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PROBS— A few scattered showers, but for the most part fair and milder.

MONDAY MORNING OCTOBER 15 1917—FOURTEEN PAGES. VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,487 TWO CENTS.

ENEMY FORCES, INVADING RIGA GULF ISLANDS, OVERCOME RESISTANCE OF RUSSIAN TROOPS

LAURIER RALLIES THE LIBERAL FORCES FOR THE COMING ELECTIONS

Bad Weather Continues to Restrain Infantry Activity on Western Front

BRITISH GAIN SUCCESS IN RAID NEAR HULLUCH

German Scouting Detachments Repulsed at Widely Separated Points—More Than Nine Hundred Prisoners Taken in Friday's Offensive.

London, Oct. 14.—The infantry on both British and German sides rested in Flanders today, but there was considerable artillery activity, according to the official report from Field Marshal Haig tonight.

Field Marshal Haig's forces last night repulsed German reconnoitring detachments north of Poelcapelle and west of Becelaere, on the extreme right and left ends of the new British battle line east of Ypres, in Belgium. The British are showing renewed activity further south. The war office today announced that a successful raid was made on the Teuton lines near Hulluch, which is four miles north of the French mining centre of Lens.

The text of the afternoon British statement follows:

"The enemy's artillery was active during the night northeast of Ypres. Hostile reconnoitring parties were repulsed west of Becelaere and north of Poelcapelle.

"We carried out a successful raid in the neighborhood of Hulluch."

Prisoners Exceed 900.

Tonight's official report says:

"Eastern county troops raided the enemy's trenches in the afternoon southeast of Monchy le Preux, and captured several prisoners.

"On the battlefront there has been considerable activity today on the part of both artilleries, but no infantry action. The total number of prisoners captured by us Friday is now ascertained to be 943, including 41 officers.

"Owing to the weather very little flying was done Saturday. In the fine intervals a certain amount of artillery and photographic work was accomplished, and the enemy's new positions were reconnoitred. One of our patrols encountered an enemy formation of double the number of machines, and a determined fight ensued, from which four of our airplanes failed to return. Owing to the close nature of the fighting the number of hostile machines accounted for could not be determined by our pilots. Other allied machines, which arrived too late to share in the fight, saw from a distance several machines falling, out of control."

The official statement issued Saturday night by the war office follows:

"Beyond the usual artillery activity of both sides on the battlefront nothing of special interest occurred during the day. The wet, stormy weather continued."

Berlin's Version.

A Berlin despatch received tonight gives an official statement issued by the war office tonight as follows:

"There was an artillery duel of varying intensity in Flanders and northeast of Soissons."

Strong British and French reconnoitring detachments which advanced yesterday against the German positions at some points on the Belgian front were repulsed, says an earlier Berlin war office statement.

French troops yesterday delivered five strong counter-attacks against the trenches captured by the Germans north of Vauclerc mill, on the Aisne front. All the attacks failed, the statement adds, under heavy losses.

NINETY WARSHIPS COVER HUN LANDING IN RIGA GULF

Enemy Forces Occupy Greater Portion of Oesel Island---Operation Seriously Affects Russian Strategic Position, But Does Not Constitute an Immediate Menace to Petrograd---Kerensky Appeals to Fleet.

Petrograd, Oct. 14.—The German forces which landed on Oesel Island, in the Gulf of Riga, under the cover of ninety war vessels, had occupied up to 10 o'clock Saturday morning, the whole northern and eastern part of the island, and were within twelve verests of Arensberg, on the southern shore, according to an announcement made today by the Russian naval general staff. The Russians still occupy Serel Point and the Svorb Peninsula on the southwestern coast.

It now develops that the Germans did not occupy Dago Island, north of Oesel, and at the head of the Gulf of Finland, but contented themselves with making a demonstration against it.

Premier Kerensky, in an urgent appeal to the Baltic fleet to defend the fatherland, "in this hour of trial," divulged the fact that the garrison of Kronstadt, the chief fortress and military port of Russia, and the station of the Baltic fleet, twenty miles west of Petrograd, by its attitude, already has weakened the defensive resources of the fortress.

Nine dreadnoughts, a dozen light cruisers, 40 torpedo boats and 20 mine-sweepers participated in the German landing on Oesel Island. The people of Petrograd received the news of the occupation calmly. The newspapers publish interviews with some of the cabinet ministers and others who agree that while the operation seriously affects Russia's strategic position, it does not constitute an immediate menace to the Russian capital.

Premier Kerensky today sent a telegram to the commander-in-chief of the northern armies, in which he said:

"Tell the redoubtable Baltic fleet that the hour of trial has arrived. Russia expects for her safety a valiant effort by the navy, and I, as generalissimo, demand that the sailors make sacrifices.

"The hour has come when the Baltic fleet can defend the honor of the fatherland and the great traditions of liberty and of the revolution. It is time to reflect seriously and to cease to co-operate involuntarily with the enemy.

"The garrison of Kronstadt has, by its attitude, already caused the defensive resources of the fortress to be incomplete.

"Let all remember that the fatherland will not forgive criminal levity. Let the abominable crime of the battleship Petropavlovsk be redeemed. Let the fleet repulse the enemy under command of its officers, whose patriotism is well known to all Russia."

Fatal Misunderstanding.

As the result of a misunderstanding that arose on board the Russian battleship Petropavlovsk, out of the action of the general assembly of the democratic bodies on calling upon officers of the army and navy in Finland to sign a pledge of fidelity to the Russian provisional government, four officers who refused to sign the pledge were shot at Helsingfors last month by members of the crew. The

(Concluded on Page 2, Column 6).

BRITAIN UNABLE TO IMPORT POTATOES

Lord Rhondda Advises Liberal Consumption of Surplus in Canada.

CONSERVE OTHER FOOD

Wheat, Bacon and Cheese Are Chief Requirements of Britain.

Ottawa, Oct. 14. — Lord Rhondda, British food controller, has forwarded to the high commissioner for Canada in London, a memorandum regarding the importation of Canadian potatoes into the United Kingdom. In the memorandum, Lord Rhondda says that as all available resources will be required to maintain the supply of essential foodstuffs such as wheat, bacon and cheese, he is unable to arrange facilities for the importation of Canadian potatoes. It is estimated that there will be in the United Kingdom this season a surplus of about a million tons of potatoes over the normal consumption. Lord Rhondda suggests that the best use for the surplus of Canadian potatoes would be direct consumption in Canada in such a way as to economize the consumption of cereals and set free a larger quantity of such cereals for export to the United Kingdom.

MAY SET AN EARLY DATE FOR COMING ELECTIONS

Unionist Ministers, and Especially the Westerners, Want the Campaign Over at the Earliest Possible Moment.

By a Staff Reporter.

Ottawa, Oct. 14.—Now that the unionist government is virtually completed the next most pressing subject is the holding of an election under its direction, and apparently it will have more to do with the direction and control of an election than ever before in Canada. But first of all as to the date. The desire of the ministers evidently is to get it over at the earliest possible moment, and the western members of the government would like to see it over by December 17, third Monday of that month. That is the voting be over in nine weeks, leaving the day of nomination less than five weeks away. In that case the announcement of the election may be made almost at once, and in view of the fact that some of the western ministers are leaving for home on Tuesday it may be fixed at tomorrow's cabinet meeting.

The unionist ministers will take charge in their respective provinces, and it is believed that Hon. James Calder and Hon. Arthur Meighen will be the two active ones in the three prairie provinces. In Ontario Hon. Dr. Reid and Hon. Frank Cochrane will take charge, tho just how active the latter will be is not likely to be known until his return here tomorrow from a trip to the Algoma woods. In the west the ministers will have to arrange some kind of a division of the seats among Conservatives and Liberal conscriptionists, and it is more than likely that they will have to allow the grain growers' candidates now in the field to continue in it. They will also have to apportion the eight new senatorships for the three provinces among the supporters of union government. Eight will not go very far, especially when at least four members of the old house want one each.

In Ontario the ministers will have to find a seat for Hon. N. W. Rowell, and one of the Hurons or Parkdale has been mentioned. Most of the rural ridings have already Conservatives and Liberals in the field, and in places both candidates are for conscription. Which is to be the official candidate of the unionist government? In no case can the ministers dictate, and it will need a lot of consultation to harmonize the situation in some of the constituencies. This is one thing that may delay the election. In North Essex the two local associations, Conservative and Liberal, will try to join in picking a unionist candidate. But Sir Wilfrid Laurier may advise his friends to put up their own man. Conservative Toronto may have to make concession of at least one seat to the Liberals and one or more to the labor men. How is this to be worked out?

The ministers will have to work out questions like these in their own provinces.

Generally speaking, the new cabinet will be anxious to have as few election contests as possible, but Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his friends will oppose this, and it may result in a helter skelter race in a number of ridings.

But of almost equal importance with the holding of the elections is the desire to know how the country will take union government. So far as heard from it is favorable, but it will take some days yet to get a line on the entire country. The politicians here are waiting for the returning answer of the country. No one has yet quite got a line on the country, and the army may not be heard from till the ballots are counted. Many people think the two old parties are about dead, and in their place has come a unionist party and a new opposition to it, and that if the new government get over the election they will try to consolidate it into the nucleus of a new party in Canada. Circumstances will force them into a permanent union.

STORM OF RAIN CHECKS DRIVE OF THE BRITISH

Steady Downpour of Rain on the Flanders Battlefront on Saturday.

FIELD A SEA OF MUD

Troops of Opposing Armies Operate Under the Most Trying Conditions.

British Front in France and Belgium, Saturday, Oct. 13.—(By the Associated Press.)—With the exception of two brief intervals of sunlight, there was a continuous hard rain today on the Belgian front. This was most important news from the new battlefront, for it meant that the low-lying grounds in the battle line were rapidly being turned into that state which represents Flanders at its worst, and Flanders at its worst has few competitors.

Troops in the first line of the opposing armies were lying out in this wilderness of mud and water with little protection from the cold, driving rain, watching each other intently, but making few attempts to stir from their morass-bound positions. Desultory fighting was continuing, for the lines come close together in many places, and rifles and machine guns were pouring streams of bullets across No Man's Land.

The British were clinging doggedly to the strips of territory which they had wrested from the enemy on Friday. That Field Marshal Haig's men were able to advance at all over this almost impassable ground is still a matter of wonder among observers.

As a result of yesterday's attack the British greatly improved their positions, especially along the important Passchendaele ridge and north of Poelcapelle. In some few places they made no advance at all, or rather were pushed forward and then were forced to fall back because of the muddy barriers which they encountered.

RETURNING TO ENGLAND.

Major Hume Blake and Ben Cronyn of the Brock Company returned to Toronto on Saturday morning. Major Blake will be here two or three weeks on business and military matters, and will return again to England. Two of his sons are in the service overseas, and the rest of his family reside in England.

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NORTHCLIFFE IS HASTENING TO OPEN CAMPAIGN

Takes Special Train From Washington to Keep Appointment.

APPEAL IN CHURCHES

Major Bishop Is Also to Speak at Red Cross Meeting.

Lord Northcliffe will take a special train from Washington to Toronto today in order to keep his appointment to speak tonight in Massey Hall at the inauguration meeting of the great campaign in aid of the British Red Cross. Major W. A. Bishop, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., will also speak, and he has a special message for the people of Toronto regarding the work of the British Red Cross in France. Sir Wm. Hearst, premier of Ontario, will also be present and address the meeting.

Appeal in Churches.

The following is the appeal to the people of Toronto which was read from the pulpits of the city on Sunday:

In the past two years the British Red Cross authorities have appealed to the whole empire for funds with which to extend and maintain their beneficent work. Splendidly has the empire demonstrated its unity and practical sympathy by a generous response. No part of the empire con-

(Concluded on Page 2, Column 5).

FIRES FIRST SHOT IN THE ELECTIONS

Doherty Opens the Campaign Tomorrow—Constituency for Ballantyne.

Montreal, Oct. 14.—Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, the new minister of marine and fisheries, has decided to offer himself as a candidate for election to parliament in the St. George and St. Lawrence division of Montreal. He has issued an address, in which he announces that he accepted, as a matter of duty, Premier Borden's invitation to join the government, and that he will put forward every effort to help bring the war to a successful conclusion.

Hon. C. J. Doherty, minister of justice, will, at Huntingdon tomorrow night, fire the first shot in the election campaign for the government.

REARRANGE THE DUTIES OF CABINET MINISTERS

More Equable Distribution of Responsibilities---Bigger Representation for New Brunswick---Labor's Claims Are Being Considered.

Ottawa, Oct. 14.—Labor representation in the union government is to be a matter of early consideration. In the reconstruction of the government up to the present time it has not been found possible to provide for special representation of labor. But, it is understood in well-informed circles, the subject is by no means overlooked, and special attention will be given to it by the prime minister in the early future.

There is reason to believe also that the prime minister is anticipating arrangements under which New Brunswick will have two representatives in the cabinet after next election. In the formation of a union government there is a not unnatural feeling, which may be stronger in one province than another, that consideration should be given to both political parties. Any such feeling in New Brunswick, it is stated, will be met by such an arrangement as is now under consideration.

Hon. J. D. Hazen, New Brunswick representative in the former administration, is relinquishing his portfolio as minister of marine and fisheries and minister of naval service after six years of work. During the past three years the work of the department of naval service and the responsibilities entailed on the minister in connection with the defence of the Canadian shores on both oceans, and the patrol of the adjacent waters, have involved constant and effective co-operation with the admiralty.

Hon. Mr. Hazen is to be succeeded as minister of fisheries by Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, the first Liberal to join the union overnment. Mr. Ballantyne, as minister of public works, is succeeded by Hon. Frank Carvell.

It is understood on very good authority that the prime minister asked Dr. Michael Clark, formerly Liberal member for Red Deer, to accept a position in the cabinet. Dr. Clark, however, felt that he would be of more service in the forthcoming election if he were unfettered by any official responsibilities.

In arranging the portfolios, it is interesting to note Sir Robert Borden had reverted to the practice of Sir John a Macdonald, in one important respect. In recent years, the prime minister has been president of the privy council, but, in the administration of Sir John Macdonald, from 1878 to 1891, the presidency of the council was filled in the first place by the Hon. John O'Connor, then in succession by the Hon. Mr. Masson, the Hon. Mr. Mousseau, the Hon. Mr. McLellan and the Hon. Mr. Colby.

In 1878 Sir John Macdonald became minister of the interior and during the two years immediately preceding his death, he was minister of railways. During years, the amount of work of a detail or routine character in connection with the privy council has greatly increased, and much of the time of Sir Robert Borden has been taken up with such matters and with the administration of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police. In addition to this, he has discharged the duties of secretary of state of external affairs, the work of which department he has enormously increased—the past three years. For this reason Sir Robert Borden requested Mr. Rowell to undertake the duties of president of the council and thus demands upon the time of the prime minister would be correspondingly reduced.

Sir Robert Borden has conferred with Mr. Rowell as to needed improvements in dealing with the routine work of the privy council, and Mr. Rowell will devote himself in the first instance to the consideration and carrying out of such improvements. Mr. Rowell, as president of the council, will also take over the administration of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, but notwithstanding these engagements, he will be able to devote the major part of his time to his duties as a member of the war cabinet, which is to be immediately constructed.

UNRULY PRISONER INJURES CONSTABLE

Policeman Hansen Narrowly Escaped Losing Eyesight.

While removing a prisoner from one cell to another in Court street police station on Sunday afternoon, Station Duty Man Thomas Hansen was brutally attacked and beaten by the prisoner, John Thomas, who assaulted Hansen, was being held in custody on a charge of being drunk, and last night a second charge of "assaulting the police" was laid against him.

Thomas is about 35 years of age and the police say that he is an ex-navyman. He was arrested on York street by Policeman Pickering at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. When he was first lodged in the cells the police say he acted very disorderly and started to break the wooden bench in the cell.

The station duty man's attention was attracted by the noise of the prisoner hammering the bench against the bars, and he entered the cell to see what was the matter. As he opened the cell door Thomas struck Hansen with a large piece of two by four wood, cutting him about the head and face. Hansen clung to his assailant and when Sergeant Duncan heard the scuffling in the corridor he immediately ran to the assistance of the policeman. When the police sergeant got to the men Hansen was in a semi - unconscious condition and Thomas pretended that he had fainted and collapsed on the floor.

Policeman Hansen has been on the force for over 30 years. How he escaped losing his eyesight is a miracle. There were several large nails in the scantling, and as well as being beaten about the head he received a slight cut over his right eye. Dr. Eadie was summoned, and after receiving medical attention Hansen was taken to his home at 32 Galley avenue in the police ambulance.

Laurierites to Fight Forces of Unionists In Coming Elections

Ottawa, Oct. 14.—The following statement was authorized tonight: "Sir Wilfrid Laurier has lost no time in rallying the forces of Liberalism to meet the conditions created by the formation of the new Borden government.

"The Liberal leader has arranged to hold two conferences with the Liberal candidates in Ontario and the representatives of the county Liberal associations. The first of these conferences will be held in Ottawa on Friday next, October 19, and will be attended by candidates and representatives of the counties east of Kingston. The second conference, for western Ontario, will be held the following week at a place to be decided on later."

UNION CABINET FACING PROBLEMS OF WAR-TIME

Must Finance Wheat Crop—Limitation of Profits to Be Considered—Will Try to Swing Quebec Into Line.

By a Staff Reporter.

Ottawa, Oct. 14.—Another Liberal, the greatest fighter of them all, Frank E. Carvell, joined the union government on Saturday, leaving only one portfolio yet to be filled. Mr. Carvell goes in as minister of public works, replacing Hon. Mr. Ballantyne, who goes to the marine department, instead of Mr. Hazen.

Hon. George H. Murray left for home Saturday afternoon. He will consult his friends, but it is expected that he will return to Ottawa during the week to be sworn in as secretary of state. Hon Martin Burrell, who is being bounced about a bit, will, in the event of Mr. Murray's entry, go to the labor department temporarily or act as postmaster-general in the absence of Mr. Blondin. It is understood that after the elections Mr. Burrell will retire as his personal desire. When the labor portfolio is filled permanently a representative labor man is likely to be selected. Mr. Crothers may stay a while.

Hon. Mr. Carvell was given the choice of either the public works or marine and fisheries portfolio, but chose the former, wisely it is thought, because of the extensive ramification in the lower provinces of the marine department. The public works department is Dominion-wide in its scope, and Mr. Carvell is not unfamiliar with its operation.

Another development is that of Sir George Foster leaving North Toronto and contesting one of the constituencies in his native province of New Brunswick, whose representation he will share with Hon. Mr. Carvell.

Outlook for Mr. Rowell.

Hon. Mr. Rowell may possibly run in North Toronto, but prefers a rural constituency. Sir Thomas White, who represented Leeds, is also being sought after in Toronto.

The successful formation of a union government intensified the desire for an early election and the 10th or 17th of December is now most generally favored. The writs are likely to be issued at the end of this week, allowing 28 full days between nomination and election. It is anticipated that there will be numerous acclamations in Ontario and the west. The elimination of party politics in dealing with the problems that will come before it will be the policy of the new ministry.

There is no intention of isolating the Province of Quebec. Rather, it is the intention of the government to pay particular attention to that province, endeavoring to have it swing into line in national unity. The plan is to put up candidates in practically all the constituencies and to emphasize the desirability of all the provinces standing together in a progressive war policy. Word already comes from Montreal of a wing of the Liberal party being formed to go into the union government with Hon. Dr. Beland, now a prisoner of war in Germany, and Hon. J. L. Perron, chosen as leaders.

Big Problems to Face.

Among the immediate problems which the new government must face is that of financing the wheat crop. With a high price fixed there will be no holding back by the farmers and the marketing of the grain will be unusually prompt. It will be necessary to raise three hundred million in short order, and it is possible that the farmers may be asked to accept in payment for their crop part cash and part government bonds or credit notes, redeemable in a few months. Meanwhile the cash would be raised.

Another matter before the cabinet is certain drastic recommendations by the food controller, limiting the margin of profit of various commodities and calculated to eliminate the operation of the middleman.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has made no statement on the situation. He is reported as having quoted on Saturday the historic British slogan. "Are we downhearted? No!" As a matter of fact, however, the most the party now hopes for is a respectable-sized opposition. There is no prospect of possible success.

The first official act of Hon. Mr. Carvell was to arrange for calling for new tenders for the St. John harbor works, where the Norton Griffiths Co. is away behind in carrying out its understanding.

It is announced that Dr. Clark was offered a position in the cabinet, but considered that he would be of more service in the coming elections if unfettered by any official responsibilities.

GERMAN ADMIRALTY TRIES TO HIDE TRUTH

Not Mutiny, But Propaganda on Single Ship, it is Asserted.

Copenhagen, Oct. 14.—The German admiralty has been forced to issue an explanatory statement regarding the mutiny in the fleet, in which Chancellor Michaelis and Vice-Admiral von Capelle endeavored to place the blame upon the independent socialist party, and now declares that the affair was confined to a single ship, where a few sailors endeavored to carry out a mutiny, but a propaganda. The admiralty denies flatly the report of a mutiny on the Nurnberg and four battleships.