McRae every good wish and a safe return from the front. Mr. McRae feelingly replied and said, he would not soon forget this kind welcome he received from the Scotch friends who first he arrived here, and he would always have very kind thoughts of the many friends he had left behind in Belleville. With song and music a pleasant evening was spent, and after partaking of Mr. and

## Married

FINKLE-RANSAY. A quiet wedding was solemnized at the Bayside parsonage, Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 23, when Miss Winnie Finkle-Ransay, of Arundale, was united in marriage to Mr. Raymond Finkle, Bayside's popular chess maker. Their pastor, Mr. F. G. Jobbin officiated. The bride was attended by Miss Gussie Gardiner, while the bridesmaids were supplied by Mr. Norman Brown. The happy couple left for Toronto and western points, accompanied by the hearty good wishes of their many friends for a prosperous and joyous life together.

## GRAND SUCCESS WON BY BOTH BAND IN HIGH-CLASS CONCERT

### Splendid Programme Given Last Night To Crowded House—"Canada's Foremost Military Band" is Opinion of Critics Who Witnessed Their Performance.

Griffin's Theatre was packed last night at the initial appearance of the Band of the 80th Battalion, C.E.F., and Miss Victoria Stares, assisting soprano soloist.

Bandmaster Stares has a splendid organization of which he may be justly proud and their work last night stamps them as the foremost military band in Canada and one of the best on the continent. Mr. Stares had the band well in hand at all times and the musicians responded instantly to the slightest move of his baton.

Bandmaster Stares is a musical director of marked ability. He is forceful, direct, sympathetic and sincere, rising to intense height of passionate frenzy and leading the band through the most intricate passages with masterly skill. Mr. Stares is a leader on whom his band may depend absolutely.

He brings in the various instruments by a nod and when the climax is reached they have but to look to him for inspiration.

Miss Victoria Stares, Soprano, of Hamilton, was the assisting artist and she won the hearts of everyone by her beautiful songs. Miss Stares has a sweet clear voice, a perfect articulation and enunciation and gave thorough interpretation of the most difficult songs. She is undoubtedly a true artist—one felt a sense of security when she appeared and her most intricate numbers seemed quite easy to her. Miss Stares also has a voice of great volume and was a success in every way.

William, the soprano, of the 80th Battalion, introduced soft work and delicate shading in all sections of the band, but particularly in the reeds, a realistic rumble of thunder is heard in the distance which continues from time to time. Then an allegro movement follows softly and gradually increases in force and volume until the storm is right over our heads. The effect was wonderful here and it was plainly seen that a great deal of careful work had been spent bringing the orchestra to such absolute perfection.

The storm subsides slowly and a peaceful shepherd's song, a well-played oboe solo by Musician E. Hunter, commences a bird-like flute obbligato breaks in and relieves the oboe solo and this was particularly well done by Musician Lambert. Then a flourish of trumpets, proclaiming a call to arms—the quick stepping of horses' feet coming to a gallop, the clanking of chain coming right up to us then going away in the distance. All these were done in inimitable style by the band. The staccato work and shading in the movement was splendid and every section seemed to fairly excel itself by line work and artistic phrasing. The final climax of the overture brought cheer after cheer from the crowded house and for an encore, Mr. Stares gave us, Irvak's Humoresque, which was a distinct success as a band number—from the delectable first movement of the majestic and back to the first style again.

Miss Stares then sang "The Flower Song" by Agnes Lambert. This gave Miss Stares scope for her beautiful voice and an encore was called for. She responded with a lighter number which proved delightful.

The Red, White and Blue was an appropriate solo played by Musician Eldon Brethorn and he showed that he was a finished performer on the instrument. Coupled with his playing is an ease of execution, a graceful style and general artistic manner which made the audience demand an encore. Musician Brethorn played "The Rosary" by Nevin and it was better than the program number.

The next piece was Elgar's "Salut d'Armour" and this lovely work was played in finished style by the band. A Gavotte "Les Cloches de St. Malo" with bell effects was entirely different from the preceding number and was so good that it called for an encore, and it was here that perhaps the finest work of the concert was given. Opening with a chime solo by L. Cumming, and then drifting softly like a huge organ into "Nearer My God to Thee" and finishing with the chimes in a gripping climax, not a few were present whose eyes filled with tears. It is safe to say that this old hymn as played by the 80th band will not be soon forgotten.

"Echoes from the Metropolitan" was a rare treat for several of the grand opera songs are welded into a selection which was pleasing to everyone. Sgt. Cumming responded in the encore to this number by playing "Killerney" in perfect style. His work stamps him as a thoroughly capable performer and Mr. Stares is fortunate in having such a grand man as his solo cornet.

"Shepherd Thy Demetour Vary" was Miss Stares' next song and here she again distinguished herself with her easy high notes and tonal coloring. As an encore to this Miss Stares generously gave another encore—"Wake Up", which won everyone completely. Although this was Miss Stares' first visit to Belleville she will always be popular here and should she return a crowded house will again greet her.

Musician David Talmer performed excellently on a clarinet solo. His execution is very brilliant and he was at all times perfect master of his instrument. It is a decided treat to hear a musician of his ability perform. He was obliged to play an encore.

The concluding number Overture—1911 (Coronation) by Hume was significantly interesting number. Hume has skillfully woven together the national airs of the British Empire into a work which rivals the finest composition of all times. The overture is along the line of "1812" overture and is a masterpiece. Mr. Stares interpreted it very cleverly and the way he drew the band up to climax and had them through last, sustained a great deal of time with full bloom and symphonic effect, and brings to a close a beautiful number, well played.

A fitting close to the program was the national anthems of France, Russia and Great Britain.

W. Ernest Wheatley, Mus. Bac. A.R.C.O., played Miss Stares' accompaniment in excellent style. His artistic mastery of the piano was a fine background to Miss Stares' solos. Mr. Wheatley's work was splendid.

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La-Ole, Ketcheson was a mighty pleased man last night and his genial smile showed that he was well satisfied and rapid for all his arduous work in securing such a band. The band is one which reflects great credit on the entire Dominion and Lt.-Col. Ketcheson has a right to be proud of it. The citizens of Belleville are deeply grateful for what he has done.

The following members of the 80th Divisional Staff were also present—Col. Hemming, O. C., Lt.-Col. Margson, Lt.-Col. Stewart, Major Gillespie and Major Wilson.

Officers of the 80th present were Lt.-Col. W. G. Ketcheson, Captain Watson, Capt. Harper, Lt. Candwell and others.

## John Street Jots

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed next Sunday at the morning service. Preparatory service will be held on Friday evening at eight o'clock.

Rev. R. Laird, M.A., secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Finance, will meet with the session and managers at 7:30 the same evening.

The Presbytery of Kingston will meet in Queen's College, Kingston on Tuesday next at 10 a.m.

The Guild held its regular meeting on Monday evening at 2 Forth St. and enjoyed a social hour afterwards. An invitation was accepted to meet at 12 West More street on next Monday evening. Plan to be there.

The concert and social given last evening under the auspices of the W. M. S. was both very interesting and well attended. The singing of Mrs. Duff, Mrs. Singer, Miss Lobb, Miss Vandervort and Mr. D. M. Clark was much appreciated and provoked encores. The same was true of Miss Tuttle's readings, which were three selections from her choice repertoire. The missionary dialogue made a good variation of the program and implied a good deal of memory work in preparation. Those who took part in it were Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Currie, Mrs. Mathison and Miss Isabel Adams. After the program the audience retired to the lecture room where refreshments were served and an hour was spent in a social way.

Woolhouse Calf Meat—Perry. Poultry Supplies, all kinds—Perry. Pratt's Animal Remedies—Perry.