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TWELVE PAGES—ONE CENT

BRITISH LOSE ARMENTIERES

Withdrawal Announced Officially; Fighting Very Heavy; Combat Desperate All Along Front From LaBassee Canal to Ypres-Comines Canal

London, April 11—The war office announces that the British have withdrawn from Armentieres, on the northern battlefield. Violent fighting continues all along the front from La Bassee Canal to the Ypres-Comines Canal. On the front north of Armentieres heavy fighting was continuing late last night. There was little change in the British positions. The statement follows: "The battle is continuing on the whole front from La Bassee Canal to the Ypres-Comines Canal. "Severe fighting has taken place in the neighborhood of the Lawe and Lys Canals, from about Lestrem to Armentieres. Our troops have been withdrawn from Armentieres, which is full of gas. "North of Armentieres there is little change in the situation. Heavy fighting was continuing at a late hour last night in the neighborhood of Ploegsteert, Messines and Wyt-schachte. "On the remainder of the British front there is nothing to report."

Desperate fighting continues uninterruptedly on a twenty-five mile front between Ghenvichy and Wytschachte with the Germans suffering severe losses for whatever gains they make against the strong British defenses.

Repeated attacks against the British line between Estaires and Ghenvichy toward Bethune have been checked sanguinarily. Berlin claims the capture of 6,000 men and 100 guns on this sector Tuesday.

Emperor William and the German military leaders in the present offensive. It is reported in despatches from the battle front, plan to wipe out of the British army, it is believed that the Germans are seriously attempting, by swinging their attacks to the north, to annihilate British resistance. In consequence further assaults along the British front and much desperate fighting is expected.

Infantry fighting on the Picardy battle front has quieted down momentarily. The French and German artillery fire has been violent north of Mont Didier and along the Oise Canal, northwest of Soissons.

STAY IN JAIL OR GO TO THE WAR?

Case of Absentee From Kitchens Who is Behind Bars for Prohibition Act Violation

Fredericton, N. B., April 11—Roy Mullins, who is serving a term in York County Jail for having liquor in his possession at a place other than his residence, is an absentee from the 236th MacLean Highlanders. He has expressed a desire to rejoin his battalion and the military authorities have taken steps to have him released. Application to the police magistrate, however, brought out the information that under the prohibition act a magistrate has no discretion and when a prisoner is serving a sentence he must complete it.

SOME THRONES TOTTERING

Positions of Count Czernin, Chancellor Von Hertling and Von Kuehlmann Believed Insecure

London, April 11—The position of Count Czernin, Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, is said to be much less secure since his recent speech and the publication of a French official statement that Emperor Charles considered the French demand for Alsace-Lorraine just according to an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Copenhagen. There is growing dissatisfaction in Germany with Imperial Chancellor Von Hertling and Foreign Secretary Von Kuehlmann, and efforts are being made to replace Von Hertling with Dr. Von Helfferich, former vice-chancellor. The Austrian embassy in Berlin officially denies the French statement attributed to Emperor Charles, but does not insist that there never was any talk of an acknowledgment by the emperor of the justice of the Alsace-Lorraine demands.

WAS NOTED GEOGRAPHER.

Vidal de la Blache Is Dead in Paris. Paris, April 11—The death of Vidal de la Blache, the noted geographer, is reported. He was seventy-three years of age. He directed the issue of a series of maps which bears his name and which was published in the Historical and Geographical Atlas of 1910. M. de la Blache was a member of the French delegation which arrived in New York on April 7, 1912, with a bronze bust which was erected at Crown Point, Lake Champlain, N. Y., on May 8 of that year in memory of Samuel de Champlain.

American Naval Base At The Azores

Washington, April 11—For the protection of the Atlantic trade routes to Southern Europe, the United States, with the consent of Portugal, has established a naval base on the Azores Island. Guns have been landed to begin fortifying the station. The place also will serve as an important homing station for American airplanes, some of which already have been assembled there. Germany knows this.

MORE GERMAN TROOPS LAND ON FINNISH SHORES

Squadron Convoys Transport To Lovisa

DESIGN TO TAKE HELSINGFORS

Russian Government Asks German Permission to Postpone Demobilization Because of Japanese Landing at Vladivostok

London, April 11—A German squadron with several transports is reported to have arrived at Lovisa, midway between Helsingfors and Viborg, Finland, according to a Reuter despatch from Petrograd. The squadron came from the direction of Revel and a small force was said to have landed and occupied Lovisa.

Stockholm, April 11—German troops numbering 15,000 are now operating along the southern coast of Finland, where they already have had several small battles with the Finnish rebels, according to information received by the Swedish government.

Estimate diplomats here have received reports that thirty or forty Russian submarines and destroyers and four or five battleships are still off Helsingfors, the capture of which is probably part of the German plan, it is believed, however, that the warships have all been rendered unserviceable by their crews.

Basle, Switzerland, April 11—The Besarabian Diet, according to a telegram from Bucharest, has decided in favor of the union of Bessarabia with Roumania.

London, April 11—The foreign minister, Lord Curzon, has informed the president of the Zeemst that the landing of Allied marines there was due to anarchy and that the consuls consider that order has been restored, according to a Vladivostok telegram received by Reuter's correspondent.

A despatch from Moscow says that the Bolshevik government has opened negotiations with Berlin for a temporary suspension of the Brest-Litovsk treaty as regards the article on demobilization of the Russian army.

Stockholm, April 11—M. Linda, a Finnish capitalist and a brother-in-law of General Mannerheim, military leader of the Finnish government forces, told American Minister Morris that "now, when freedom is in sight, nobody, German or any other country, will be permitted to dominate Finland."

London, April 10—The Bolshevik government has asked Germany for permission to postpone the demobilization of the Russian army in consequence of the Japanese landing at Vladivostok, according to reports in circulation in Petrograd and forwarded by Reuter's correspondent.

London, April 11—The Russian foreign minister, M. Tchitcherine, has informed the Chinese government, Reuter's Petrograd correspondent reports, that the Russian Soviet government will regard relations between the Chinese authorities and former Russian diplomats as interference in Russian internal affairs and as assistance to the enemy of the council of people's commissars.

LAVAL STUDENTS TO QUEBEC FARMS

Quebec, April 11—The directors and superiors of all the colleges and seminaries affiliated to Laval met last evening to discuss closing down earlier and opening later this summer to enable the students to do some measures for increasing the colony's naval and military forces was called today by the cabinet. The possibility of introducing some form of selective service has been under discussion for some time.

ANOTHER OUTBREAK IN QUEBEC, BUT SMALL

Quebec, April 11—Following an alleged assault on Frederick Delisle, who has three sons in the army and who was alleged to be a "potted" for the militia, the small parish of Deschambault, in the county of Port Neuf, was yesterday threatened with an insipient riot, when four or five youngsters marched to Delisle's residence and smashed windows.

ARCHBISHOP OF YORK ON BATTLE IN WEST

New York, April 11—In what was termed his "farewell interview" before departing for England, Archbishop of York today emphatically said that a break in the Allied line would not have a decisive effect on the war.

FATALITY NEAR HALIFAX

Halifax, April 11—John McInnes, of Tignish, P. E. I., employed in building of a railway station at Rockingham, was killed by an oncoming train today.

Slight Artillery and Patrol Activity Is Reported Along the Whole Front, Says Today's Official Italian Statement

London, April 11—Irishmen maintain the right to say whether they shall be conscripted or not, declared Captain William A. Redmond, son of the late John E. Redmond, today in his first speech in the House of Commons since he was elected to the constituency formerly held by his father. In 1914, he said, Ireland was almost ablaze with enthusiasm on the side of the Allies, but the sentiment of the Irish people had since changed toward the war, owing to the distress of the government and in the word of British ministers. By the government's present action, the Irishmen would be asked to make an open hostility to the war. It would require armies to recruit battalions, while if the government trusted Ireland, that trust would not be betrayed. Captain Redmond warned the house that if the government pursued its present policy there would soon be no Irish party in the House of Commons, but there would be a much harder nut to crack—Irish. The Sinn Feiners. London, April 11—Absolute calm seems to prevail among the Sinn Feiners, says a Central News despatch from Dublin, but it is understood orders have been given to all sections of the Irish volunteers regarding action to be taken in the event Irish conscription is agreed upon. At meetings of many public bodies, the despatch adds, fiery speeches have been made and strong resolutions passed against the application of the man power bill to Ireland.

Redmond's Son On Conscription Issue

Returned Men Get Welcome One of Them in City Was "Over the Top" on West Front Five Times

H. S. Mayes and his band of workers, known as the returned soldiers' reception committee, were at the discharge depot early this morning to tender a formal welcome to New Brunswick boys who arrived here last evening from the front. R. E. Armstrong, in the absence of Mayor Hayes, extended the boys a welcome home on behalf of the citizens of St. John and of Canada. His speech was followed by three rousing cheers by the committee for the boys. The ladies of the committee then went through the depot, presenting to the soldiers bags of candy, while the men gave to those remaining here this evening tickets for the various show houses. Included in the party was one decorated man, Lance Corporal Murphy of Newcastle. Corporal Murphy has the distinction of "going over the top" five times, three times on the Somme and twice at Vimy Ridge. He went overseas with the 5th battalion and was transferred to another as a stretcher-bearer. He crossed the France with this unit and saw seven months of service before getting his "blighty."

THREE TIMES A CASUALTY

Pte. Fred T. Connell Wounded in Hand—Pte. Harold Keleher Hit

Mrs. Mary Connell, of 181 Erin street, received word this morning that her son, Pte. Fred T. Connell, had been wounded in the hand and admitted to No. 6 dressing station. This is the third time that the Connell name has appeared on the casualty list; the first time he was wounded in the left shoulder, and the second he was shot through the chest. Pte. Harold Keleher, brother of Louis E., recently returned home after doing his share to defeat the Hun, and just a year ago yesterday Robert J., another brother, was killed in action at Vimy Ridge. A son-in-law, Sergeant George Fry, is also overseas doing his part to win the war. The family record is one to be proud of.

BOLO PASHA SAYS WHEN HE GOES HE WILL TAKE OTHERS

Paris, April 11—Bolo Pasha entertains no doubt as to what his ultimate fate will be, according to the Petit Journal. It quotes him as saying to his keeper on Monday: "I will go to Vincennes, but I will surely follow." (It is at Vincennes that French military executions take place.) Bolo, continuing his "revelations," but the utmost silence is preserved as to their trend.

WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, director of meteorological service. Synopsis—The distribution of pressure has changed but little since yesterday, with the high areas centred in the Lower St. Lawrence Valley and the lower stationary near the middle Atlantic coast. A fall of rain and snow has occurred in Ontario along the north shore of Lake Erie, while elsewhere the weather has been fine.

ONLY ONE LONGER IN SERVICE

The C. G. R. constables this morning received the news that only one of the 280th Battalion of the st. Patrick street arrived home. He went overseas with the 287th battalion and was transferred into another. He was taken ill with pneumonia while in France and for this reason has been invalided home. Private Richard Canty of 108 Britain street arrived home. He went overseas with the 280th battalion but was unable to pass the final medical examination in England.

DEATH OF CHILD

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Wagner will sympathize with them in the loss of their little boy, Peter, aged eleven months, who died this morning.

Case of Power Co. Presented

Battle for Rights of People of St. John is on; Legislative Chamber Crowded; City's Case Hearing This Afternoon

Fredericton, N. B., April 11—The opening round of the battle between the New Brunswick Power Company and the people of St. John took place on the floors of the legislature this morning. There have been many preliminary skirmishes but the decisive conflict opened today with the corporations committee as the referee. Representatives of the company's interests are here in force. The citizens' representatives also have been arriving and today the big party which came up on the morning train swelled the total to about a hundred.

Owing to the size of the delegations the committee met in the legislative chamber which was crowded to capacity. The morning was devoted to hearing the case for the company, their investors and the committee will resume at four o'clock this afternoon when the city's arguments will be heard.

When the committee met at 10:30 o'clock the chairman, Hon. J. P. Burchill, explained the purpose of the meeting, saying that he understood there was some opposition to some of its measures. He announced that those supporting the bill would be heard first and those opposed later.

The Company's Case. M. G. Teed, K. C., for the N. B. Power Company, was the first to address the committee. He said that the purpose of the bill was not to increase dividends but to enable the company to meet its increased expenses. He traced the organization of the N. B. Hydro Electric Co. and the subsequent purchase by its promoters of the St. John Railway Co. If conditions had not changed since then the plant fixed the value at \$782,520. These appraised values should be added two or three per cent for contingencies. Mr. Waterman had reported the gas department would add \$24,000 to the total. The plant would cost 50 per cent more today, making the total replacement value \$830,000.

The experts had recommended expenditures of \$175,000 on the gas works and \$200,000 on the railway, and money would be needed for extensions if the city was to grow, and for these purposes \$21,000 would be required. The company's property was valued at \$1,000,000. The plant would cost 50 per cent more today, making the total replacement value \$830,000.

Dr. Baxter, he said an investigation of the physical assets had been made by Mr. Frothingham for Harris, Forbes and Co., who had taken \$1,000,000 worth of bonds. His report was not available.

If the United States going into the war had not prevented it, he said, the company would have sold securities and had the hydro-electric power in use by the city. For instance the sale of a company's property was an excuse for increasing the rates, but Mr. Taylor said that the city had a deficit, he believed, of \$69,000.

Mayor Hayes and Commissioner McLellan explained that the city had a deficit, he believed, of \$69,000. Mr. Taylor quoted other cities where higher street car fares were in effect, and urged an immediate increase as a matter of life and death importance to the city. He mentioned that the plant in London, Ont., had closed down because a requested increase had not been granted.

W. E. McGregor. W. E. McGregor, of Harris, Forbes & Co., Boston, and New York, followed. He was introduced by Mr. Taylor as the representative of the largest bond house in the states, a house which had caused the loss of a dollar to any investor.

Mr. McGregor told of the negotiations for the sale of bonds of the old company which were not saleable. The suggestion of a union between the railway company and the power company made what seemed to be an ideal situation. He said that the field seemed capable of large development. They were prepared to advance \$1,500,000 on the bond issue and another firm put up \$1,000,000 on the first preferred stock, other financing being cared for by local men interested. The proposition looked so satisfactory that they were prepared to furnish further funds from time to time as development took place. The suggestion of a union between the railway company and the power company made what seemed to be an ideal situation. He said that the field seemed capable of large development. They were prepared to advance \$1,500,000 on the bond issue and another firm put up \$1,000,000 on the first preferred stock, other financing being cared for by local men interested. 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