

The Freeman, Times & Star

VOL. XIV., No. 163.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1915

TWELVE PAGES—ONE CENT

HUN DRIVE TOWARDS CHANNEL PORTS IS CHECKED

Progress Seems Definitely Stopped There as it is in The Combat in Picardy

Neuve Eglise Changes Hands Several Times and Germans Hold it Now; Seven Heavy Attacks Upon British Repulsed; One Assault in Five Waves

Fighting heroically in hand-to-hand engagements, British troops have checked the German drive in the region west of Arrmentieres and this enemy effort, like the one in Picardy, seems almost definitely stopped. The Germans have spent thousands of lives in reckless and insistent attacks to break through the British lines or to destroy the British army but the effort has been without the result desired.

About Neuve Eglise and before Baillied, Field Marshal Haig's battered divisions have been putting up a desperate resistance to the Germans. Neuve Eglise has changed hands several times in furious fighting and is now held by the Germans after a fight in which the enemy suffered grievously. It is an important strategic point as it is one of the outposts of the Messines Ridge.

Although they have been but a little more than a mile from Baillied, a valuable position, for two days, the Germans have not been able to advance more than several hundred yards. West of the town the Germans have been repulsed in heavy attacks and south, around Merris, their efforts also have gone for naught. On the remainder of the battle front in Artois there has been no change but were dispersed by artillery fire. In Flanders and along the Messines Ridge there have been no further attacks and the British still hold the heights on the south unchallenged.

There has been no activity on the Picardy battle front and on the remainder of the western front except for artillery duels.

Against the Americans' sector south of Verdun, German storming troops hurled themselves on Sunday. American infantrymen beat back the enemy in hot fighting. The enemy withdrew to his trenches with the loss of nearly 100. North-west of Toul, the Germans have not reported the attacks which cost them 400 casualties.

London, April 15—Seven attacks by the Germans in the Merris sector of the northern battle front have been repulsed by the British, who inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. This is announced officially.

The British have lost Neuve Eglise. Southwest of Baillied the Germans temporarily penetrated the British positions, but were driven out by a counter-attack.

British Official. "Severe fighting continued all day yesterday around Neuve Eglise. After a series of attacks, our troops were in the end compelled to withdraw a second time from the village. Strong attacks were made by the enemy yesterday afternoon at a number of other points on the battle front. North-west of Merris fierce fighting took place, as a result of which the attacking German infantry were driven back with great loss. The hostile infantry advancing along the northern bank of the Lys were caught by the fire of our artillery and were unable to develop their attack."

"In the course of the day no fewer than seven attacks were delivered by the enemy in the Merris sector, all of which were driven back with heavy loss to his troops. In one case the enemy advanced to the assault in five waves. Under the weight of this attack our line was bent back slightly but was completely restored by a counter-attack."

"Southwest of Baillied parties of the enemy succeeded temporarily in penetrating our positions, but were driven out by our counter-attack and our line was restored."

"Successful minor operations were carried out by us during the night east of Robecq. Several machine guns and 150 prisoners were captured by us."

"Fighting took place early this morning south of the Somme, in the neighborhood of Hangard. Our position in this sector has been improved and a number of prisoners have been taken. The hostile artillery was active last night in the neighborhood of Buequoy."

French Announcement. Paris, April 15—On the front above Mont Didier the French made a successful local attack last night, taking prisoners. The statement follows: "In the region of Hangard the French carried out a local operation with complete success and took ten prisoners. Since April 12 we have taken 150 prisoners in this sector."

"Between Mont Didier and Noyon, and in the Champagne, south of Mont Tetu, we carried out several raids and brought back prisoners. A German effort north of the Chemin des Dames, southeast of Corbeny, was without success. There were intermittent bombardment at several points on the front."

American Front. With the American Army in France, April 14—(By the Associated Press)—The American troops northwest of Toul again were subjected to a violent artillery bombardment on Saturday night. The American batteries sent back an equal number of shells. The Germans made no further attempt to penetrate the lines.

Two German fighting planes were shot down this morning inside the American lines. Both the enemy aviators were made prisoners.

Has Airplane Gets Through. Have, April 15—An enemy airplane succeeded in passing observation posts without being reported and flew over the district, says an official note issued here. Several bombs were dropped near one of the camps for German prisoners. The material damage was slight, and there were no casualties.

Easy For Leonard. Philadelphia, April 15—Benny Leonard won a victory over Jack Brazo of Hazelton, Pa., here on Saturday night. The bout was stopped in the fourth round to save Brazo.

BOYS' CLUB ENTERTAINED. Saturday evening was one to be remembered by the members of the St. John Boys' Club. They were the guests of the Junior members of the Natural History Society. Accompanied by Mrs. W. C. Good, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Scott, they went to the society's rooms, where William McIntosh and Mrs. McIntosh, A. Gordon Leavitt and a large group of the girl juniors bade them welcome. Mr. McIntosh had an array of guns and rifles and in the British army in the first two hundred years, and told the boys a most interesting story of the development from the old fuses to the Ross and Lee-Enfield rifle. The boys were greatly enjoyed. Miss Greta Love sang to them, James Hoyt recited, and the boys, with Mrs. Good at the piano, sang some choruses. Willie Tait moved and Peter Berry seconded a vote of thanks to the society, and Mr. Belding expressed the thanks of the executive. Ample refreshments were served before the boys joined in the national anthem.

Czermin Has Resigned

Publication of Futile Peace Appeal Sent Out By Emperor One Cause of Downfall

Amsterdam, April 15—Count Czermin, Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, according to a despatch from Vienna, has resigned.

Emperor Charles accepted the resignation and entrusted Count Czermin with the conduct of foreign affairs until his successor is appointed.

Emperor Charles, according to a Vienna despatch dated Saturday to the Berliner Tageblatt, has cancelled a visit he intended to make to Budapest. Important announcements on Austro-Hungarian foreign and internal policies were to have been made.

The recent publication by the French government of the futile peace appeal sent out by Emperor Charles of Austria-Hungary in March, 1917, and the efforts of the emperor and the Austro-Hungarian foreign office to explain this letter to the satisfaction of Germany and the German emperor, probably were the most potent instances in bringing about the resignation of Count Czermin.

Italian Comment. Rome, April 15—The Italian press commenting on a controversy that has arisen between the French premier, M. Clemenceau, and the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, Count Czermin, insists that at the time Emperor Charles wrote the letter to Prince Sixtus of Bourbon, another letter was sent to the Pope.

The idea of a "pacific offensive" against Italy, which was the subject of the letter, was not a part of Austria and Germany, and that it was a joint movement to deceive both France and the Vatican. According to another source the letter to the Pope was written by Empress Zita.

A decree may soon be issued in Rome limiting the consumption of meat to three days a week.

harbor of St. John, or return to us the amount stated in this letter."

The communication was referred to the committee of the N. B. Power Company for \$7,410.78 for street lighting for three months ending March 31, was ordered paid.

Commissioner Russell reported recommending that a renewal lease issue to Theodore Stackhouse of Lot No. 274, B. 1, 1917, at \$17.00 per annum; that a renewal lease issue to Freddie M. C. Killan of Lot No. 793, Queen's ward, for seven years from May 1, 1916, at \$25 per annum; that a renewal lease issue to Andrew Fox of parts two and three block 6, Lancaster, for seven years from May 1, 1916, at \$25 per annum; and that the offer of Isabella C. Nice of \$900 for the conveyance to her in fee simple of lot No. 565, Germaine street, was accepted and proper deed executed.

The present rental being only \$5 per annum.

The recommendations were adopted.

Resolution authorizing an inquiry, moved by Commissioner McLellan, was adopted. It was agreed that Harry R. McLellan, commissioner of public safety, be a committee to hold an inquiry under the provisions of the act of assembly of May 1, 1914, at \$25 per annum, and that the matter of alleged mistreatment by the police of the late James V. Vanwart, who was arrested by the police on or about March 25 last.

On motion of Commissioner Fisher, he was authorized to engage Frank Wade to curb the curbing in Union street, where paving is to be laid by the city, at 65 cents a lineal foot. He explained that Mr. Wade's tender for street work was fifty-five cents while the others were seventy cents and he thought this was the best he could do. The total will be about \$1,200, which will be less than the engineer's estimate.

Commissioner Fisher recommended that Ruby Johnston, driver of an auto truck, have his wages raised to \$80.

Commissioner McLellan charged that this man had tried to collect wages from the city for time when he was employed by a local firm.

The matter stood over.

An increase to \$4 a day for Frank J. Goodwin, mechanical superintendent in the department of public works, was approved. Commissioner McLellan dissenting on the grounds that it was a bad precedent.

A request that a report be prepared on the cost of extending the water system in Lancaster, opposite the Earle property, was submitted by the mayor and the report was ordered.

A letter from G. G. Hare, accepting the position of city engineer, was ordered filed.

On the report of the secretary that G. W. Macaulay had been elected a member of No. 2 salvage corps, the necessary warrant was ordered issued.

J. C. Chesley, marine agent, wrote advising that tugboat captains and others are finding the Split Rock in the reversing falls a serious menace since its top was removed during the C. P. R. boring operations and since the highway bridge was lighted. He reported that the land is the property of the provincial government and asked that the city take up the matter of having a light placed to act as a warning of the location of the lot. The letter was referred to the commissioner of harbors and the city solicitor.

A memorial, signed by W. H. Thorne and other property owners, protesting against the sidewalk occupation act and asking that the city take up the matter to the council and ordered referred to the commissioner of public works and the city solicitor.

Commissioner Russell moved that W. G. Charlton, clerk and collector in the harbor master's office, receive \$1,000 a year, an advance from \$902. No action was taken.

Serious For Government

Opposition To Irish Conscription

Labor Party Against it—Grave Difficulties Unless Matters Early Arranged—The Situation in Ireland

London, April 15—At the week-end a serious state of affairs developed affecting the position of the Lloyd George government, according to the parliamentary correspondent of the Daily News.

The Labor party, he says, is opposed to Irish conscription, and the Labor ministers are considering whether they can support the government.

George N. Barnes, a member of the war cabinet, is said to be in complete disagreement with the government on the Irish conscription policy.

If the government's proposals are pressed forward in the way indicated by Premier Lloyd George and Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar Law, the correspondent adds, it is possible the Liberal executive will call on the Labor ministers to withdraw from the government.

Some Liberal members are believed to be very much averse to Irish conscription.

The situation, it is added, will have to be composed today or tomorrow, or the government will be in grave difficulties.

REPORTED TERMS OF HOME RULE BILL. London, April 15—A committee of the British cabinet is now drafting an Irish home rule bill, says the parliamentary correspondent of the Daily Telegraph.

An Irish parliament and executive will be established with full powers over internal legislation and administration and over direct taxation. Representation in the imperial parliament will be retained in the form of a delegation of forty-two Irish members.

Supreme authority of the imperial parliament will be recognized by the reservation of powers relating to the crown, to foreign relations, to the army and navy and to minor services and interests. Control of the police and post office will be retained for the period of the war. The completion of land purchases will be expedited.

For the period of the war and two years afterward the control of customs and excise will be reserved. So soon as possible after the establishment of an Irish parliament, a joint executive board will be set up to determine the true revenue of Ireland. On the conclusion of the war a commission will be appointed to examine impartially and thoroughly the financial relations of Great Britain and Ireland, to report what contribution Ireland ought to make to imperial expenditures and to submit proposals as to the best means of adjusting the economic and fiscal relations of the two countries.

Provision, the correspondent continues, probably will be made for the appointment of an Ulster commission within the Irish parliament with power to modify or even exclude the application from Ulster of measures of legislation or administration which may not be deemed consonant with the interests of the province.

Oppose Conscription. Dublin, April 15—Large meetings to oppose conscription were held yesterday in Armagh, Limerick, Tullamore, Omagh, Carlow, Cashel and other places. They were not interfered with and there was no disturbance.

Cardinal Logue, primate of Ireland, preaching at Dugganstown, said the conscription proposal for Ireland was the gravest blunder the government had made.

This, he said, would lead to the utmost disorder and would be met with the most strenuous passive resistance. Anything in the nature of organized physical resistance was to be deprecated, and would not be favored by him. The cardinal said he had called a meeting of Irish Bishops for next Thursday when resolutions would be adopted.

The Most Rev. Michael Fogarty, Bishop of Killaloe, publishes his view that the people are entitled to resist, adding that it is for the nation to decide the most effective form of such resistance.

Bishop James Naughton, preaching at Ballina, said, having regard for agricultural requirements, Ireland had already given more than the first portion for the army and that the numbers would have been larger but for the unsympathetic policy of the government.

PUT HOME RULE IN SECOND PLACE. Chattanooga, Tenn., April 14—Resolutions protesting against the opposition of Irish Nationalist leaders to conscription in Ireland were adopted here today in a mass meeting of Irishmen and citizens of Irish lineage. A copy was called to John Dillon, Nationalist leader in parliament. The resolutions said that home rule and other questions that affected Ireland must be subordinated to the more pressing duty of successfully prosecuting the war against Germany.

Three soldiers were killed, ten seriously injured and thirty-five slightly injured today in a wreck on the Long Island Railroad near Central Islip, N. Y. All were said to be from Camp Upton.

OWNERS OBJECT TO THE SIDEWALKS OCCUPATION ACT

Memorial Presented to Common Council This Morning

INQUIRY AUTHORIZED

Commissioner McLellan Will Investigate Police Treatment of Late James V. Vanwart—Fred Belyea Asks \$7,000 for Loss of Shad Fishing

A vigorous protest against the sidewalk occupation act, which provides for rental charges by the city for sidewalk openings communicating with basements, was presented to the common council this morning.

A bill of the Home for Aged, was made by J. Fred Belyea in a letter submitted to the council. It was referred to the harbor commissioner and city solicitor.

A demand for \$1,000 as compensation for the loss of shad fisheries on city fishing lots, due to the action of the federal government in prohibiting the catching of shad, was made by J. Fred Belyea in a letter submitted to the council. It was referred to the harbor commissioner and city solicitor.

The need for a light at Split Rock as an aid to navigation in the reversing falls was pointed out by J. C. Chesley, agent for the marine department. The matter will be taken up with the provincial government.

Commissioner McLellan was authorized to conduct an inquiry into the alleged mistreatment of James V. Vanwart, who died after being taken under the provisions of the Rotary Club Act.

A large amount of routine business was transacted by the city commissioner this morning. In committee and then in council Mayor Russell, Fisher and Commissioner McLellan were present.

Commissioner Fisher reported that the "hood lights" authorized for additional protection of the Sand Point docks have been installed and that the bill for \$1,479 was ordered paid. A bill for \$312.97 for twenty tons of muck-negated canal coal, ordered in Glasgow by the city, was also ordered paid.

Commissioner Russell submitted a recommendation that an offer of \$500 for the purchase of the lot of J. D. Seely in settlement of his claim for \$124 for loss occasioned by the city not repairing a wharf leased to him, was accepted.

Commissioner McLellan supported the motion, which was carried, the mayor and Commissioner Fisher voting against it.

The committee arose and went into council.

A claim for \$100 on behalf of Mrs. Margaret Lelachur for damage to her property in Brussels street by employees of the water and sewerage department, presented by E. N. Jones, was referred to the department of water and sewerage.

J. F. Belyea Wants \$7,000. A letter was received from J. Fred Belyea drawing attention to the fact that shad fishing has been prohibited by the dominion government. He says in his letter:

"It will be necessary for the city of St. John to meet us in a fair spirit and return to us a fair proportion of the money paid for the purpose of being allowed to prosecute shad fishing the same as in former years. We estimate this right to be worth \$7,000 of the total amount paid to you in license fees. We trust that, as the season for shad fishing is near at hand and as we have made considerable preparation to prosecute this fishery, you will take immediate steps to have the Department of Marine and Fisheries apply to the regulation re close season for shad to the

GIVES LIFE IN WAR

Private Harold Keleher of West End Succumbs to Wounds

Mrs. Patrick Keleher of 86 City Line, was advised yesterday afternoon that her son, Private Harold Keleher, had died of wounds.

On Thursday Mrs. Keleher was advised that he had been wounded. He was twenty-two years old and enlisted with the 140th battalion. On his arrival in England with that unit he was transferred to another battalion. Prior to going overseas he was learning his trade as a mason.

Besides his parents he leaves three brothers, Fred, James and John, all of West St. John, and two sisters, Miss Agnes at home and Mrs. Cleary of Montreal. Private Keleher was well known on the west side of the harbor and the news of his death will be learned with general regret.

IMPORTANT THINGS TODAY AT MEETING OF ROTARY CLUB

This beautiful spring day lent zest to the Rotary Club's discussion of war gardens.

President Estabrook announced that the club would soon be open in the Union street building. Geo. L. Warwick presided at a group of Rotarians.

An Irish senate of sixty-four members, he adds, will be constituted by allotting representation to different interests. The Irish house of commons will consist of 200 members, eighty guaranteed to be Unionists chosen in the south by nomination and in Ulster by an additional direct election.

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WILL NOT VOTE ON HARBOR PLAN NEXT MONDAY

Majority of Council Decides To Await for Full Details

Commissioner Wigmore Sends Urging Telegram in Which Proposed Terms Are Set Out; Commissioners Favor Principle

There will be no plebiscite on next Monday on the proposal to turn the harbor and city harbor facilities over to a federal harbor commission. This matter was discussed by the common council at a meeting this morning when an urgent telegram from Commissioner R. W. Wigmore, M. P., requesting that action be taken was read.

There was some opposition by Commissioners McLellan and Fisher to the taking of a plebiscite until the full details of the proposals could be laid before the citizens. The mayor explained that the plebiscite would merely affirm the principle and leave the city free to make the bargain, but on the advice vote of the two commissioners mentioned, his resolution that the vote be taken at the time of civic final elections, was declared lost. The commissioners who spoke all expressed their approval of the principle.

The mayor submitted the following telegram: Ottawa, April 9, 1915. Absolutely necessary that plebiscite on harbor commission be taken at coming election on next Monday. Details of matter before council to go before legislature this session on following terms: Assuming harbor independent, pay for wharves on which bonds have been redeemed or no bonds existing, at fair valuation. Reserve ferry approaches, also fishing privileges in harbor. Private wharves under same conditions present under city control. Do not see how it could be any more definite at this time. Ministers must have assurance in way of above plebiscite that the citizens are favorable to commission.

A similar telegram was received from S. E. Elkin, M. P.

The mayor moved that a plebiscite be taken on the subject on next Monday. Commissioner McLellan feared that a vote taken at this time before full information was laid before the people might be adverse.

The mayor explained that this would merely be a vote on the principle and that it would not be a vote on the details of any available.

Commissioner Russell said he thought every citizen was in favor of the harbor commission.

Commissioner Fisher thought a plebiscite would be of more value after all details are available.

The motion was put and the mayor declared it lost.

FIRST BRITISH LIST NAMES 364 OFFICERS LOST IN THE DRIVE, AND 140 MISSING

London, April 15—A casualty list published by the war office today contains the names of 364 officers. Seventy-nine were killed, 285 died of wounds and 140 are missing.

Presumably this is the first casualty list from the heavy fighting in France in the last three weeks.

TWENTY ONE DEAD IN SUNDAY'S AMERICAN LIST OF CASUALTIES

Washington, April 15—The casualty list yesterday contained sixty-seven names, divided as follows: Killed in action, ten; died of wounds, three; died of disease, four; died of accident, two; died of other causes, two; missing, four; seriously wounded, eleven; slightly wounded, thirty-one.

HEAD OF ASSYRIAN CHRISTIAN CHURCH IS KILLED IN BATTLE

New York, April 15—Confirmation of an Associated Press despatch from Tabris, Persia, announcing that Mar Shimun, head of the Assyrian Christian church, had been slain while leading his people in battle against Mohammedans near the Turco-Persian frontier, was received here yesterday by the American committee for Armenian and Syrian relief in a cable message.

WEATHER REPORT

Synopsis—Pressure is now highest over the Great Lakes and middle states, while an area of low pressure centered in Arkansas is moving slowly northward. Showers have occurred in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia. Elsewhere the weather has been fine.

Forecasts. Lakes and Georgian Bay—Light winds, fine and moderately warm. Tuesday, easterly winds, fair until night, then showers. Upper St. Lawrence and Ottawa Valley—Moderate winds, fair with much the same temperature today and Tuesday. Lower St. Lawrence, Gulf and North Shore—Moderate winds, fair and cool today and Tuesday. Maritime—Fresh northerly winds, fair and mild. Tuesday, northwest winds, fair and a little milder. Superior—Moderate winds, fine and mild. Tuesday, easterly winds, becoming showery. Manitoba—Fair and warm today, showery tonight; Tuesday, cooler. Saskatchewan—Colder and showery. Alberta—Mostly fair and cold. New England—Generally fair tonight and Tuesday. Light variable winds, mostly west.