

Weather Forecast:
Fair and Cooler

The London Advertiser

52nd YEAR. No.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 28, 1915. FOURTEEN PAGES

PRICE TWO CENTS.

HOME
EDITION

Enemies Lose Thousands of Men to Russians WESTERN ONTARIO MAYORS AND REEVES OPPOSE ELECTION Canadians Helping In Advance North of Ypres

SHEPHERD ON 100-MILE FRONT FINDS BRITISH FULL OF "PEP"

An Advertiser Correspondent
Says Poisonous Gases Being
Thrown From 17-Inch
Guns—Infantry Battering
Is Terrific.

[By Wm. G. Shepherd, copyrighted
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in Great Britain.]

Field Headquarters of British Army
in Northern France, April 27.—Via
London, April 28.—Germans now em-
ploying new method of hurling their
poisonous gas. It is by means of shells
from their seventeen-inch guns, one of
which fell just outside of Toperinghe
tonight.

As details of the action of the gas
utilized by the Germans in their at-
tacks are received, high headquarters
officials unite in characterizing the use
of vapor as a complete violation of all
rules of civilized warfare.

Brings on Pneumonia.

Some of the victims taken to the
hospital have died after thirty or forty
hours of quick pneumonia. All of the
victims suffer greatly from pain in
their throats and lungs, and respira-
tion sometimes runs as high as fifty a
minute in the vain gasping for breath.

This afternoon I was permitted to wit-
ness from the cover of a trench along a
hill the further progress of the battle
which began with artillery and ended
with terrific rifle fire. Rifle exchanges
lasted for twenty minutes, and the
sound was an indescribable roar, sharper
than thunder, and like the continuous
boom of the big guns.

In a 100-mile auto ride along the bat-
tle front today, I found British forces
divided into two sections. The front
line was devoted to terrific fighting from
a series of trenches, and the rear to
ammunitions and bathing. I counted
twelve football games and nine groups
of men marching to the bathhouse, most-
ly in the zone of shell fire.

The British troops were certainly "full
of pep."

PROGRESS MADE BY ALLIED LEFT

Canadians Probably Instru-
mental in Capture of Guns
and Material.

MANY PRISONERS TAKEN
Germans Driven Back One
Kilometer In Heights
of Meuse.

[Canadian Press.]

Paris, April 28.—2:23 p.m.—The French
war office this afternoon gave out an
official report on the progress of the hos-
tilities reading as follows:

"To the north of Ypres we have con-
tinued to make progress. This is par-
ticularly so on our left, where we took
six machine guns, two bomb-throwers
and much war material, at the same
time making several hundred prisoners
including a number of officers.

"The losses of the enemy were heavy.
At a single point on the front not far
from the canal, we counted over 600
bodies of German soldiers.

"On the heights of the Meuse, along
the front of Les Eparges-Saint Remy,
the trench of Calonne, we continued to
gain ground, advancing about one kilo-
metre (3-3 of a mile) inflicting very
heavy losses on the enemy and destroy-
ing a German battery."

The latest known position of the Cana-
dian forces would indicate that they
are in the midst of the successful ad-
vance on French left, north of Ypres.

BELGIANS HELPED.

London, April 28.—12:20 p.m.—An of-
ficial announcement has been given out
from Belgian army headquarters on the
continent which reads as follows:

"The situation on April 27 at 6:00 p.m.,
showed that the German artillery was
evidencing little activity on the front
held by the Belgian army.

"The French, aided by the Belgian
artillery and infantry, have taken Li-
berne and several German trenches in
the direction of Het Sas. More than 100
dead were counted on the battlefield.
The booty comprises six quick-firing
guns and 200 prisoners. The attack
continues."

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.

Fog was the highest and lowest
temperatures recorded in London during
the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last
night: Highest, 56; lowest, 50.

The official temperatures for the 12
hours previous to 8 a.m. today were:
Highest, 74; lowest, 58.

MAYORS AND LEADERS IN WESTERN ONTARIO ARE AGAINST AN ELECTION

Advertiser Poll Brings Opinion That While the War Lasts
Canadians Should Be United—Those Who Speak For
People Denounce Vote With One Voice.

In view of the possibility, not to say probability, of the Dominion
Government deciding to hold an election in the near future, with a view
to ascertaining views of the country on the proposal, The Advertiser
sent to each mayor of towns and cities, wardens of counties, and reeves
of villages in Western Ontario the following telegram:

"Should Federal elections be put off as long as possible dur-
ing progress of war? Telegraph your opinion."

We made no inquiry regarding political affiliations of the mayors,
reeves and wardens addressed. The message was forwarded to all from
an alphabetical list, and replies are printed herewith in form and in
order of receipt. These replies speak for themselves:

Galt is Against It.

GALT.—I am sure we all realize
the present is a very crucial period
in our Empire, and in consequence
it should be the duty of every citi-
zen to introduce nothing of conten-
tious character. For that reason and
many others, the present is a most
important time for the holding of
elections, and should be dis-
courage and put off as long as pos-
sible. (Signed) A. E. BUCHANAN, Mayor.

FERGUS.—Most decidedly no elec-
tion should occur during progress of
the war. (Signed) T. N. WANSBOROUGH.

CHATHAM.—Most decidedly, yes.
(Signed) ED. WANLESS, Mayor.

OMEMEE.—The holding of an elec-
tion at present is not a popular idea.
(Signed) R. J. MULLIGAN.

WEST LORNE.—My opinion is
there should be no federal election
during progress of war. (Signed)
ALEX. MCCOLL.

Not While War Lasts.

LEAMINGTON.—To my mind no
other agitation to divide minds of
people should exist so long as war
lasts. (Signed) LEWIS WIGLE, Mayor.

THOROLD.—The federal elections
should be put off until the war is
over, or as long as possible during
its progress. (Signed) JOSEPH BATTLE, Mayor.

WYOMING.—Yes, by all means
(Signed) M. J. Wilson.

UXBRIDGE.—It would be a grave
mistake to hold federal election dur-
ing the progress of war. Let Cana-
dians stand as one man till our em-
pire has won victory. (Signed) T. C.
Nichols, Mayor.

BRACEBRIDGE, Ont.—My opinion
is federal elections should be put
off as long as war continues.
(Signed) P. A. Smith, Mayor.

BRUSSELS.—To bring on federal
elections at present time, or until
the war is over is exceedingly un-
wise, if not criminal. Bad policy
in every respect. (Signed) J. L.
Eckle, Reeve.

CALEDONIA.—My opinion federal
elections should be put off. (Signed)
R. Aldridge.

PERTH.—Federal elections
should be put off as long as possible,
the electorate has too much to think
of until this terrible war is over.
(Signed) A. Grant, Mayor.

LONDON.—Let us finish the war
first and then talk elections—H. A.
Stevenson.

In addition to the above scores of
others replied to the same effect.

Berlin Reports Submarine Sunk French Cruiser

Wireless To Sayville Tells of
Leon Gambetta's
Loss.

[Canadian Press.]

Berlin, April 28.—Via wireless to Say-
ville.—The French armored cruiser Leon
Gambetta has been torpedoed by an
Austrian submarine, according to news
received by the Overseas News Agency.

Part of the crew of the French war-
ship was saved.

The French armored cruiser Leon
Gambetta displaced 12,416 tons and
carried a crew of from 700 to 800 of-
ficers and men. The cruiser was built
at Brest in 1903. She was 436 feet long,
70 1/2 feet beam, had a mean draft of
26 1/2 feet.

The Leon Gambetta carried four 7.6-
inch guns, sixteen 6.4-inch guns and
twenty-four 3-pounders, and was equip-
ped with five 18-inch torpedo tubes.
She cost \$5,380,000.

SINKING CONFIRMED.

[Canadian Press.]

Paris, April 28.—3:20 p.m.—A com-
munication from the ministry of marine,
relating the torpedoing of the French
cruiser Leon Gambetta was given out
this afternoon. It is textually as fol-
lows:

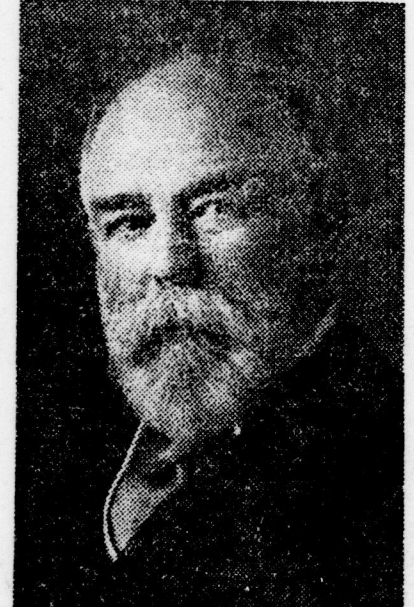
"The armored cruiser Leon Gambetta,
cruising at the entrance of the Otranto
Canal, was torpedoed the night of April
26-27, and went to the bottom in ten
minutes.

All Officers Perished.

"All officers on board perished at
their posts. One hundred and thirty-six
members of the crew, including eleven
under-officers, were rescued by vessels
sent out promptly to their help by the
Italian authorities.

"The list of survivors has not yet been
received at the ministry of marine."

OLD LONDON CITIZEN SUCCUMBED YESTERDAY



MR. JOHN LABATT, owner of La-
batt's brewery, a former alderman and
hospital commissioner, and highly
esteemed citizen, who died yesterday
afternoon. See sketch of life on Page
Fourteen.

THREE MORE LONDONERS HURT IN RECENT HEAVY ENGAGEMENT WHERE CANADIANS HEROICALLY UPHELD THEIR COUNTRY'S HONOR

City Homes Plunged Into Very Heart of the Battlefield by
Ominous Telegrams From Adjutant-General at Ottawa
—Wrote Country's Name in Blood and Glory.

THREE PRIVATES AND CAPTAIN HILLIAN ARE ALL RENDERED HORS DE COMBAT

Last week's terrific battle at Langemarck, where the Canadians, fighting
back to back, wrote their country's name in blood and glory in the history of the
big war, is coming ever closer to the hearts and homes of Londoners.

For more than a year before he left
for the front, the Londoner, who today
battled by the ominous telegram from the adjutant-general: "I regret to in-
form you that ... has been wounded."

The latest casualty list, as it affects London, is:
Pte. John David Cook, 22, 205 Central avenue.
Pte. Alfred Holmes, 19, 18 Childers street.
Pte. Thomas R. Murray, 19, 43 Oxford street, West London.

Captain E. W. Hillian, of Vancouver, wife at 742 Waterloo street.
The first three left London with the 7th Regiment detachment, and were in the
first Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, first contingent. Capt.
E. W. Hillian was of the 5th Battalion, and his wife is now staying with Henry
Wallace, 742 Waterloo street.

So far as can be learned from the meagre information contained in the of-
ficial notifications, Capt. Hillian is the only one seriously wounded.

PTE. ALFRED HOLMES
RESIDED HERE YEAR.

Pte. Alfred Holmes is but 19 years of
age, and had been a resident of London
for more than a year before he left
with the 7th Regiment detachment that
responded to the first call for volun-
teers. At the time he left his family
was living at 191 Laura street, but
has since moved to 18 Childers street,
where his mother, father, sisters and
two brothers reside. His father is J.
Holmes, a painter and decorator. A
brother, Charles, is now serving with
the British land forces in the Darda-
nelles.

(Continued - Page Three).

Britain-Russia Cable Laid in Eleven Days

[Canadian Press.]

Aberdeen, Scotland, April 28.—
It has become known that a
direct cable has been laid be-
tween Britain and Russia for
governmental purposes. Starting
at Peterhead, a seaport on the
most easterly side of Aberdeen-
shire in Scotland, it runs across
the North Sea, along the coast
of Norway, round the North
Cape, and into Alexandrovsk, in
the White Sea. The cable is
said to be longer than the At-
lantic cable between England and
America, and it is said to have
been completely laid in eleven
days.

NO OFFICIAL WORD OF
AUSTRIA SEEKING PEACE

[Canadian Press.]

London, April 28.—2:15 p.m.—Answer-
ing a question in the House of Com-
mons this afternoon, Neil Primrose,
under-secretary for foreign affairs, de-
clared that the foreign office had no
official information to confirm the re-
cent reports that Austria had ap-
proached Russia, directly or indirectly,
for separate terms of peace.

NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS.—Appli-
cations for those who intend trying the
departmental examinations for entrance
from the lower to the middle school of
the London Collegiate must be in by
May 1. The applications for middle
school examinations must be in by May
15.

American Pa pers Loud in Praises of Our Troops

The Advertiser has been making
a collection of headlines from
American papers, and Canadians
certainly have no reason to com-
plain of the tributes bestowed by
the newspaper men who handle the
war news. It is apparent
where the sympathy of the av-
erage American newspaper editor
lies.

Some of the headlines clipped
out are as follows:

[Brooklyn Eagle.]
CANADIANS PROVE BRAVE
FIGHTERS.

[Detroit Journal.]
BRILLIANT CHARGE BY CAN-
ADIANS SAVES ALLIES;
RECOVER HEAVY
GUNS.

[Milwaukee Journal.]
CANADIANS, CUT UP, BEAT-
EN, COME BACK AND
RETAKE GUNS.

[Detroit Free Press.]
ALL ENGLAND PRAISES DASH
OF CANADIANS.

[New York Herald.]
GALLANT CANADIANS HAD
TO FIGHT THE PRUS-
SIAN GUARDS.

NO REPORT YET.—The delegation
of members of the Brotherhood of Lo-
comotive Engineers and Firemen, who
some days ago waited on the Grand
Trunk officials at Montreal to ask for
better conditions and an increase in
wages, have not as yet made a report
on the outcome of their meeting.

"THIS IS MYSELF, READY FOR BAYONET ATTACK!"



These words were written on the back of a postcard, which bore the above
picture, by Pte. John David Cooke, who has been wounded in the fighting in
France. Words to this effect were received by her sister, Mrs. Minnie Johnson,
205 Central avenue, in an official telegram from Ottawa last night.
Pte. Cooke was born in Boston, Ont. He came to this city over a year ago
and joined the 7th Fusiliers, of which he was a member until he left for the
front with the first contingent. Cooke is in his 22nd year and is unmarried.
Mrs. Johnson, who yesterday received a letter from her brother, dated April
5, which said that they were all in the best of spirits and doing as well as could
be expected, is communicating with the military authorities in her effort to
ascertain the nature of Cooke's wounds.

LONDON EAST BOY REPORTED WOUNDED



ALFRED HOLMES, son of J. Holmes,
18 Childers street, East London, who,
in an official telegram received at his
home today, is reported to have been
wounded. He left London with the 7th
detachment of the first contingent, and
was nineteen years of age. His brother
Charles is now serving with the British
land forces in the investment of the
Dardanelles.

Latest Canadian Casualties

[Canadian Press.]

Ottawa, April 28.—The following list
of casualties was announced today:

First Battalion.
Wounded—Pte. John David Cooke,
London.

Wounded—Pte. Arthur Taylor, St.
Thomas, Ont.

Wounded—Sergeant Robert C. Andrews,
Boston, Mass.

Wounded—Pte. Allen Smith, Berlin,
Ont.

Wounded—Lance-Corporal Walter Tay-
lor, Chatham, Ont.

Wounded—Pte. Thomas R. Murray,
London, Ont.

Seriously wounded—Sergeant Master
Tailor Alexander Whyte, Detroit, Mich.

Died of wounds—April 27, Pte. An-
drew Brookfield, Ingersoll, Ont.

Died of wounds—April 25, Pte. Ed-
mund Keir, Toronto.

Second Battalion.
Wounded—Pte. Frank Herbert Mason,
Toronto.

Wounded—Lance-Sergeant William John
Skewis, Toronto.

Wounded—Pte. E. N. Ernest Wilcox
(formerly 8th Battalion), Edmonton.

Wounded—Pte. Walter James Hare,
Toronto.

Wounded—Lance-Corporal John Grundy
Church, Freeman P. O., Ont.

Seriously Wounded—Lance-Corporal Wil-
liam Henry Peaks, Milton West, Ont.

Seriously Wounded—Pte. Nathan F.
Montour, New Credit, Ont.

Tenth Battalion.
Seriously Wounded—Pte. William
Thomas Lemmon, Winnipeg.

Dangerously Wounded—Pte. Ray
Christopher Horod, gunshot wound in
abdomen, Whitchurch, Alta.

The list confirms last night's unoffi-
cial list announcing deaths of Major G.
W. Bennett, Peterboro; Capt. W. L. L.
Gordon, Toronto; Lieut. H. N. Klotz, To-
ronto, and wounding of Lieut. J. E.
McClurg, Sault Ste. Marie; Lieut. Scott,
son of Rev. A. H. Scott, of Perth, de-
scribed last night as missing. Is now
reported wounded and missing.

INTERESTING ORDERS CAME AS EXPECTED

Lt.-Col. H. C. Becher, in Let-
ter to Londoner, Tells of
Great Work Canadians Had
Just Done and Prognosti-
cated Even Greater Things.

School Inspector C. B. Edwards has
received the following letter from
Lieut.-Col. H. C. Becher, now at the
front with the 1st Battalion. It is in-
teresting to note that Col. Becher says,
"We are awaiting what I think will
be quite interesting orders."

The letter was written just prior to last
week's furious fighting, and the
colonel's wish for "interesting orders"
was gratified.

"Thanks for your letter of Febru-
ary 24. I only got it last week
as we were leaving the trenches
where our men certainly made a
great name for themselves. The
casualties, 19 killed to date, are
sickening, but fog during the brief
Chappelle affair prevented us from
losing many more.

"We are resting here for a few
days and awaiting, what I think,
will be interesting orders. I have
seen nothing of the scrap books but
I fancy they are following us and
will arrive some day.

"Butler sends his regards, and I
haven't seen Greenlees since we left
England. Kind regards to all.

"H. C. BECHER."

In a footnote the colonel says that
as Col. Hill has rejoined, his work and
responsibility as acting commander of
the 1st Battalion has been materially
lessened.

The attack was successful, and the
regiments lost heavily before reinforce-
ments arrived and a counter attack
was begun.

This was in the vicinity of Uszok
Pass, and the Russians later pushed
their entire front forward a matter of
some three kilometers.

Attack Successful.

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FLEET OF 68 GERMAN WARSHIPS REPORTED IN NORTH SEA BY CAPTAIN OF NORWEGIAN VESSEL

Commander Says His Ship Was Held Up by Fleet Compris-
ing Kaiser Battle-Craft of Descriptions — The
Location Not Announced.

[Canadian Press.]

London, April 28.—Captain Scott, commanding a
Norwegian steamer chartered by the Belgian Relief Com-
mission, reports the presence in the North Sea of a Ger-
man fleet numbering no less than 68 vessels all told.

Captain Scott, whose vessel has just come to port,
reports that while crossing the North Sea he was held up
by one of these German steamers. After an examination
of his papers he was permitted to proceed. The German
fleet was composed of vessels of all classes, from battle-
ships to torpedo boats.

The date of Captain Scott's encounter, and just
where in the North Sea he sighted this German fleet has
not been announced.

CANADIANS HAVE OUTDONE EVEN SOUTH AFRICA RECORD

They "Held the Fort," Thus Turning Tide in Allies' Favor,
Says London Standard—Their Dash and Spirit
Never Questioned.

[Special Cable to The Advertiser.]

London, April 28.—"What the Canadians did at Ypres," says to-
night's Standard, "deserves the pen of an accomplished descriptive writer
in full possession of details. Whether such an account will be forth-
coming remains to be seen, but that it is deserved is plain from the tale
filtering through by degrees from the front.

RECORD IS KNOWN.

"The magnificent dash and spirit of the Dominion troops has never
been in question. Their record in South Africa is not forgotten, but they
seem to have broken even that in the skill and valor displayed at a
critical moment round Ypres. To them belongs the credit for saving the
position.

THEY HELD THE FORT.

The savagery of Germans employing poisonous gas as a means of
warfare was not foreseen by such chivalrous fighters as the French, with
the consequence that a temporary setback was inevitable, but the Cana-
dians held the fort. To that fact must be ascribed the speedy turn for
the better. The Dominion may well thrill with pride over the gallantry
of her sons; the Empire does."

Russians Victorious In Galician Struggle

Austro-German Forces Said To Have Lost 8,000 Killed and
Wounded and Many Thousands Taken
Prisoners.

[Special Cable to The Advertiser.]

Petrograd, April 28.—That the Aus-
tro-German forces have been defeated,
with a loss of 8,000 killed and
wounded and several thousand prison-
ers, in the territory between Stry
and Marmoras (in Galician-Bukovina
region), is asserted at the war office.
Severe fighting has been in progress
at a number of points on the Carpath-
ian front since Monday night, when the
Austrians tried a surprise attack
against a position held by two Rus-
sian regiments.

Attack Successful.

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regiments lost heavily before reinforce-
ments arrived and a counter attack
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