

THE BRITISH PRESSED BACK DURING TUESDAY EVENING

Enemy Makes Determined Attack along Messines Ridge and Succeeds in Gaining Ground—Huns Developing a Great Artillery Activity in Southern Area—Teutons Not Sparing Men and Their Losses Frightful—Situation Critical.

London, April 12.—Attaching yesterday in the neighborhood of Ploegsteert, the Germans pressed back the British to the vicinity of Neuve Eglise. This is announced officially.

Last night the Germans captured Merville. Heavy fighting is continuing in the neighborhood of Contalmaison and Neuve Berquin.

On the remainder of the northern battle front there is little change. North of Ploegsteert the British regained ground by a counterattack. On the front between Loos and the Lave river German attacks were repulsed.

Attack at Messines Ridge.

London, April 12.—German troops made a determined attack along the Messines Ridge and succeeded in gaining some ground, says a Reuter despatch from British army headquarters in France and Belgium, but the British once again drove them out by a counter-attack.

The Germans are developing great artillery activity in the southern area, the despatch says. The Bray-Corbis road is being fiercely shelled, heralding, it is believed, further infantry attacks.

LEGISLATURE WILL EXPEDITE BUSINESS

House Will Sit Next Saturday and Morning Sessions are Likely to be Held.

Fredericton, April 12.—The house met at 4:30 p.m. Hon. Mr. Foster said that he proposed to move that when the house adjourned it would stand adjourned until Monday evening. He wished to state that this would be the last week-end adjournment that would be granted during the present session as it was proposed to hold a sitting on Saturday next and also on the following Monday.

He made this announcement so that hon. members when at home for the present week would arrange their business affairs so that they could remain

Three attacks which the enemy launched yesterday in great waves near Ville-Chapelle were repulsed with immense losses to the Germans. The ground was strewn with their corpses.

Critical Battle.

London, April 12.—(via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—The nation is watching with anxiety unprecedented since the beginning of the war, the progress of the critical battle in Northern France. This anxiety is mingled with admiration for the tenacity of the British troops who are contesting every foot of ground with the utmost stubbornness that makes the enemy pay dearly for his slow advance, as the struggle sways over the thirty mile front.

Observers here and in Paris are divided in opinion as to the enemy's intentions, one section regarding the new offensive as a diversion intended to draw out the British reserves while preparing a fresh attack on Amiens; the other believing it is a definite systematic attempt to destroy the British army and break through to Calais while holding the French in the south. The consensus now favors the latter theory.

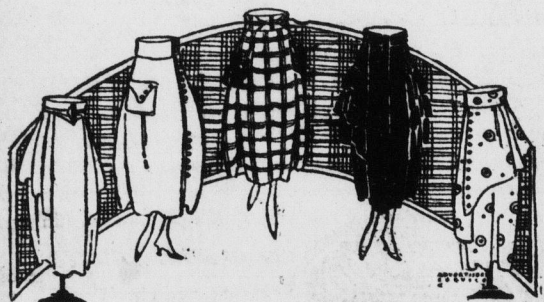
In the city next week. On the Monday following morning sessions would be given, providing the committees were through with their work by that time. He then moved that when the house adjourned it would stand adjourned until Monday evening at 8:30.

The house adjourned at 4:50 p.m. to allow the municipalities committee to further consider the St. John assessment bill.

BARBERS WANT TO GET RICH IN HURRY

In Vancouver Hair Cuts will Cost Half a Dollar and Face Ironings a Quarter.

Vancouver, B. C., April 12.—The barbers of Vancouver have decided to charge fifty cents for a hair cut and twenty-five cents for a shave after April 22. Increased cost of living and the advance in rents and cost of materials is held responsible.



Women's and Misses' STUNNING NOVELTY SKIRTS of Silk and Wool

These beautiful creations portray the styles which have already won their way into the heart of the Fashion Public. They are designed upon extreme as well as conservative lines; so every woman and Miss will entertain no difficulty in making of selections to coincide with the dictates of her tastes.

Tartan plaid skirts in smart design, plain and pleated models. The plain styles have fancy pockets \$7.50 to \$10.50

White serge skirts with black pencil stripe, finished detachable belt and fancy shaped pockets. \$5.95

A variety of fancy stripe and plaid skirts in good quality taffeta, showing new overskirt effect or tastefully arranged plaits. \$12.90 to \$22.50

Smart tweed sport skirts in gray and fawn shades, trimmed fancy patch pockets. \$5.75

New style stripe silk skirts taffeta with inch wide satin stripe, plaited pockets and detachable belt. \$10.50

Wash skirts of good quality white duchess, made with fancy pockets. \$16.90

Satin Baronette skirts of exceptional quality—Comes in white, rose and blue. \$21.50 to \$25.00

DANIEL

London House

Head of King St.

DALHOUSIE BILLS BEFORE LEGIS. COMMITTEE

Interesting Points in Request of North Shore Town to Grant Concessions to New Industry—Town Elections Involved in Application.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 12.—Before the Municipalities Committee this morning, with A. T. LeBlanc, of Restigouche in the chair, two Dalhousie bills were considered. One asked authority for the town of Dalhousie to borrow up to the sum of \$20,000 for water extension and other services. The other sought to permit the same town to make concessions and a free site not exceeding \$8,400 in value to the P. Q. Company a fixed valuation of \$5,000 for all town assessments exclusive of school rates, and also to offer similar concessions to any other industry of equal magnitude desiring to locate in Dalhousie.

E. Rene Richard, solicitor for the town of Dalhousie, appeared in support of the bill, and H. A. Powell, K. C., represented ratepayers opposed to both propositions.

Mr. Richard in opening explained that the concession bill had its origin under Chap. 60 of the Acts of 1911, which gave the town of Dalhousie power to enter into an agreement to grant concessions to the firm of Chapell Bros. or any other industrial concern that might locate there. The P. Q. Company, some years later, agreed to locate its lumber business in Dalhousie, and under the provisions of the old act, following a vote of the ratepayers, the town of Dalhousie entered into an agreement with the P. Q. Company granting the concessions mentioned.

A request to authorize this in council was made to the provincial government in December last, but owing to some technicalities not being complied with the government withheld its approval.

The town council submitted a second plebiscite to the people of Dalhousie, containing proposals for concessions which were less favorable to the ratepayers than the first submitted to them, and the ratepayers by a large majority voted to grant these concessions. The town council submitted the new agreement to the provincial government, who learning that a bill relating to the same was to be introduced at the present session deferred action thereon.

Mr. Powell in his argument against the bills said that the time had come when a check should be put upon the piling up of debt by municipalities. The latter should be protected against themselves. In the case of these bills the town of Dalhousie was being used to advance private interests. He made reference to other civic elections in Dalhousie and to plebiscites both of which he declared to be illegal.

In consequence of what he contended was an illegal election Mr. Powell contended that the Dalhousie town council had no authority to enter into any such agreement.

Mr. Richard in reply submitted that the agreement had already been ratified by a largely attended meeting, and said that Mr. Powell had endeavored to draw the committee away from the real issue. The new industry, Mr. Richard said, would be of real benefit to the town, and the concessions granted would be more than repaid in the way of additional business that would accrue. Mr. Powell's contentions he claimed were not warranted by the facts.

While Mr. Richard was discussing town elections a subject that Mr. Powell had introduced into discussion, Chairman LeBlanc interrupted a remark that he had written to the town clerk of Dalhousie on April 25th of last year asking for an official declaration of the result of the so-called illegal election. Mr. LeBlanc represented the Scott ticket which had been defeated in that election by the supporters of ex-Mayor W. S. Montgomery.

Mr. LeBlanc contended that he received no reply to this letter until April 28th, when the town clerk of Dalhousie telegraphed to him but the telegram arrived too late for him to advise his clients.

Mr. Richard explained that the letter in question was not received by the town clerk until April 28, and was immediately answered, and asked Mr. LeBlanc if the clerk had not advised him to that effect. Mr. LeBlanc admitted this, and further said that he was prepared to accept the word of the town clerk in the matter.

In closing Mr. Richard contended that the whole opposition to these bills was represented in the committee room and was due to personal animosity of some of the ratepayers against ex-Mayor Montgomery. He strongly urged that the citizens of Dalhousie in general should not be made to suffer because of that fact. The questions of town elections had nothing to do with it.

Several members of the committee asked Mr. Richard when the next town election would take place, and he replied that today was nomination day, and unless he was greatly mistaken the whole ticket nominated by ex-Mayor Montgomery, and which ticket supported the concessions asked for, would be elected by acclamation. The sentiment of the town would be plainly shown by the result of the election.

Mr. Richard's contention was corroborated by the statement which was received later, and which showed that Mr. Montgomery's ticket had been elected by acclamation as predicted. The ticket is as follows:

Mayor, James B. Blomfield; Aldermen, Daniel McDonald, Dr. M. Doucet, Alexander Wallace, Edgar Gignere, Philip Robinson, L. F. Lavioie, John Barbour and H. H. Macmillan.

The committee will further consider the bills next week.

IRISH HOME RULE UNANIMOUSLY PREVENTED BY ULSTER VOTE

Although Irish Problem is thus Far Unsolved, Considerable Advance Toward an Agreement Has Been Made—Chairman Plunkett feels hopeful—The Vote.

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

London, April 12.—After eight months of deliberation, the Irish convention, composed of representatives of all parties and classes except Sinn Féin, has presented its report to the government in which a substantial majority agreed to a form of home rule. Because of the opposition of the Ulster Unionists, who balked on the question of customs, it was found impossible to achieve unanimity.

Although the Irish problem is thus far unsolved, a considerable advance toward an agreement has been made. Sir Horace Plunkett, chairman of the convention, told me today that he felt hopeful.

Lloyd George's efforts to get the Irish to solve their own problem have failed and it has become again a British problem.

Announcement has already been made that the government plans to offer a form of home rule in the immediate future. At this juncture it is interesting to report that when the question of conscription in Ireland came before the convention, it was decided by a vote of thirty-four to seventeen that the Irish should be impracticably except with the approval of an Irish parliament.

Vote Forty-four to Twenty-nine.

The report of the convention was adopted by a vote of forty-four to twenty-nine, which Lloyd George announced in parliament was too small a majority to justify his accepting the recommendation of the convention.

The Nationalists, the Southern Nationalists, and the labor members reached an agreement on a scheme of home rule and excise, but the question of customs proved to be a stumbling block. Sir Edward Carson's followers were obstinate and unyielding, although the Southern Unionists, led by Lord Middleton, were willing, in order that an Irish parliament should be immediately established, to postpone legislative decision upon the ultimate control of customs and excise.

Agreement Impossible.

London, Tuesday, April 9.—(The Canadian Press)—A report on the Irish convention submitted by the Irish delegate, says that in regard to the fundamental issues no agreement was visible at any time. Almost everyone of the speeches made of home rule far in advance of the Nationalists which included the following demands:

A sovereign, independent parliament; complete fiscal autonomy for Ireland, including the power of imposing tariffs and the control of excise; the right of making commercial treaties with foreign countries.

The right to raise and maintain a military territorial force.

Repudiation of liability for national debt, on the plea of over-taxation in the past, although the principle of a small annual contribution to the Imperial expenditures was admitted. Denial of the right of Imperial parliament to impose military service on Ireland, except with the consent of the Irish parliament.

The Ulster delegation maintained the fiscal unity of the United Kingdom must be preserved.

The Conclusions.

The scheme mentioned by Sir Horace Plunkett as meeting the approval of a majority of the delegates is set forth in paragraph 42 of the report, under the title: "Statement of conclusions," summed up as follows:

"Section 1.—The Irish parliament to consist of the King, Senate and House of Commons. Notwithstanding the establishment of an Irish parliament, the supreme power and

authority of the parliament of the United Kingdom shall remain unaffected and undiminished over all persons, matters and things in Ireland and every part thereof (carried by 61 to 18).

"Section 2.—The Irish parliament to have general powers to make laws for peace, order and the good government of Ireland. (Section carried 51 to 19).

"Section 3.—The Irish parliament to have no power to make laws on the following:—Crown and succession, the making of peace and war, army and navy, treaties and foreign relations, dignities and titles of honor, and military purposes, coinage and weights and measures, copyrights and patents. The Imperial and Irish governments shall jointly arrange, subject to Imperial exigencies, for the unified control of the Irish police and postal services during the war, provided that as soon as possible after the cessation of hostilities the administration of these two services shall become subject to the Irish parliament. (Section carried 49 to 16).

"Section 4.—Restriction of the power of the Irish parliament; prohibition of laws interfering with religious equality; a special provision protecting the position of Free Masons; a safeguard for Trinity College to be founded only on a vice-regal message; privileges and qualifications of the members of the Irish parliament to be limited as in the act of 1914; of existing Irish act of 1914; to be safeguarded. (Carried 46 to 15).

"Section 5.—Constitutional amendments as in the act of 1914. (Section carried 46 to 15).

"Section 6.—The executive power in Ireland to continue to be vested in the King, exercisable through the Lord Lieutenant on the advice of an Irish executive committee as in the act of 1914. (Carried 45 to 15).

"Section 7.—Dissolution of the Irish parliament, as in the act of 1914. (Carried 45 to 15).

"Section 8.—The House of Commons shall have two members, elected by graduates. Special representation shall be given to the smaller towns and applying to them a lower electoral quota than the rest of the country. The principle of proportional representation shall be observed wherever a constituency returns two or three members. (Carried 45 to 15).

"Section 9.—The House of Commons shall have two members, elected by graduates. Special representation shall be given to the smaller towns and applying to them a lower electoral quota than the rest of the country. The principle of proportional representation shall be observed wherever a constituency returns two or three members. (Carried 45 to 15).

"Section 10.—The House of Commons shall have two members, elected by graduates. Special representation shall be given to the smaller towns and applying to them a lower electoral quota than the rest of the country. The principle of proportional representation shall be observed wherever a constituency returns two or three members. (Carried 45 to 15).

"Section 11.—Money bills to originate only in the House of Commons, and not amendable by the Senate. (Carried 45 to 22).

"Section 12.—Disagreement between the houses to be solved by a joint sitting. (Carried 45 to 22).

"Section 13.—Representation in the British parliament to continue; Irish representatives to have the right to deliberate and vote on all matters. Forty-two Irish representatives shall be elected to the British House of Commons. Irish representatives in the British House of Lords to continue as at present until that chamber is remodelled, when that matter shall be reconsidered. (Carried 44 to 22).

"Section 14.—Finance; Irish exchequer and consolidated fund to be established, an Irish controller and auditor general to be appointed as in act of 1914. If necessary, it should be declared that all taxes at present levied in Ireland, should continue to be levied and collected until the Irish parliament otherwise decide. Necessary adjustments of revenue between Ireland and Great Britain during the transition should be made. (Carried 51 to 18).

"Section 15.—Control of customs and excise by the Irish parliament to be postponed for further consideration until after the war provided that the question shall be considered and decided

BOMBARD PARIS IN THE NIGHT

German Big Guns Fire Into Capital and Airmen Drop Few Bombs.

Paris, April 12.—For the first time since the long distance bombardment of Paris, German shells, reached the Paris region after sunset. A projectile struck somewhere near the city at 8:05 o'clock this evening.

In the Paris district today two persons were killed and twelve wounded by the bombardment.

German airplanes attempted a raid on the Paris district tonight. They dropped a few bombs, but it is not known whether there are any casualties. The official statement on the raid says: "German airplanes crossed the lines going south. Only two succeeded in firing over the Paris district, dropping a few bombs. The warning was given at 10:10 o'clock and 'all clear' sounded at 10:40. The number of victims is not yet known, but will be made public as soon as all reports are received."

ed by the United Kingdom parliament within seven years after the conclusion of peace. Until the question of the ultimate control of Irish customs and excise shall be decided, the United Kingdom's board of customs and excise shall include persons nominated by the Irish treasury, a joint exchequer board consisting of two members nominated by the Imperial treasury and two nominated by the Irish treasury, with a chairman appointed by the King, shall be set up to determine the true income of Ireland. Until the question of the ultimate control of the Irish customs and excise shall be decided, the joint exchequer board, shall be paid into the Irish exchequer. All branches of taxation other than customs and excise shall be under control of the Irish parliament. (Carried 38 to 30.)

"Section 16.—The principle of imperial contributions is approved. (Carried unanimously).

"Section 17.—Accepts the report of the sub-committee on land purchases. (Carried unanimously).

"Section 18.—Deals with the judicial power, similarly to the act of 1914. (Carried 43 to 17).

Lord Lieutenant.

"Section 19.—The Lord Lieutenant shall not be a political officer. He shall hold office six years. Neither he nor the Lords nor justices shall be subjected to any religious disqualification. His salary shall be sufficient to throw the post open to men of moderate means. (Carried 43 to 17).

"Section 20.—A civil service commission, consisting of representatives of the Irish universities, shall formulate a scheme of competitive examinations for administration to the public service and nobody shall be admitted to such service unless he holds civil service certificates. A scheme of appointments shall be made until the scheme of this commission has been approved. (Carried 43 to 18).

"Section 21.—The Irish government, if desired, may defer taking over the departments of old age pensions, national insurance, labor exchanges, postal savings bank and friendly societies. (Carried 43 to 18).

The concluding paragraph, submitting the report to the Imperial government was carried 43 to 25. The whole report was carried 44 to 29.

GERMAN STATEMENT.

Berlin, via London, April 12.—"Our victorious troops," says the official report from headquarters this evening, "are going progressing through the wide Lys plain, between Armentieres and Marville. Armentieres has fallen. Encircled on the north and south by the troops of General Von Berthold and General Von Stetten and thus deprived of its road to retreat the English garrison of 50 officers and over three thousand men laid down their arms after a brave resistance."

"According to information so far received, the total booty captured in the battle of Armentieres amounts to 20,000 prisoners, including one English and one Portuguese general and more than 200 guns."

Trevo, N. S., April 12.—At the annual closing exercises of the Agricultural College here, Stanley Wood of Carter's Point, N. B., won the governor-general's medal for the highest average standing.

W. Ogilvie of Elderbank, N. S., won the prize for seed judging.

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OH, HOW HE NEEDS ONE! What's worse than getting caught without a raincoat in a downpour and this is downpour season?

Have on one of ours and you can "ride the gale" in dignity and comfort.

Prices—\$7 to \$20.

Gilmour's, 68 King St.

THE WEATHER.

MINIATURE ALMANAC.

April—Phases of the Moon.

Last Quarter..... 4th 9h. 33m. a.m.

New Moon..... 11th 0h. 34m. a.m.

First Quarter..... 17th midnight

Full Moon..... 26th 4h. 5m. a.m.

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