

The Evening Times Star

VOL. XV., No. 7.

ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1918

TEN PAGES—ONE CENT

HAG AND PERSHING LAUNCH ATTACK IN HEAVY RAIN

British and Americans Driving Back Enemy Between St. Quentin and Cambrai; Huns Fight French Hard but Are Giving Ground

London, Oct. 8.—English and American troops attacked this morning on the front between St. Quentin and Cambrai. Field Marshal Haig so announced today. Satisfactory progress is being made. The attack was launched just before daybreak in a heavy rain which began last night.

In successful local operations near Mont Brehain and Beaurevoir on this front yesterday morning, more than 280 prisoners were taken.

FURTHER FRENCH GAIN. Paris, Oct. 8.—The French continue their successful advance. The war office announcement today says that French troops have reached the outskirts of Condé-sur-Suppe, at the junction of the Sappe and the Aisne northeast of Berry-Au-Bac.

Along the Sappe River the French have penetrated into Idre-sur-Sappe and to the west have captured Beaurevoir.

At Bay on the Sappe. With the French Army in France, Oct. 7.—(Reuters)—German forces have turned at bay on the north bank of the Sappe River and have been counter-attacking with desperate energy all day.

To prevent the French crossing the river, they have attacked on the line between Pont Givart and Berry-Au-Bac, throwing large units into action on the centre of this front.

If the French succeed in establishing themselves on the north bank of the Aisne in this region, they will immediately turn the German line on the Sappe and also the next enemy position on the Retonne. Therefore, the Germans have attempted to keep the French south of the Aisne.

On the night of the 6th the enemy's resistance, however, the Aisne has been crossed at Berry-Au-Bac, the whole village on the north bank of the river being in the hands of the French, who have made some progress beyond it. The Germans have also been fighting heroically along the Aisne.

Debeney Pushes On. Paris, Oct. 7.—The advance of General Debeney's army in the St. Quentin sector continues, despite the desperate resistance of the Germans. The enemy is falling back to his water lines before Gouraud's army, which is maintaining active artillery action on the Chemin des Dames position. Apparently the Germans have decided to defend this to their utmost.

Gouraud's soldiers have crossed the Aisne River at several points. The enemy is counter-attacking energetically and throwing his best divisions into the defense of the Sappe ford and the Aisne bridgeheads, but the French are slowly forcing ahead.

Beirut Captured. Paris, Oct. 8.—A French naval division entered Beirut yesterday. Beirut is the chief seaport of Syria. It is on the Mediterranean fifty-seven miles northwest of Damascus.

Announcement of the landing of French naval forces at Beirut is enthusiastically received by the public.

NURSES HOME CONTRACT. St. John, N. B. County Military Hospital.—Planning and heating in Nurses' Home.—To accept tender of Richard E. Fitzgerald, of St. John, at \$5,940. Order in Council dated September 21, 1918.

Pharis and Ferdinand WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Sturges, chief meteorologist.

Synopsis.—A pronounced high area extends from the lower lake region eastward while a depression covers Hudson's Bay. Showers have occurred from the Qu'Appelle Valley to Lake Superior. Elsewhere the weather has been fine.

Forecasts. Lakes and Georgian Bay.—Moderate southeast to south winds, fair, stationary or a little higher temperature; Wednesday, moderate to fresh southeast to southwest winds, partly fair with some local showers.

Ottawa and St. Lawrence Valley.—Fine, stationary or a little higher temperature; Wednesday, some local showers, but partly fair.

Gulf and North Shore.—Moderate southwest to south winds, fine and cool.

Maritime.—Light to moderate winds, fine today and on Wednesday; not much change in temperature.

Lake Superior.—Fresh south to west winds, a few showers but partly fair today and on Wednesday.

All West.—Fair today and on Wednesday, not much change in temperature.

New England.—Fair tonight and Wednesday; frost tonight in exposed places; warmer Wednesday; diminishing north-westerly winds on the coast.

EVACUATION OF ZEEBRUGGE AND BRUGES BY HUNS

Submarine Situation Will Not Be Materially Affected

Alles Had Already Taken Out the Sting — Belgians Report Brutal Work by Germans at Very Times They Sue for Peace

Washington, Oct. 8.—Evacuation of the Belgian ports of Zeebrugge and Bruges, which it now appears certain the German leaders have decided upon, will not affect materially the submarine situation whatever its military results may be. This is the judgment of both American and Allied naval officials.

News from adjacent neutral ports today apparently made it certain that the Flanders coast, formerly the base for the German submarine flotilla with which the Germans inflicted their heaviest tonnage losses, were being cleared out by the enemy. It is pointed out, however, that this flotilla was practically wiped out of existence when concrete-lined block ships were sunk in the entrance of the two bays and upon prominent landing and bombarding campaign inaugurated which has denied the Germans the use of the bases ever since.

More Brutality. Havre, Oct. 8.—The Belgian government has issued a statement that from the coast to beyond the city of Bruges the male population between the ages of fifteen and forty-five have been brutally torn from their homes and forced to labor on German military works and in the construction of fortifications.

Ottawa, Oct. 8.—A cable received by the Belgian consul-general from Harve states that a resident of Brussels who recently escaped through the German lines reports that the German authorities are conducting away slaying the national anthem and patriotic songs. Six hundred yards were wiped out by the use of gas and weapons when houses and ovens were following the convoy without delay. They were punished for having tried to escape.

Amsterdam, Oct. 8.—The evacuation by the Germans of the Belgian coast region, and the evacuation of the port of the coast, five miles from the Dutch border, have been set on fire and many factories have been under way in preparation for quick destruction.

As part of the occupying troops would have to choose between capture and flight when the evacuation order, instructions have been given them, he says, to escape to Holland in civilian clothes with the object of evading imprisonment and subsequently returning to Germany.

FIENDISH WORK OF HUNS WHEN HELGE SENT DOWN

Told Struggling Seamen to Help Themselves—Fearful Hardships Before Rescue

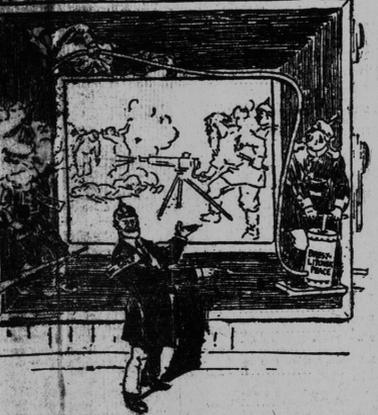
Stockholm, Oct. 7, via London.—(Canadian Press despatch from Reuters' London, Oct. 7.)—The Swedish Helge, which was recently torpedoed in the English Channel, only four out of a crew of seventeen being saved, says that the German submarine commander displayed incredible heartlessness. The Helge was one of a convoy of four steamers bound from London to France and escorted by two British armed steam yachts.

A French steamer was first torpedoed without warning and sank in a few minutes. The Helge was then torpedoed, breaking in two. The survivors clung to the wreckage but the submarine came up and asked the men and nationality of the survivors. The survivors appealed for help, but the crew of the submarine replied: "Help yourselves." The survivors spent twenty-four hours in the water enduring terrible hardships before a French mine sweeper picked them up.

WELCOME FOR THE DEPOT BATTALION

The Depot battalion, under command of Lieut. Colonel J. L. McAvity, will arrive in the city this evening by special train from Sussex, where the battalion has been under canvas during the summer. The men are to be quartered in the Agricultural hall, their old quarters last year. That the citizens generally intend to extend to the unit a warm welcome is evinced from the number of inquiries as to the time the train is due. The business houses in King street hang out flags in their honor. The battalion on their arrival will go direct to their quarters, which have been thoroughly renovated for the occupancy of the men.

THE DOB IS RIGHT, IT WAS A FRAME UP



The Proslavovsk peace is a framework and the picture to appear within, is only sketched in rough lines.—Dr. Soli, German Colonial Secretary.

WILSON IS AT WORK ON REPLY

Likely Answer Huns Before Day Is Over

Believed He Has Been in Touch With Premiers of Allied Nations — Decisive Comment by Italian Papers—Some German Views

Washington, Oct. 8.—President Wilson's reply to the German and Austrian request for an armistice and peace negotiations probably will be dispatched before night, if it is not already on the cables.

After being called into conference by the president with Colonel House and Secretary of State Lansing, the president's secretary, Mr. Tamm, announced today that Mr. Lansing would see the newspaper correspondents at 4 o'clock and "probably would have something to say for them."

Washington, Oct. 8.—President Wilson's reply to Germany's latest peace proposal was formulated by him today in accordance with views expressed by the premiers of the allied nations. It was indicated that dispatch of the reply, which it is believed will speak for all the nations opposed to the war aims of the Central Powers, may be expected within forty-eight hours.

The president, it was believed today, had presided at actual reading of the reply by asking Premiers Lloyd George, Clemenceau and Orlando to strike him of their answers or by submitting to the premier a draft of his reply for approval. At any rate it was assumed that the American reply will have the approval of Great Britain, France and Italy.

London, Oct. 8.—The president's reply to the German peace proposal, which was received in London today, is believed to be a decisive one. The form of the reply, of course, has not been revealed in any particular.

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Mr. Daggett On Stand Again

Matter of a Loan of \$3,000 From Hon. Mr. Baxter

Interesting Correspondence as to How the Patriotic Potatoes Were Secured; Some Better Terms in Offers Than Were Accepted

A second chapter, of even more interest than the first, was added to the record of the evidence of Rev. J. B. Daggett, former secretary for agriculture, when he took the stand at the resumption of the inquiry into the patriotic potato transactions at the court house this morning before Commissioner James McQueen, K.C.

On further examination regarding the shipment of surplus potatoes to Cuba, Mr. Daggett admitted an additional loss of \$3,000 which, like the balance, had not been charged up to the department. This loss was sustained by R. G. Waite & Company of Cuba on the consignments they handled. The company, he said, faced bankruptcy and Mr. Daggett was so moved by the appeal of Mr. Waite, a young man from Andover, that he accepted and paid a draft of \$400, took a large sum of money with him, went to Cuba, and after investigation paid the balance of the loss. This, he swore, he paid out of his own pocket, and he did not get any of it back from railway contractors or anyone else; he was out that much.

After a grilling examination by Mr. Hughes, Mr. Daggett admitted that he had secured the money for this purpose by borrowing it, and that he had not yet paid it back. He had secured it from a member of the government—from Hon. J. B. Baxter.

Some interesting correspondence regarding the methods by which the potatoes were secured was brought to light this morning. Mr. Daggett frankly admitted that he did the best he could to help his friends in the transaction, but he could not explain why offers to handle the whole shipment on better terms than they made, to deliver potatoes at cost and to donate potatoes were refused.

In reconciling evidence given at the beginning of the inquiry with that of other witnesses, he testified that he must have misunderstood the questions put to him.

Mr. Daggett was to continue his evidence when the court resumed this afternoon.

Hon. F. J. Veniot was at the inquiry this morning and followed the proceedings with interest. Among others present in the chamber was William Cruikshank, former deputy provincial treasurer.

When the session opened Mr. Daggett again took the stand and Mr. Hughes resumed his examination.

The witness said he received many letters from firms offering to supply potatoes to the government. He did not remember getting letters from Mr. White, M.P.P. for Victoria, or Colonel Black, M.P.P. for Westmorland; though one from Mr. Jones of Kings and might have had one from Premier Fleming.

Mr. Hughes offered in evidence a letter from Hon. J. K. Fleming, dated September 7, 1914, enclosing letters from Mrs. B. Butler, G. W. Perry (B. C.), McIsaac and A. A. Rideout.

When Mr. Fleming was merely to say that he was forwarding the enclosed letters. Mr. Butler offered to sell fifty cars. Mr. Perry did not want the government to buy a single barrel from a Liberal and wanted to get his share of the order. Mr. McIsaac offered to sell a few cars and Mr. Rideout wanted to sell five to ten thousand bags.

Mr. Daggett's reply was to the effect that every person with twenty bushels of potatoes wanted to sell them to the government but that the letters would receive consideration.

The witness said that he had received a letter from Porter Manser Co., Ltd., but bought no potatoes from them. He did not know that Mr. Porter did not belong to the party; he did not know what his politics were, although he was a close personal friend.

Some Offers. The letter referred to asked for at least a share of the business and offered to handle the whole business on a five per cent commission, with the statement that the potatoes should be bought at from ninety cents to \$1 a barrel.

Q.—That was lower than you paid? A.—That was not a definite offer.

Q.—The prevailing export price was eighty cents? A.—Not at that time; it dropped after we bought.

Q.—You answered the letter? A.—I presume I did.

Another letter from the same company, dated September 15, 1914, was identified and put in evidence. (Continued on page 7, fifth column)

Troops From Here On Line North of Cambrai

Canadians Are Where It Is Hot—Enemy Difficulty of Holding City Increases

With the Canadian Forces, Oct. 7.—(By J. F. B. Livesey, Correspondent of the Canadian Press)—Troops from the maritime provinces, Quebec, and four western provinces as well as former Canadian mounted riflemen are holding our line north of Cambrai with men of the imperial troops on our left. This line is in parts improvised and the men are objects of much harassing enemy fire.

Looking down on Cambrai from St. Olie three can be seen burning, but there is nothing to indicate that a systematic attempt has been made by the enemy to destroy the city. It is much more likely that he is burning his dumps and heavy plant he cannot move out preparatory to his evacuating the city.

Prisoners captured confirm the impression that the enemy lost tremendously in the terrible struggle of last week, when his massed infantry formations, seeking to push against us along the ravines, were exposed to the point blank fire of our artillery and riflemen. So severe was his punishment, they say, that some of his divisions are washed out, and in no condition to push in another assault for the possession of the high ground and Bourlon Wood.

The logic of the situation is that unless he can do this Cambrai becomes increasingly difficult for him to hold. If lost he would still have Lille, Valenciennes and the Hiron line, which are possibly his last lines of defence on this front.

EPIDEMIC STAGE REACHED IN QUEBEC

Schools and Colleges Closed—Newspaper Man Dies in Montreal, Native of Moncton

Quebec, Oct. 8.—Notwithstanding any attempts to contradict the information, the Spanish influenza has reached the epidemic stage in this city. Yesterday the municipal board of health made a tacit admission of the existence of the plague, by closing for at least a month, all schools, boarding convents, colleges, etc.

Eleven deaths from Spanish gripple were recorded on Sunday at Plessisville. Newspaper man dies in Montreal, Oct. 8.—Wm. P. Fogarty, a native of Moncton, thirty-four years ago, died this morning of heart failure following an attack of Spanish influenza.

He was born in Moncton, thirty-four years ago. He survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Brown, of Amherst, N. S., and two children. Mr. Fogarty was attached to the financial department of the Montreal Star editorial staff.

A Cuban Port, Oct. 8.—The malady which caused the death of twenty-two passengers on the Spanish liner Alfonso XII, was an extremely violent type of Spanish influenza with pulmonary complications. The steamer is held in quarantine as sixty passengers are still ill.

Winnipeg, Oct. 8.—Privates E. Murray and W. Barney, residents of Quebec, died here yesterday of Spanish influenza. Other easterners belonging to military units are seriously ill. Two are at the point of death.

In Halifax, Oct. 8.—Twelve new cases of Spanish influenza were reported this morning. While the cases continue to increase, the disease is of a mild type, and the mortality rate not greater than with ordinary autumn attacks of gripple.