

SIR JOHN FRENCH TALKS OF PATRICIA'S

"MAGNIFICENT SET OF MEN AND HAVE DONE EXCELLENT WORK IN THE TRENCHES", HE SAYS

First of Bi-Weekly Reports on Progress of the War in France—Increased Activity on the Part of the Artillery—British Guns Demonstrating Their Superiority Over Those of the Enemy—Indian Troops Keep Up Their Good Work.

London, Feb. 16.—The plea of the British public for the names of the military units participating in brilliant actions in France and Belgium has been answered by a special despatch from Sir John French, the British commander-in-chief on the continent, dated at General Headquarters, Feb. 2, and made public by the War Office today.

The despatch consists mainly of a technical review of the fighting in which the British forces were concerned during the month of November. This is the first of the bi-weekly communications from Sir John French, for which the War Office arranged as a concession to the public demand for more news concerning the progress of the war. It is as follows:

"Since our successes near La Bassée at the beginning of last week, there has been less activity in that area. We nevertheless made further progress in this quarter, and on the 13th a valuable point was secured without loss.

"We have consolidated our hold on the ground gained and conclusive evidence has been obtained that the enemy's losses in the recent fighting have been severe.

SUPERIORITY OF BRITISH BIG GUNS DEMONSTRATED

"In the Ypres district the enemy attacked our line of the 14th and succeeded at first in gaining possession of a few trenches. Counter-attacks were made by us and the ground lost was recovered, some prisoners being captured.

"On the remainder of the front there has been some increase in intensity in the artillery duel, in which we have shown a marked superiority. Direct hits have in several instances been secured on the enemy's guns, and much damage has been done to his defences.

"In spite of the bad weather our air-craft carried out their accustomed tasks with conspicuous success. An aviator discovered a hostile ammunition column near La Bassée and dropped a bomb on it, blowing up an ammunition wagon."

OF PRINCESS PATRICIA'S REGIMENT, THE CANADIAN ORGANIZATION, SIR JOHN SAYS: "THEY ARE A MAGNIFICENT SET OF MEN AND HAVE DONE EXCELLENT WORK IN THE TRENCHES."

"Reinforcements have arrived from England, Sir John adds, with remarkable promptitude and rapidity. In appearance and quality these men have exceeded his most sanguine expectations.

"Paying a tribute to the medical corps, Sir John declares that the troops are free from any epidemic; only 500 cases of typhoid fever have occurred in the army.

Sir John, continuing, calls attention to the fact that the course of the campaign has been largely influenced by the weather, and says that recent developments in armaments and the latest methods of warfare have added greatly to the difficulties of the British.

"The deadly accuracy, the range, and the quick-firing capabilities of the modern rifle and machine gun require that a fire-swept zone be crossed in the shortest possible time by attacking troops," the British commander writes, "but if the men are determined under the enemy's fire by the difficulty of emerging from the water-logged trenches and by the necessity of passing over ground knee-deep in mud and slush, such attacks become virtually prohibitive owing to the losses they entail.

This explains from the standpoint of the leaders the slow progress of the present trench warfare.

INDIAN TROOPS IN THE THICK OF THE FIGHT

Sir John adds that his forces got somewhat mixed up with the French during the heavy fighting in November, but subsequently he was able to concentrate his army in one area holding a shorter line, and to establish effective reserves. He records the exploits of various regiments and units, such as the capturing of lines of trenches, and the blowing up of farms. In nearly all these activities the Indian troops figured prominently, and lost heavily. The Germans took 800 yards of the Indian trenches on one occasion, but subsequently were driven out, although Sir John admits that the operation was a costly one. Several times the British troops captured positions only to evacuate them because they were untenable. Such frequent mention is made of the Indian soldiers that they would appear to have been bearing the brunt of the fighting.

Laurier is Rebuked by Hon. Mr. Doherty

Ottawa, Feb. 16.—Before the House went into committee on supply, Sir Robert Borden, in making a statement as to the ministerial changes since August, said that Hon. L. P. Pelletier, the Postmaster General, had retired, on the advice of his physicians, as his physical strength was not equal to the arduous duties of his office. The Prime Minister said no minister at the head of the Post Office Department had ever proved himself a more capable administrator than Mr. Pelletier. Referring to the appointment of Hon. Bruno Nantel to the Railway Commission, Sir Robert stated that the former Minister of Inland Revenue was succeeding Mr. Bernier, a former member of the Laurier government, whose health in recent years had prevented him from giving attention to his duties. Mr. Pelletier had been succeeded by Mr. Casgrain, a gentleman of long public service, both in the Quebec legislature and in the federal parliament. Mr. Nantel had been succeeded by Mr. Blondin, a comparatively young parliamentarian, who had during the past three years occupied the position of Deputy Speaker, and had displayed discretion and good judgment, which must have commended themselves to all members of the House.

though too ill to be a Minister of the Crown, he could, at least, serve the people as a Judge of the Superior Court of Quebec.

On the other hand, there was the Minister of Justice, unable to serve his country as a judge, but able to serve it as a member of the cabinet. This said Sir Wilfrid, was an example of the flexible logic of the Conservative party.

The leader of the opposition stated that he considered Hon. Mr. Casgrain the logical appointee to the position left vacant by Mr. Pelletier's retirement. He had always been a pure, undiluted Tory, and personally Sir Wilfrid was glad to see him in the House.

Hon. Mr. Nantel had also been called to another sphere, and had been succeeded by Mr. Blondin. Well, Sir Wilfrid thought it was the irony of fate that the member for Champlain, the arch-Nationalist, should have been introduced to the House by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, the arch-Imperialist. He thought the latter had limped a little on this occasion, as though the load were a heavy one for him to carry. Sir Wilfrid continued that when it was announced that the member for Champlain had signed the roll, and taken the oath he had almost expected it to be added that he had filled the holes in the Union Jack, which he had sought to make, so that he might breathe the atmosphere of liberty. Now he breathed the atmosphere of office, with which he seemed able to fill his lungs, whether there were holes in the flag or not. The opposition leader then referred to Mr. Blondin's former "incendiary speech" in opposition to the idea of a Canadian navy, and stated that, to gain office, he had travelled a dangerous road. The appeals to passion which he had formerly sown were sure to bring forth a crop of dangerous prejudices.

Laurier Caught in Falseness.

Hon. C. J. Doherty rose to his feet at the conclusion of Sir Wilfrid's remarks. It was proof at what a loss in the government's policy with regard to Canada's participation in the war, and a difference with the Minister of Railways as to the location of the Quebec terminals of the National Transcontinental Railway, which have had something to do with Mr. Pelletier's retirement. However, the House was assured that ill-health was the reason for his resignation. His friends were relieved to hear that

MR. FLEMING IS BANQUETED BY THE HOUSE

Hundred Guests at Dinner in His Honor—Large Audience at Meeting He Addressed.

Special to the Standard.

Andover, N. B., Feb. 16.—A public meeting and banquet in honor of J. K. Fleming, the Conservative federal nominee for the united counties of Carleton and Victoria, here last night at the Court House and Specialty Theatre was a grand success in every way. Notwithstanding that the night was one of the most disagreeable of the whole season an audience of over four hundred gathered at the Court House and over a hundred guests sat down to the banquet that followed.

At the public meeting Mr. C. H. Elliott presided and speeches were made by J. K. Fleming, Donald Munro, M. L. J. Carter, M.L.A., J. L. White, M. L. Hayward.

Mr. Fleming in his speech stated that, in his conjunction with the shipper and local members, would confer with the shipping department of the F.R. in an endeavor to get a special freight rate to Winnipeg and Western points during the Spring, which would materially relieve the potato congestion, and that the federal government had promised active assistance in developing a Cuban market by granting a subsidy for a weekly line of steamers from St. John to Havana.

At the banquet following Mr. C. H. Elliott acted as toast master and the Grand Falls orchestra furnished music. After enjoying the menu the following programme was carried out:

"The King" music, "The Federal Parliament," proposed by Rev. Mr. Fields and responded to by J. K. Fleming, selection by the orchestra, song by Mr. Garnet Birmingham, "The Local Legislature," proposed by Mr. George Wiggins and replied to by Donald Munro, B. P. Smith, T. J. Carter and J. L. White, M.L.A., song, C. H. Elliott, "Our French Allain Brothers" proposed by M. L. Hayward and replied to by Dr. G. L. A. M. Champlain and Grand Falls and C. L. Cyr of St. Leonard's, "The Canadian Overseas Forces," proposed by Mr. M. H. Craig and replied to by Capt. J. B. Stevenson and other military men present.

SHOULD CURE ALL AFFLICTIONS OF DESIRE FOR WAR

London, Feb. 17.—Presiding at a scientific lecture in London last night, Viscount Bryce, the British Ambassador to the United States, said that if there was a chance of ridding the world of the worst evil of the human race—war—that chance ought to come now.

"If this does not cure it," said Viscount Bryce, "nothing will."

The speaker ventured the hope that there would be a stronger feeling for peace in the world before the war, and a stronger sense of the detestable consequences to which the warship of war may bring a great people. If so, he added, the sacrifices would not be made in vain.

"You are a pensioner all the same," Speaker Sproule pointed out that to assert that another member was stating what he knew to be untrue was scarcely parliamentary.

Mr. Doherty then explained that if he had been allowed to continue, he would have made it clear that what he meant was that Sir Wilfrid Laurier's statement was untrue, not that he had knowingly made an untrue statement. He ventured to say that the opposition leader ought to have known it to be untrue. "I wish to say that every man who knows me, and the circumstances under which I resigned my position on the bench, and I had thought to count the Right Hon. the leader of the opposition among them, knows that in connection with my resignation there was never a question of illness on my part or inability to perform my duties."

Suggests Convoy for U. S. Ships.

Admiral Behncke said that Germany was prepared to suggest the United States an even freer and safer method of passage for American ships bound either through the channel or to English ports, namely, that several American warships should wait in some port on the southwest coast of Ireland, and, when communicated with by wireless from an American merchantman, one of them should proceed to the place indicated and convoy the merchantman through that portion of the sea which Germany, following the example of Great Britain, has declared to be dangerous.

"Of course," said the Admiral, "ships under convoy, by the rules of international law, are not subject to search, but the country to which they belong is upon its honor, as it were, to see that they do not carry contraband of war."

"American warships have distinctive masts and are well known to the officers of the German navy, and either by night or day they and the vessels under their convoy would be respected by German submarines."

"This is a safe method to follow for American ships which desire to enter these portions of the sea proclaimed

GERMANS WILL ABANDON PLAN TO BLOCKADE IF IT DOES NOT GET FOOD FOR NON-COMBATANTS PASS

Berlin, Feb. 16 (by wireless to Sayville).—Admiral Behncke, of the Marine Department, has made a statement to Lieut. Commander Walter R. Gherard, naval attaché of the American Embassy in Berlin, which is given out officially as the best exposition of the situation with respect to Germany's declaration of the waters around the British Isles as a zone.

"Up to the present time Germany, in the war at sea, has followed the London declaration, or the stipulations of the Paris treaty, or which the conduct of war on the sea had been based before the London declaration.

"In waging this commercial warfare, England had in view the subjugation of Germany by starvation. Germany had in every way sought to bring the attention of the neutral powers and all others to the necessity she was under to obtain food for her civilian population, and for which the right under the laws of war. No results could be obtained from her efforts.

"Since the shutting off of food supplies had now come to a point where Germany could no longer feed her people, it became necessary for her to bring England to terms by the exercise of force.

"Germany knows that by the use of the submarine, England can be placed in a position where food will be lacking. She has the submarine force with which to do it; her life as a nation and the lives of her people depend upon putting in a campaign into action and she must do it.

Germany's Only Means of Saving Herself.

"The difficulties lying in the way of this campaign have been largely connected with the care which it is necessary to take to neutral ships and to the lives of those on board all commercial ships, whether neutral or belonging to the enemy.

"First—in arming her merchant ships with guns for self-defence, and adopted policy against which Germany strongly protest. The United States took the British point of view. It is not possible for submarine to approach British merchant ships and make examinations without exposing themselves to gunfire or bomb attack, against which a submarine would be helpless.

"Second—England has advised her merchant fleet to fly neutral flags, to cover up names and change stacks, to escape the consequences of their nationality. This plan was designed to bring Germany into conflict with neutral nations.

"Germany does not wish, in the slightest degree, to harm American or other neutral ships, or their cargoes, unless carrying contraband of war. She has therefore stated that where her life depends upon her putting into effect the only means she has of saving herself. She must and will use this means.

Commanding officers of submarine boats have been given orders to make every effort to safeguard neutrals. In spite of the precautions which submarines could take—without the danger of being destroyed themselves—possible, the matter will be no longer left to the chance of neutral ships might, through error or accident be destroyed. For this a strong warning was issued.

"In addition, the English coast has been mined by the British themselves for protective reasons, and would be mined by the Germans as an act of offensive warfare. Ships were therefore in danger from mines.

"In spite of the great effect the Admiralty has noted that neutral ships will have in bringing the war to a rapid close, the Admiralty do not wish to put it into effect, to the detriment of neutral commerce, and the rights of nations on the high seas.

"The House spent most of today's sitting in the considering of the estimates, and some twelve million dollars of appropriations were voted with little discussion. Ocean freight rates was a topic during the time that trade and commerce department estimates were being taken up. Sir George Post-er told the House that there was a provision in all steamship contracts which gave the Minister of Trade and Commerce the right to control rates, and that he intended to secure an expert who would address the department in such cases. Rates during the last six months had gone up everywhere, but he did not think the increase was any more pronounced in Canada than elsewhere.

RESCUE THEM FROM HOUSES BY BOAST

Flood Conditions in Italy Somewhat Improved—Whole Village of 1,000 Inhabitants Isolated.

Rome, Feb. 16.—With a decreased rain fall the flood conditions resulting from the Tiber overflowing its banks were somewhat better today than yesterday, although the river is still booming along out of its course and inundating various sections of the city and country.

The rescue work is proceeding by means of boats in which people in inundated houses are being removed to high places, and food is being taken to those whose situation is not regarded as alarming.

The morgue boat, while transporting bodies to a point from which they could be conveyed to the cemetery, capsized today and the caskets containing the bodies floated away. All the men on the boat escaped.

Under the direction of military engineers a large number of workmen are engaged in freeing the embankment below the castle San Angelo from the weight of the water, to prevent its collapse.

From the heights around Rome the country about, as far as the sea, seems like a succession of lakes, in the midst of which trees are growing. Reports received today from the village of Fiumicino, 15 miles southeast of Rome, said that about 1,000 of its inhabitants were in distress. The entire village is isolated by the flood, which is racing to the sea there with great rapidity. The population is said to be without food. Three boats sent there with supplies have not yet arrived, and their fate is not known. The minister of the navy has ordered torpedo boats to Fiumicino but it is doubtful if they will be able to reach the canal leading to the village.

At the mouth of the Tiber several houses have been rendered uninhabitable by the flood.

OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

FRANCE

Paris, Feb. 16.—The French War Office issued the following official statement this afternoon: "The British troops recaptured yesterday the two parts of the trench which had last been held by the Germans before Saint Etienne and the Ypres Canal.

"On the front of the French armies the day of Feb. 15 was, on the whole, calm. No infantry actions have been reported, and particularly important successes of our artillery are confirmed."

RUSSIA

Petrograd, Feb. 16.—The following official statement from the general staff of the Russian command-in-chief was made public tonight: "In the region of Augustowo (Northern Poland) our troops on Feb. 15 stubbornly fought numerous superior German forces who were attempting to envelop both our wings.

"A German column is advancing from Grajewo, across the East Prussian border in Poland (near Lyck) to Osoowitz.

"Between the Vistula and the Wkra river the enemy has reached the front of Plock-Radziszewo.

"On the Bzura we have repulsed attacks of little spirit by the Germans near the Zylin farm. On the other positions on the left bank of the Vistula there has been only cannonading.

"In Bukovina the enemy has been virtually unchanged. Our troops have made progress on the left bank of the Upper Bar. We also repulsed successfully stubborn German attacks near Kosivka and Wyzskow.

"In Bukovina the enemy has captured Radworna, across the Sereth river."

Art Exhibit.

The Canadian art exhibit in aid of the Patriotic Fund will be opened in the St. John Art Club rooms this afternoon. The formal opening will take place tomorrow afternoon, when Lieutenant Governor Wood and Mrs. Wood will likely be present. The proceedings this afternoon will be informal.

dangerous by Germany, and differs only from the rule adopted by Great Britain with reference to American ships passing through the channel, in that American ships, instead of being compelled to enter a British port, take a British pilot and be searched by officers of a British warship, would be permitted to pass unmolested to their destination without being subjected to search, the Imperial German government being willing, of course, to accept the implied word of honor of the United States that the ships carry no contraband of war."

DESPERATE FIGHTING IN EASTERN THEATRE

London, Feb. 17.—The Daily Chronicle's correspondent with the Russian army in Bukovina sends a description of the desperate fighting around Czeronowitz and the flight of thousands of fugitives. His despatch is dated from Novoseluzha, on the Russian frontier, Feb. 15.

"The Germans and Austrians," says the correspondent, "in overwhelming numbers attacked the Russian positions from three directions, their force numbering at least three army corps. They crossed the Sereth river at two points, fifteen miles apart, while the third column advanced down the valley of the Pruth river from Washkivitsa.

"Despite the terrible losses inflicted by the Russian artillery, the first two columns succeeded in crossing the Sereth, and threatened to cut off the Russian retreat from Czeronowitz. The fighting became desperate and continued all about the city, the Russians putting up a magnificent rearguard action.

"The Russian position in front of Czeronowitz was on top of a snow-capped plateau. The Germans crossed the valley to this plateau this morning, losing thousands of men, whose bodies are plainly visible on the surface of the snow. The survivors flung themselves, fighting desperately, into the Russian trenches.

The battle here was still going on when the correspondent left the city. He gives a description of the flight of the fugitives across the Rumanian frontier, but says this road of escape was cut off by the Austrians later in the day.

INDIGESTION, GAS OR SICK, SOUR STOMACH

Time "Pape's Diapepsin!"

In five minutes all stomach misery is gone.

"Really does" put bad stomachs in order—really does" overcome indigestion; dyspepsia, gas, heartburn and sourness in five minutes—that's just what makes Pape's Diapepsin the largest selling stomach regulator in the world. If what you eat ferments into stubborn lumps, you belch gas and acid; head is dizzy and aches; breath foul; tongue coated; your insides filled with bile and indigestible waste, remember the moment "Pape's Diapepsin" comes in contact with the stomach all such distress vanishes. It's truly astonishing—almost marvelous, and the joy is its harmlessness.

A large fifty-cent case of Pape's Diapepsin will give you a hundred dollars' worth of satisfaction or your druggist hands you your money back.

It's worth its weight in gold to men and women who can't get their stomachs regulated. It belongs in your home—should always be kept handy in case of a sick, sour, upset stomach during the day or at night. It's the quickest, surest and most harmless stomach doctor in the world.

London, Feb. 16.—Recent additions to the list of prohibited exports of Great Britain include many new articles of the sort which might be of use to belligerents in feeding live stock. All sorts of beans, flaxseed, oilcake, oat corn and a score of other products, which might be used by countries at war with Great Britain in the care of cattle, horses and other animals, are now in the prohibited list.

Rumors of a shortage of forage in Germany, and the strict government supervision it exacts for possible food for domestic animals have doubtless been responsible for the extension of the prohibited articles in Great Britain.

HEAVY LOSSES IN EAST DENIED BY GERMANS

General Staff Claims Success and Reports Capture of Plock and Bielsk in Poland.

Berlin, Feb. 16 (by wireless to Sayville).—The German staff today gave out a report on the progress of the war reading as follows:

"Western theatre of the war: The attacks of the enemy upon the trenches taken by German troops from the English near St. Etienne yesterday repulsed; otherwise there have been no important developments in the west.

"Eastern theatre of the war: The fighting and the pursuits on and beyond the East Prussian frontier are proceeding very favorably. In Poland, north of the Vistula German troops have occupied Bielsk and Plock after a short engagement. About 1,000 prisoners were taken. South of the Vistula there have been no important developments.

"Foreign newspapers are publishing the most absurd rumors concerning immense German losses in the fighting on the east of Belinow, Russian Poland, which began in Proratory. It can be said that the German losses in these attacks were small in proportion to the successes attained."

DIES FROM PNEUMONIA

Edinburgh, Feb. 16, via London, Feb. 17.—Captain Erdmann, commander of the German cruiser Bluecher, who was among those rescued during the battle between British and German squadrons in the North Sea January 25, died tonight from pneumonia. His illness was due to exposure suffered when the Bluecher was sunk. Captain Erdmann was one of the greatest gunnery authorities in the German navy.

OPERA HOUSE TODAY

SPECIAL MATINEE 2.30

Special Matinee Price 25c No Seats Reserved

Benefit of the Red Cross

The Rapid-Fire Comedy

"A MISFIT HERO"

Auspices N. B. Graduate Nurses' Association

Prices 50c - 35c - 25c

TONIGHT IS MILITARY NIGHT

STARTING FEB. 18 THUR.

With Special Matinee and Chocolate Souvenirs

YOUNG-ADAMS COMPANY

"EAST LYNNE" New Vaudeville Acts

The Most Satisfying Famous Players Production We Will Have Ever Shown You

IMPERIAL THEATRE TODAY

One of the Greatest of Mystery-Plays

PAUL McALLISTER and JANE FEARNLEY

—In the Five-Act Drama—

"The Scales of Justice"

UNLESS YOU ARE A CASE-HARDENED STOIC the splendid play today will go straight to your heart. It is a human story in every sense of the word and to explain it herewith, even briefly, would spoil it for those who intend seeing it. The mastery treatment in suspense and mystery—right up to the very last moments of the court scene—which the author has imparted to the narrative, makes it a masterpiece. Nothing the Imperial has yet shown in the way of high dramatics excels "The Scales of Justice," and Mr. McAllister and Miss Fearnley are supported by a faultless company.

HILDEGARDE MASON and GEORGE MURRAY

In a Bright, Breezy and Brainy Skit.

"GETTING HIS GOAT"—A SCREAM

The Big Orchestra and Hearst-Seig News-Photos

Men From at Inspe Wives G at Deviz Moments

(Wiltshire Gazette) The Canadian received a signal of the King they were inspected on Salisbury Plain. The general anticipatory morning, when at was announced that the parade for the morning, and when their disposal was ready for what most interesting moment in which they participated. The parade for ten o'clock what early hour for be on the parade was billeted on at an camp. The Plin as hope was that it much," as some eally cheerful men put it. The point which the inspect Knightdown Down. This was to travel the which the men and spick and span or dians naturally de was honoring the age. The distance consideration was the Divisional Ar Divizes, and it might march or pted, it is p that more ground a greater degree of by night, and that readily recognized ties. Consequently night march was onel Morrison, con Brigadi, decided tives of his unit ab day yesterday. T to parade and migh yesterday; an wind and threaten promise much for journey, the repr Brigade looked up from the dally ro pleasure. All wh though for a varie portion of the me with the men and guns which they looked better than came into their ho boots about a mon The Brigade pro point known as " an unfamiliar nam which we are ass new camp on the side by the Gen sequence of the ch soil. At the "Whi asked for the righ three or four rail socks to last in th when they expect "old new homes" "Brigade moved in parade ground at 9. wait the arrival whole of the Canad ed (Inference to ship we forbear to c tion), the various line in two lines u E. A. H. Alderson, the Continent. C King was received military honors, af the troops filed past The 1st Brigade is Divizes again abou afternoon.

The Work of

The work of th generally routine than any special attention has been equipment of some with boots, unwea titles of a persona new harness of one has been received ready for issue. T siderable bridgess stores in Northgate boxes of new goods and refilled with t "seen their day." horses, clipping som rather long, shaggy whole or part, have

CRUSTS IN T YOU

Relief in Five tain Cure Follow tarhozone

Don't stay stuffed nose, after rain. Use Catarrhoson. Take one breath. —Just one single br —clearly out the you breathe free an Relief from Catarrh and effective— you all day to get it d No other treatment gone or is able to completely out of t You don't take an An using Catarrhoson the chance of spoili