

## ON WESTERN FRONT, ALLIED TROOPS CAN STRIKE AND WIN AS SUITS THEIR PLEASURE

### Laurier Goes After Unionists But Does Not Go Very Far

**Liberal Leader's Criticisms Are of a Piffing Nature—He Objects to Everything That Everybody Has Done Resulting in His Defeat—No New Government, But the Same Old Bunch with a Little New Blood, He Says.**

**Takes Objection to Method of Reporting Soldiers' Vote Which Endorsed a United Canada—Premier Borden Shows Quebec Leader Where the Opposition Stands Today, and Promises an Even More Decided Attitude for the Future.**

Ottawa, Ont., Mar. 19.—The debate on the address came to a sudden and unexpected termination at ten o'clock this evening, with a speech by Hon. Charles Murphy, the feature of which was a vigorous attack on Hon. N. W. Rowell. The ex-minister asserted that Mr. Rowell had commercialized Christianity and that he had, previous to his entry into the union government, entered into a conspiracy to supplant Sir Wilfrid Laurier as Liberal leader.

Mr. Murphy accused the government of having raised the racial and religious cry in order to win the election. He asserted that Mr. Rowell had sent his agent to London to offer a prominent Liberal of that city, as a bribe to desert the Liberal candidate, the chairmanship of the War Purchasing Commission; that he had deputed Mr. C. G. S. Lindsay of Toronto to interview Liberals to see if they would stand for the appointment of a member of the present government to the Ontario supreme court bench and that he had induced Robert H. Mulholland to make way for himself as candidate in Durham by offering him a seat in the Senate.

Mr. Rowell was not in attendance when Mr. Murphy spoke. (Continued on page 3)

### BOASTED GERMAN OFFENSIVE STILL FAILS TO CONNECT

**But Press Representatives Have Been Notified to Attend, and Probably Moving Picture Operators—Chancellor is Worried Over the Chilly Reception Accorded His Wonderful Peace Proposals.**

Notwithstanding the fact that the Germans, for some time past, have advertised largely their intention to begin a general offensive on the allied fronts at no distant date, nothing beyond intensified bombardments and here and there infantry attacks on various sectors have been forthcoming.

In both these kinds of manoeuvres the Germans have met more than their match in the guns of the men of the allied armies—the Belgian, British, French, American and Italian and Portuguese. Probably realizing that their efforts to weaken the people at home are beginning to require something more substantial than words, another tack has been taken, which either must result in an attempt to carry out seemingly vain-glorious promises or result in the German population believing, as the allied leaders long have believed, that with their strength in every department and prepared to counter any assaults the German high command is strong on holding out chimeras and weak in endeavoring to make good their boasts.

Almost as perfunctorily as invitations are issued for attendance upon state functions, the Germans now have hidden journalists of neutral countries to appear on the western battle front to witness the commencement of the German offensive operations. The correspondents, it is stated, are expected to begin their journey toward the scene of the proposed line, figuratively speaking, the allied armies, their guns shotted and their men in serried ranks, are waiting with confidence the sound of the "toots."

Probably not unconnected with the latest announcement of the Germans is the apparent sensitiveness displayed by the German imperial chancellor, Count Von Hertling, over the denunciation of the United States and the attempts to accept at its face value Germany's latest proffer of peace.

Running the gamut from Germany's good intentions to the fate that ultimately will befall the allies for their refusal to be taken in by Germany's sweetened words, the chancellor ended his address with the well-worn adage that for all future bloodshed the allies must accept full responsibility.

In the meanwhile all along the battlefronts in the west, from the North Sea to the Adriatic, the hostilities continued to be carried out by means of the big guns of the opposing sides and by small units of infantry in raiding operations. In none of the raids has any material result been achieved by either side, except possibly by the French troops of General Petain, who in the Rheims region have penetrated German positions to a depth of about three-fifths of a mile and put down effectively an attempt by the German Crown Prince to pierce the French line.

The Germans are trying out, with relatively heavy stacks, positions held by the Belgians. Although they succeeded at several points in their objectives they later were driven out from the greater portion of the positions gained, leaving prisoners and machine guns in the hands of the forces of King Albert.

Everywhere the airmen of both sides are keenly active. Particularly so are the British, who, in addition to numerous air raids behind the lines bombing points of vantage and indulging in fights in the air with enemy aviators, since October, have carried out 255 flights, or 38 raids, into German territory. The important town of Mannheim has been their latest target, explosive bombs exceeding a ton in weight having been dropped there. Both sides are claiming a heavy toll in aviators shot down during combats in the air.

While scant news is now coming from Great Russia, advices received from Siberia seemed to indicate a pre-

### DOMINION BONE DRY NEXT YEAR, HE SAYS

**Speaker at Hamilton Declares Canada Has Made Unexampled Progress Toward National Prohibition.**

Hamilton, Ont., Mar. 19.—Representations from British Columbia, Manitoba and Quebec were presented yesterday at the first session of the Dominion Council, Royal Templars of Temperance. The feature of the morning session was the address of J. A. Austin, the Dominion councillor, who dealt with the progress prohibition had made. Alluding to the fact that many countries had curtailed the drink traffic as a result of the war, he said: "But no country has made such progress towards absolute prohibition as Canada. In another year the Dominion will be bone dry from ocean to ocean." Mr. Austin warned delegates that the prohibition law was only for the duration of the war and one year thereafter, and the temperance people should be prepared then to meet the liquor forces and crush the evil forever.

### LIVED FOR A YEAR WITH BROKEN BACK

**One of Canada's Heroes Whose Case Has Excited Wide Interest Finally Succumbs in Ottawa Hospital—A Great Sufferer in Freedom's Cause.**

Ottawa, Mar. 19.—Gunner Gilbert Ross Slack, aged 23 years, who has lived for the past year with a shattered spine, the result of being hit by a piece of shrapnel just before the Vimy Ridge engagement in April, 1917, died in hospital here today. The young man's case has been one of the wonders of this war and although he was given up for dead months ago, he has struggled on clinging to life with wonderful courage. He was brought back to Canada in October last, after having been given up as hopeless by Sir Frederick Treves, the great British surgeon, who examined him in London. In the hope that there was still a chance for his boy to recover, his parents took him to New York a month after he arrived home and he was given up there by a great American surgeon. Since then he has been in a local hospital here undergoing great suffering but happy and cheerful all the time, awaiting the coming of the grim reaper with a courage that will stamp him as one of the heroes of this war.

### A GREAT RELIEF TO TITLED CANADIANS

**Hon. J. H. Burnham Decides to Hold Back His Proposed Bill While the War Lasts—Will Not Embarrass the Government.**

### VANCOUVER HAULS DOWN RUSSIAN FLAG

Ottawa, Ont., Mar. 19.—J. H. Burnham, M. P. for West Peterboro, who some time ago announced his intention to bring in a bill abolishing titles in Canada, has decided that the present is not an opportune time to do it. Mr. Burnham said today that the session now opening is designed particularly to deal with war measures and he does not wish to embarrass the government with extraneous matters.

Vancouver, B. C., Mar. 19.—On the ground that Russia had made "an ungrateful and ignominious peace," the national flag of Russia was ordered by a resolution of the city council last night, to be removed from among the flags of the allies at the city hall.

careous situation there. It seems definitely established that former German prisoners are actively aiding the Bolsheviks in their inroads into the country and that in addition to numerous outrages on the population, chaos reigns generally.

### SMALLPOX MAY BE SPREAD BY KISSING BIBLE

**Judge Chandler Tells of Case in His Experience—Risks Are Taken.**

CRIMINAL TRIAL AT KINGS CIRCUIT COURT

**St. John Man, Victim of Shotgun, Gives Evidence Against Dan. F. Porter.**

PRISONER APPEARS IN OWN DEFENCE

Hearing Was Adjourned Until Today—No Other Business.

Special to The Standard.

Hampton, Mar. 19.—His Honor Mr. Justice Chandler is presiding at the King's County Circuit Court which has been in session here today and now stands adjourned until tomorrow.

The only case on the civil docket was that between Col. J. F. Fox of Buxton, Ralph Freeze for plaintiff and defendant. This was an action brought on a promissory note for six hundred dollars but was settled between counsel before the opening of court. One criminal case is being heard, the trial of Daniel F. Porter on a charge of shooting with intent to do grievous bodily harm to Clinton Ward of St. John, at Long Island on January 13th last. An unusual and interesting feature of the case is that the accused has declined counsel and is conducting his own defence. A E. Pearson of Sussex is representing the Crown.

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### CHANCES BETTER WERE THEY DUCKS

**Many Chickens Drowned in Flood Which Raised Ructions on Seven Persons Creek at Medicine Hat.**

Medicine Hat, Alta., Mar. 19.—Seven Persons Creek, which flows through the main industrial section of this city, went on a rampage last evening, ice jammed at the railway bridge, leading to the Hedley saw mill, and a big section of the flats was flooded.

Four traffic bridges to various industries were carried away and several factories and mills suffered by flood. In some cases factory hands were narrowly escaped and had to be rescued with boats. About 300 houses were flooded and the occupants were brought away on drays. Dynamite was used twice during the night to break the ice jam, and this morning very little water is flowing over the banks of the creek. The flood came on very quickly, and many people lost all their chickens.

### SAYS NO EVIDENCE AGAINST COM. WYATT

Halifax, Mar. 19.—Mr. Justice Russell, in the Supreme Court this afternoon, charged the grand jury in the case against Commander Frederick Wyatt, chief examining officer at the time of the explosion. The judge said that in his opinion there was nothing in the evidence to justify the grand jury in bringing in a true bill on the charge of manslaughter. The grand jury is to report at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

### COL. BELL IS PROMOTED

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Mar. 19.—Col. McKelvey Bell of Ottawa, who has been the medical officer in charge of the Halifax military district, has been appointed chief medical officer of all the military hospitals in Canada. Col. Bell did duty in one of the Canadian hospitals in France early in the war.

### BRILLIANT RAIDS BY FRENCH BRING BATCHES OF PRISONERS

**Associated Press Correspondent Sends Vivid Account of Assaults in the Verdun Sector—Germans Although Awaiting Attack Are Surprised and Fail to Hold Positions of Value.**

**Hun General Nervous Despite Personal Supervision of Crown Prince—Reserves Brought Up Too Late to Stem the Tide of French Advance—Assaults Made Over Very Difficult Country.**

On the French Front in France, Monday, Mar. 18.—By the Associated Press.—The centre of military interest during the past few days has passed from the Champagne to the vicinity of Verdun, where both the French and the Germans have broken into marked activity.

In the Verdun region the correspondent watched the execution of trench raids on a large scale, carried out by the French on Sunday evening and at dawn on Sunday the results of which exceeded all expectations. Within twelve hours the French had penetrated the remarkably strong systems of German trenches in both Cheppy Wood and Malancourt Wood to a depth, at some points, of more than a quarter of a mile. They destroyed all the enemy works, his blockhouses and shelters, which had taken the Germans three years to construct and brought back two batches of prisoners, each comprising eighty men, while the French themselves suffered only the slightest losses.

General Von Gallwitz's army acting under the direct orders of the German Crown Prince, displayed evident nervousness under this pressure, as was shown by the hurried arrival of large reserves in motor lorries. They were too late, however, to hinder the French.

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### BATISCAN WRECKAGE IS DRIFTING ASHORE

**Two More Bodies Were Picked Up Yesterday But as Yet There is No Trace of the Steamer.**

Special to The Standard.

Yarmouth, N. S., Mar. 19.—There is still no trace of the Batiscan, although wreckage from her is being picked up in small quantities today. The Wedgeport steamer M. & E. LeBlanc picked up two bodies floating about five miles southwest of Seal Island. They were landed on Tuspanina Island and will be later brought to Yarmouth. One of the bodies was clothed in blue pants, jersey and vest. It was held up by a life preserver and was barefooted. Lifebuoys have been found on Calf Island and in Lobster Bay and hatches have come ashore at Solow's Ledge. There was nothing whatever found in the pockets of the Japs whose bodies were brought to Yarmouth yesterday. Whether there are any laundry marks on their underclothes or not will not be known until the coroner makes his examination tomorrow. The steamers Arnamore and Edna R., which are searching the islands and surrounding waters, have seen nothing whatever which would lead to the discovery of the wreck.

### FIRST SEEDING REPORT IN THE CANADIAN WEST

Several Mennonite Farmers Near Winkler, Man., Are Said to Be at Work on the Land—An Early Start Despite Hard Winter.

Winnipeg, Man., Mar. 19.—Word was brought to the grain exchange this morning that several farmers in the Mennonite District at Winkler, Man., were busy on the land and that seeding operations had commenced. This is the earliest on record for a number of years.

### SHIPBUILDERS ARE AFTER MORE MONEY

Washington, Mar. 19.—Union men employed on ship hulls in the yards of the Baltimore Drydock and Shipbuilding Company, notified the shipping board today that they had gone on strike for wage increases of nearly 100 per cent. The choppers and caulkers demanded \$10.50 a day and riveting gangs of two men and a boy demanded \$24 a day.

### HOT TIME IN MANNHEIM

London, Mar. 19.—British airplanes dropped a ton of bombs on the German city of Mannheim on Monday, it was officially announced tonight.

### DIED LEAVING CHURCH

Quebec, Mar. 19.—Mrs. Louis Chambrland, of Loretteville, near this city, died as she was leaving church. She dropped on the sidewalk and was picked up dead.

### FOURTEEN OFFICERS HOME FOR A REST

**Capt. McTier of the Highlanders Carries a Shrapnel Souvenir—Several Others Were Wounded.**

An Atlantic Port, Mar. 19.—Fourteen commissioned officers in the British and Canadian forces arrived here today aboard one of the largest steamships in the British trans-Atlantic service. Several of them have been wounded and were on their way home to recuperate. One of these was Captain W. S. McTier of the 18th Battalion Royal Canadian Highlanders, who came hobbling down the gangplank assisted by his father.

"Got a piece of shrapnel in the leg at Vimy Ridge" explained Captain McTier directing a rueful glance at his crutches.

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### RULE OF THE ROAD FORMS SUBJECT OF LONG DEBATE

**Highway Act, Introduced by Hon. Peter Veniot, is Picked Full of Holes by Members of Both Sides—Methods of Work, of Collections, of Division into Districts, Are All Subjected to Criticism—An Interesting Discussion.**

Fredericton, Mar. 19.—Upon resuming at 8.30 p.m. the house immediately went into committee with Mr. Legere (West.) in the chair and took up consideration of the bill entitled An Act Respecting Highways. The first three sections of the bill, which give the interpretation of the terms used were adopted without discussion.

Mr. Baxter referring to the subsections defining trunk roads, wanted to know that in cases where one of the roads passed through a village, if one of them would be designated as a trunk road.

Hon. Mr. Veniot replied that a trunk road would be a road running through and beyond the village.

Mr. Baxter made mention of three roads running from St. John to St. Martins, one of which he said was but little used. He presumed that one of these roads would be designated a branch road.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that before making a division of the roads, he proposed making another tour of the province. The money collected from the roads was to be expended on the roads, and he wanted it spent in the interests of the people.

Section 5 of the bill requires road engineers to promptly report any unusual damage by frost, needing more than ordinary attention, and it also requires county structural superintendents to immediately report any damage to bridges having more than a 20 ft. span.

Hon. Mr. Veniot explained that it was something of a new departure and he was hopeful that it would give very satisfactory results.

Mr. Baxter said that he did not propose to be a road builder, but he had had some experience under the old system. He considered it only fair that the matter of improving the roads should be dealt with from a non-political standpoint. All had to use the roads and all were interested in their upkeep and were anxious to have them as good as possible. He was scarcely in accord with that section of the bill which proposed to have supervisors elected by the people of the district. He would admit that the policy was somewhat attractive, but he did not think the holding of an election in a parish or district was the best method of making roads. The plan would only be an experiment and he was sure that the government in a few years would be glad to get away from it. He could picture the manipulation that would be put on foot in small districts in favor of particular candidates. Political lines might be avoided, but he feared that a group of men, who hoped to get some advantage, if a particular man was chosen, would manipulate the election. No doubt efficient men would be chosen in many cases, but the tendency would be to select those who possessed skill to manipulate things. He had not discussed the matter with his colleagues, but was giving only his personal view. He would prefer that the hon. minister would take the matter into his own hands and name the supervisors. If he relied on a good engineer, it ought to be possible with him to get the best men at least from one side of politics.

Mr. Potts said that if the district elected a man, there would be no guarantee as to his competency and the minister would really have no control over him.

Mr. McGrath thought there was no occasion for hon. members opposite to worry over the selective power of the people.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that he had invited suggestions from hon. members opposite and he proposed to accept them. He had been asked what he proposed to do with an incompetent road supervisor chosen by the people. He would say in reply that the man was only elected for one year, and if he failed to measure up to the standard the people would put him out.

Mr. Potts said that he had served as commissioner of public works in the city of St. John, and he did not

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