

News of the Week

TUESDAY, APRIL 9.

Intense hostile artillery fire continues on many parts of the Western front, the Buequoy sector being the scene of the most severe bombardment.

In the Lens-Hulluch sector the enemy heavily shelled the British positions with gas, but no infantry attack followed.

The Germans are fighting hard and with some success on the left bank of the Oise, to the east of Chauny.

A Toronto Sergeant and a Calgary private have been awarded the Victoria Cross.

Moscow is greatly agitated over the landing of Japanese soldiers at Vladivostok.

Greeks are recruiting in the Caucasian army to fight against the Turks.

A reprieve has been granted to Bolo Pasha, but it is expected to be of short duration.

More than two million dollars was paid in 1916-17 in customs duties on farm implements.

During the past three months 11,482 volunteers have joined the Canadian forces, and in January and February 17,428 men were drafted.

Twenty-one short-term prisoners at Dorchester Penitentiary have volunteered and been accepted to serve in the war on condition of receiving pardons at its termination.

Premier Borden announced in the Commons an order in Council passed on March 9 looking to the abolishment of hereditary titles in Canada and the restriction of other titles and distinctions.

Arrangements are being made for holding peace negotiations between Russia and the Ukraine.

The House, before adjourning in the early hours of Saturday morning, passed in a couple of minutes a war appropriation of five hundred million dollars.

The Canadian Seed-purchasing Commission has in transit for distribution in Eastern Canada 300,000 bushels of high-grade inspected seed oats, to be sold at net cost.

The Government has provided \$400,000 for a plant to produce fuel from the lignite of Eastern Saskatchewan, and has taken steps towards developing the peat bogs of Ontario.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10.

The Germans have succeeded in forcing their way into the Allies' positions on the part of the front which is east of Estaires, in the valley of the Lys. They have captured Laventie and Richebourg St. Vaast, southwest of Neuve-Chapelle, where the depth of penetration is about a mile and three-quarters. Severe fighting continues on the whole of the front. At both flanks—Fleurbaix on the British left, and Givenchy on the right, near La Bassée Canal—the enemy was repulsed after heavy fighting. The enemy report states that "north of La Bassée Canal we penetrated into British and Portuguese positions."

In the Valley of the Oise an important engagement took place. There on the line of the Oise-Aisne Canal a fierce battle was fought, during which the Germans captured by storm a series of strongly-fortified French positions, Quency, Landricourt and Coucy-Le Château was captured, as was a "stubbornly-defended wood" east of Guny, on the Oise-Aisne Canal.

An official French report tells of a Greek reconnaissance in the region west of the river, which dispersed a Bulgarian detachment. The French also have been doing some destruction on the Saloniki front. The only other point from which activity is reported on the Eastern front is Van, in Armenia. The city is reported to have been occupied by the Turks after "violent fighting." The defenders were doubtless Armenian levies in the service of the Republic of the Caucasus.

Ireland is to be included under the Conscription scheme.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11.

A tremendous battle is raging on the front between the Canal La Bassée, and the Ypres-Comines Canal, to the north of Messines Ridge. Sir Douglas Haig reports that during yesterday's fighting north of Armentières the weight of the enemy's assaults pressed the British back to the line of the Wytschaete-Messines Ridge and Ploegsteert. South of Armentières the enemy has forced his way across the Lys at certain points north of Estaires. In the region between Estaires and La Bassée Canal he has had indifferent success.

At the south end of the Lys battlefield, the Brit-

ish, by a vigorous counter-thrust have recaptured Givenchy, and with it have taken about 800 prisoners.

On the Amlens front there has been sharp fighting in the region of Hangard, between the Somme and Avre. The Germans there attacked on Tuesday night after a strong artillery preparation.

The British House of Commons yesterday passed the second reading of the man-power bill.

The official record of ships sunk during the past week is less than in any similar period since November of last year.

The Senate of the United States has passed the sedition bill prohibiting under twenty years' imprisonment, acts against the army draft or Liberty loan.

A new nickel refinery is to be erected near Hull to cost about a million dollars.

The net debt of the Dominion at the end of February stood at a little more than a billion dollars.

A large reduction has been made in the surplus of apples and potatoes in Canada by the new anti-waste and anti-hoarding orders of the Food Board.

The Federal Government and the Governments of Saskatchewan and Manitoba are joining in establishing a plant at Estevan to make briquettes out of lignite.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12.

The German rush has not carried the enemy very far to the west of the Lys, but it has resulted in the British troops evacuating Armentières.

The crest of the Messines Ridge remains in the hands of Sir Douglas Haig's men in spite of the German efforts, which have lasted two days, to take it.

In the Lys Valley, between Estaires and Steenwerck, the strong German forces which crossed the river on Wednesday continued to battle their way toward Bailleur yesterday. They have apparently occupied Steenwerck, for the British report speaks of a retirement to the north of that village.

Attempts by the enemy to force the evacuation of the important town of Bethune by an enveloping movement have been frustrated, the British troops stand fast, and have taken heavy toll of the enemy.

The lull on the Somme continues. In Palestine General Allenby continues to punish the Turks.

Boston received its first free of duty cargo of Canadian fish under the recent reciprocity arrangement.

The French Government has published a private letter of Emperor Charles of Austria practically admitting the justice of the Allies' contentions.

The French Government has ordered a million pounds of desiccated vegetables from a Belleville firm. The Daylight-saving Bill was given third reading in the Senate, and the change is likely to be made at 2 a.m. Sunday morning next.

Hon. T. W. Crothers read in the Commons Mr. W. F. O'Connor's letter resigning his post as Cost of Living Commissioner, and his own reply accepting it.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13.

The Germans have captured Merville and have arrived within seven miles of Hazelbrouck, his objective being Bailleur.

The battle for Messines Ridge is still undecided. The Germans are holding the ruins of Messines village, but the highest points on the ridge—those around Wytschaete—are still firmly in the hands of our men.

In a counter attack in the Apremont Forest, on the Meuse sector, American and French troops drove out an enemy force which had got into their positions.

In the region east of Amlens the Germans attacked the French positions at Hangard and Hourges after an intense artillery preparation. The battle lasted all day. In front of Hourges the enemy made no headway, but after several fruitless attacks he penetrated Hangard. The fighting continues with stubbornness.

In Palestine an attack against the British front from Jaffa east to a point beyond the Jordan has broken down, and substantial losses have been inflicted upon the mixed German and Turkish force that took part in the attack.

Italian Ministers say Italy will be able to resist offensive Austrians are preparing.

Activity is reported at German naval bases, especially Kiel.

Home Rule proposals agreed to by a majority of the Irish Convention have been submitted to Premier Lloyd George. The Ulster members make a minority report, refusing to agree to the programme.

INCREASE IN FISH VALUES.

Ottawa, April 12.

That there was an increase of over \$12,000,000 in the marketed value of Canadian Fish during the year 1917, as compared with 1916, is shown by a summary of the fishing results in the Dominion for the past, issued by the Naval Department. The summary states that the marketed value of the products of Canadian fisheries for 1917 will be well over \$50,000,000. The chief contributors to the large increase were the provinces of British Columbia and Nova Scotia, the former with an increase of \$4,000,000. The increase in the value of the fish, although partly due to increased prices, is not altogether so, for, the statement says, there has been a greater quantity of fish produced in most of the provinces.

In Nova Scotia there was a considerable increase in the landing of cod, haddock, and mackerel. In New Brunswick the chief feature was a considerable drop in the sardine and herring catch of the Bay of Fundy. In the northern New Brunswick, there was a decrease in the catch of cod and herring, but the value was \$150,000 greater than the previous year. In Prince Edward Island, there was an increased catch of cod and higher prices.

The catch of white fish and blue pickerel in Ontario suffered a decrease. In Quebec the cod catch was greater, but that of salmon, mackerel and herring declined somewhat. The higher prices made the value greater than during 1916. The prairie provinces increased both the value and output of fish. In British Columbia, the usual big run of sockeye salmon in the Fraser River district, which was due in 1917, did not materialize, and the pack of that grade of salmon on the Fraser was not more than the ordinary catch.

Other grades were packed in greater quantities to take the place of sockeye.

The fresh fish trade in British Columbia has increased greatly in volume in recent years with the transportation facilities now available. More attention is also being given canners and curing of herring in that province.

Seeding is proceeding in all Alberta.

In Winnipeg a Domestic Workers' Union has been formed.

Well over \$50,000,000 worth of fish was marketed in Canada last year.

Vancouver barbers will charge 50 cents for a hair cut and 25 cents for a shave after April 22.

MONDAY, APRIL 15.

The British lines are standing firm, holding the Germans back at all points.

It is reported that the offensive of the Turkish troops and detachments on the Caucasian front has been followed by the murder of the Armenian population.

British naval forces, consisting of monitors, torpedo craft and aircraft, attacked the coast of Flanders Thursday night. Ostend was bombarded with heavy calibre guns, and aircraft bombed Zeebrugge.

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