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THE LONDON ADVERTISER, LONDON, CANADA. FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 12, 1918.

KAISER'S DASH FOR SEA HITS STONE WALL

SMASHED BACK AT MESSINES RIDGE AFTER PRODIGIOUS SLAUGHTER

Offensive Operations On New Grand Scale Must Be Viewed of New Perspective-Cold Proposition as to Which Side Can Kill Most Men and Fill Up Ranks.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, THURSDAY, APRIL 11 By the Associated Press.—Determined enemy attacks continued today against points of strategical value along the new battlefront north and south of Armentieres, from which the British have withdrawn, the Germans having placed it in a pocket by driving a wedge on either side of it. On the extreme right the Germans today were pounding away against the British defences at Givenchy, which has changed hands numerous times since the initial enemy onslaught Tuesday. North of Armentieres the Germans were showing an equal desire to possess Mes. sines ridge and Wytschaete, which are dominating positions, and which changed hands several times yesterday and last night. The Germans got a footing in Messine village, and they were still there this morning, but the British were clinging to the west ridge, and were keeping the enemy from Wytschaete. In the neighborhood of Ploegsteert the enemy again surged forward, and hard flighting was proceeding in this section, at the surged forward, and hard fighting was proceeding in this section ate today. South of Armentieres the enemy also delivered violent assaults. PARADIS REGAINED.

The British this morning made a successful counter-attack and forced the enemy from Paradis, southwest of Lestrem. This is on the front between Estraines and Givenchy.

Armentieres was evacuated yesterday afternoon, but was still reeking today with clouds of poisonous gas, and was a most inhospitable place for the enemy. The British withdrawal became necessary when the Germans on the north drove forward to the vicinity of Steenwerck, bottling up the city. By their operations, the Germans had gradually thrust for-ward lines on either side of the city toward the west, until at noon yesterday Armentleres lay at the bottom of a sack-shaped sallent, whose sides were 12,000 yards long, and whose mouth, near Steenwerck, was only

3.000 yards across. withdrawal does not mean as much from a military standpoint as might appear from a first glance, but the Germans undoubtedly will nake much of the capture for the moral effect at home.

THE CRUCIAL CONFLICT.

ANY DISTRESS OVER THE ABANDONMENT OF ARMEN. TIERES IS DUE MORE TO SENTIMENTAL THAN TO TACTICAL REASONS. IN ORDER TO APPRECIATE FULLY THE TREND OF PRESENT FIGHTING THE OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS MUST BE VIEWED AS A WHOLE, FOR THEY GO TO MAKE UP WHAT UN-DOUBTEDLY IS THE CRUCIAL CONFLICT OF THE WAR. THE LOSS OF A CITY HERE OR THERE OR THE ABANDONMENT OF FIVE OR TEN MILES OF TERRITORY IN ANY SECTOR DOES NOT MEAN DISASTER.

The battle has got beyond such considerations, and has settled down rim race to determine whether the make good the threat to annihilate the British army apitulation. IT IS A COLD PROPOSITION OF WHICH SIDE CAN KILL THE MOST MEN IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, AND AT THE SAME TIME FIND MORE RECRUITS TO FILL THE DEPLETED

## DILLON DECLARES GUNS AND TANKS ARE MOVED FROM FRONT TO IRELAND

Nationalist Leader Complains That Government Employs

measure. The Government eventually consented to permit the House, contrary to custom, to sit on both Friday and saurday, so as to add two days to the time for the discussion. The bill then entered committee, and an amendment substituting 48 years for 51 as the age limit was defeated by a vote of 262 to 152.

DOUBLE ACTION OPPOSITION.

London, April 12.—Promise of a home rule bill by the Government has not had the smallest effect in easing the way to conscription in Ireland, according to special dispatches from Dublin. The Unionists will not sit quiet and allow the bill to be rushed through, and allow the bill to be rushed through and the claim for the city of Cork, has requested that he be against conscription. John Dooley, Irish party candidate for parliament in North King's County, at the request of his party candidate for parliament in North King's County, at the request of his party candidate for parliament in North King's County, at the request of his party candidate for parliament in North King's County, at the request of his party candidate for parliament in North King's County, at the request of his party candidate for parliament in North King's County, at the request of his party candidate for parliament in North King's County, at the request of his party candidate for parliament in North King's County, at the request of his party candidate for parliament in North King's County, at the request of his party candidate for parliament in North King's County, at the request of his party candidate for parliament in North King's County, at the request of his party ca contest.

By order of the military authorities the Belfast Evening Telegram was suspended yesterday, owing to the publication in Tuesday's edition of a report regarding the decisions of the Irish

regarding the decisions of the Irish convention, which had been prohibited in advance of official publication.

CLOSED SPY GATES

# SWEPT BY FIRE

In Six Hours Unchecked Flames Caused Damage of \$500,000.

Vermillion, Alta., April 12 .- Fire which started here at 2 o'clock Thursday in Joseph McKeen's implemen warehouse burned for six hours and caused damage estimated at \$500,000. A Tomorrow—Fair AND WARMER. Toronto, April 12—8 a.m. Forecasts.

Tomorrow—Fair AND WARMER. The difficulties of the convention. Sir Horace remarked, may be summed up fare.

The difficulties of the convention. Sir Horace remarked, may be summed up fare. the Boston clothing store and got beyond control. The following business places burned: The Columbia Theatre, Vermillion Pastime Club, Weiner bakery, the Weatherbee Block, Northerr. Hardware, Gates Block, G. W. C. Morrison's law office; Craig Bros.' store. A. G. Suggett's jewelry store, Stephens Victoria . Bros., Nellis & Law's garage, Hunt's furniture store, Synck's general store.

## MEN OF ULSTER **BLOCKED PEACE** AGREED IN ERIN SAYS PLUNKET1

Majority Report of Convention Is Handed Out.

MINORITIES STAND IN WAY Unionists Unite Against Customs Control.

URGES ACTION ON WORK

Interests of Allies Demand That Action Be Taken Upon Report.

London, April 12.—The Irish conven-on laid the foundation for an agreement on the Irish question which is un-precedented in history. Sir Horace Plunkett, chairman of the convention, says in a letter accompanying the re-port of that body. "We had every reason to believe the Government contemplated immediate legislation upon the results of our labor," says Sir Horace. "The work of a Irish settlement, it is now felt, admits of no further proposition. In the dominions and the United States as well as the allied countries, the unsettled Irish guestion is a disturbing factled Irish question is a disturbing fac-tor, both as regards war effort and peace aims."

After every possibility of After every possibility of an agreement had been explored, Sir Horace writes, he was instructed to draft a report which would be a narrative of the convention's proceedings, with a statement for the Government's information of the convention of t Minority issues Reports.

Sir Horace adds that the public has
een provided with no majority repor

favor of conclusions upon which the majority agreed, but has been left to gather from the narrative of the proceedings what the contents of such a report would have been. The issue of minority reports by the Ulster Unionists and a minority of Nationalists has minimized the agreement reached and emphasized the disagreement.

The convention did not find it possible to overcome the objections of the Ulster

opposing a separate system of custon

Conceded by Nationalists. Conceded by Nationalists.
The principle of representation for Ireland in the Imperial Parliament was insisted upon by the southern Unionists, says Sir Horace, and the Nationalists conceded it. The Irish members of the Parliament at London under this plan would be elected by the Irish Parliament

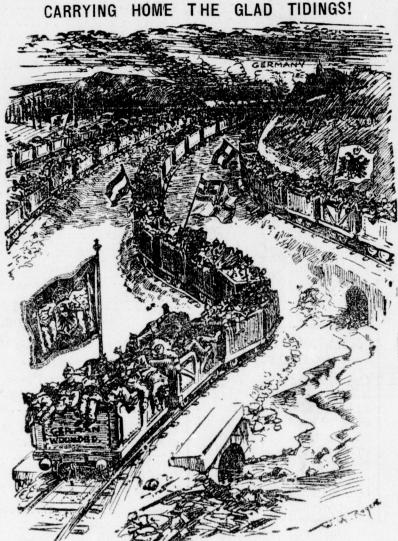
Toronto, April 12—8 a.m.
Forecasts.

Today—Fresh northeasterly winds; unsettled, with light local sleet.
Saturday—Fair, with a little higher temperature.
The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:
Stations. High. Low. Weather. Victoria ... 52 44 Cloudy

Willet treatile applying fare.
The difficulties of the convention. Sir Horace remarked, may be summed up in two words—Ulster and the customs.
Ulster For Exclusion.
The Ulster Unionist delegates remained in the convention only in two words—Ulster and the customs.

SPE

they were unable to accept any scheme discussed and the only plan they presented was confined to the exclusion sented was confined to the exclusion 



-New York Herald.

### IT'S UP TO BRITISH NERVES!

Amsterdam, April 12.-The strategy of the German supreme army command is still unrevealed, says the Ko miscke Volka Zeitung, and will be recognizable only in the course of further operations. The paper discounts the "extremely foolish idea," which it thinks may crop up, that the German thrust against the Anglo-Portuguese front indicates when the offensive in Picardy could not be carried to success the German commanders wished to try an experiment elsewhere. The Frankfurter Zeitung regards the new thrust as a portion of a great plan of attack, and dwells on the great strain put on the enemy' nerves by the necessity of making dispositions in the greatest haste

### BRITISH PRISONERS TREATED LIKE DOGS IN GERMAN CAMPS

London, April 12—John Dillon, Irish Salarana and London, April 12—John Market Salarana and London, April 12—John Market Salarana and Lo

### WITH BRITISH ON WORK ARMY IS BEATING HUN SEAS' FREEDOM

Futility of Hun Hope of Force.

New York, April 12.—In rejecting unceremoniously the German idea of freedom of the seas, Captain Persius, the German naval expert, in an analysis of the question in the Berliner Tageblatt of Mareh 2, received here, reaches Eagle Pass, Texas, April 12.—International bridges between the United States and Mexico will be closed four days a week, beginning next Saturday, and holders of passports will be admitted only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

This action was taken because of the abuve of passport privileges and also as a precaution against spy activities. The order affected the whole Mexican beorder. No travel between 'the two countries will be admitted on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, not word for religious services.

THE WEATHER

The WEATHER

The difficulties of the convention, Sir The difficulties of the convention adopted as a received here, reaches the German naval expert, in an analysis of the Qerman naval expert, in an analysis of the Qerman naval expert, in an analysis of the question in the Berliner Tage-blat of the Question in the German naval expert, in an analysis of the question in the German naval expert, in an analysis of the question in the German naval expert, in an analysis of

> SPECIAL FAST TRAIN GOES OFF THE RAILS

Engine Overturned, But No Passengers Seriously Injured. [Special to The Advertiser.]

He Can't Say It, But He Sees | Enormous Increase in Production of Guns, Planes and Tanks Reported.

> as follows: Light guns, 30 per cent; medium guns, 57 per cent; heavy guns, 38 per cent; machine guns, 96 per cent; sheils, 83 per cent; tanks, 39 per cent; aeroplanes, 223 per cent; aero-engines, 1223 per cent; aero-engines, 1224 per cent; aero-engines, 1225 per cent; aero-engines, 1226 per cent; aero-eng 245 per cent. The average weekly pro 45 per cent. The average 1918 equalled and uction of aeroplanes in 1918 equalled age. the average production for two months in 1915, while one week's production machine guns equalled five months Simultaneously men were steadily be ng released for the army. More than .00,000 had been released during 1917. The army was as well equipped today as when the German offensive began All the guns lost had been replaced, and we were actually stronger in machine guns than at the beginning of the tle. In the air we are as strong, if stronger. The lost tanks were be-

EX-MAYOR S. STEVELY LIES CRITICALLY ILL

Ex-Mayor Samuel Stevely is critical-

## KILLS AND MAIMS **NEW BORN BABES**

128 COLUMNS

Shell Strikes a Foundling Asylum, Bursting in Centre of Ward.

VISITORS ESCAPE FIRE

Tid-Bit Provided For Home Straffing Circles and Medal-Makers of Prussia.

Paris, April 12.-A shell fired by the German long-range cannon yesterday struck a foundling asylum in the Rue de la Creche, in the Montrouge district eleven wounded.

nurse, one patient and one baby were killed, while two probationers, six women patients and three infants were in-

the shell entered on the ground floor now favors the latter theory. and burst in the middle of a ward. Had have made many more victims, was visitors' day and friends of the patients had just left. Another shell struck an open-air bowl

#### THE WAR SITUATION

Having pushed back the British positions on a front of 25 miles, north and south of Armentieres, to an average depth of a little more than two miles, the Germans are struggling desperately to increase their gains. The brilliant defence of Field Marshal Halg, however, is beginning to tell, and the enemy advance has slowed up greatly, although the German attacks have although the German attacks have not diminished in intensity, especially on the north and in the centre. THE KEYSTONE POSITIONS. THE KEYSTONE POSITIONS.
Messines Ridge and Wytschaete are
the vital points on the battiefield, and
the Germans in two days have not been
able to reach the crest of the hills. Repulsed all along the ridge from the
southern tip of Wytschaete, the enemy
has thrown heavy forces against Hollebeke, where the ridge declines, and the
Ypres-Menin railroad and the YpresComines canal cut through. At Hollebeke and Wytschaete, however, the
British ninth division has repulsed the beke and Wytschaete, however, the British ninth division has repulsed the British ninth division has repulsed the enemy with heavy loss. The southern approach to the ridge, about Ploegsteert and Ploegsteert Wood, the Germans have made small gains.

By abandoning Armentieres, the British have straightened out their line. Evidently the Germans have not yet excepting the town, as the latest official

loss by the 51st Division. These troops then atacked and drove the enemy from positions he had gained previously. North of Estaires the British have been driven back somewhat, but the town is still held by Field Marshal Haig.

On the Picardy battlefield there has been no change in the situation. The British front is quiet, and the French have repulsed two German attacks in the region of Noyon. North of Montdidier and around Lassigny the artillery fire has been violent. The German advance in the Coucy region has halted. vance in the Coucy region has halted.

### BRITISH WORKERS STREAM TO COLORS

Only Seven Per Cent Under New Bill Called This Year.

London, April 12-(Via Reuter's Otmons last night Sir Auckland Geddes the post re-established. intimated that only seven per cent of the men affected under the new manpower would be required this year, and the remaining 93 per cent would remain in civil life. If three or four years were cut off the same number of mer would be taken from a smaller block and the less fit physically on an aver-Sir Auckland mentioned that en-

### PALESTINE ATTACK LAUNCHED BY FOE

IMPOSE TAX ON COAL Edmonton April 12.—On a division in the Alberta Legislature yesterday by 25 the Alberta Legislature yesterday by 25 votes to 14, the bill imposing a tax of 5 cents a ton on coal shipped off the mine property, was given a second reading.

London, April 12.—With the British progress when the non official report was issued in London. The southerly side of the salient, as it runs southeast ders, the Germans to the south are Continued on Page Three.

## HUN JUMBO GUN ON EVERY FOOT OF 30-MILE FRONT GERMANS PAY GREAT TOLL OF LIVES IN TITANIC STRUGGLE TO GET CALAIS

Thrust and Parry of Giant Machines Finds the British Determined Not To Yield in Endurance Test—Teutonic Armies Secure Footing at Some Points, Thrust Back at Others, Failing To Gain High Ground.

London, April 12 .- Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency .- The nation is watching on the southern outskirts of Paris, and three persons there were killed and critical battle in Northern France. This anxiety is mingled with admiration for the tenacity of the British troops, who are contesting every foot of ground with Within the hospital were 30 women the utmost stubbornness that makes the enemy pay dearly for his slow advance, with new-born babes. One maternity as the struggles waxed over a 30-mile front,

CALAIS OBJECT OF DRIVE. Observers here and in Paris are divided in opinion as to the enemy's inten dons, one section regarding the new offensive as a diversion intended to draw but the British reserves while preparing a fresh attack on Amiens; and others believe it is a definite systematic attempt to destroy the British army and break through to Calais while holding the French in the south. The consensus

It is indeed obvious that the enemy, backed by unlimited artillery, is doing It come a half hour earlier it would have made many more victims, for it second before he had time to draw away from the first.

BRITISH WILL NOT YIELD.

The prospect is grim for the British, but accounts of the fighting continue to breathe confidence, that the British, however prolonged the struggle, will not yield to the enemy in what, it is becoming more clear, is a test of endurance. The keypoints of the battle are the ridges of Messines and Passchendaele, which the Germans are both endeavoring to outflank and carry by direct assault There is no evidence as yet that the enemy has gained control of a single bit of

GAIN RIDGE, BUT ARE FORCED BACK. London, April 12.—German troops made a determined attack along the Messines Ridge and succeeded in gaining some ground, says a Reuter dispatch from the British army headquarters in France and Belgium, but the Brit-

ish once again drove them out by a counter-attack early this morning The Germans are developing great artillery activity in the southern area, the dispatch says. The Braye-Corbie road is being fiercely shelled, heralding, it is believed, fur-

ther infantry attacks. Three attacks which the enemy launched yesterday in great waves near Ville Chapelle, were repulsed with immense losses to the Germans. The ground was strewn with

their corpses. In brilliant sunshine the battle is continuing with fierceness, which has scarcely flagged since the beginning. The Germans are throwing in their reserves in the same prodigal manner as in the opening days of the offensive

GIVE AND TAKE IN DAY'S FIGHTING. London, April 12.-Attacking yesterday in the neighborhood of Ploegsteert, the Germans pressed back the British to the vicinity of Neuve Eglise, it is announced officially,

Last night the Germans captured Merville, Heavy fighting is continuing in the neighborhood of Merville and Neuf Berquin.

On the remainder of the northern battlefront there is little change. North of Festubert the British regained ground by a counter-attack. On the front between Loisne and the Lawe River German attacks were repulsed. The announcement follows:
"Severe and continuous fighting took place last night in the neighborhood of

ferville and Neuf Berquin, in both of which localities the enemy is continuing his pressure and has made progress. Merville was captured by the enemy dur-"Attacks made by the enemy yesterday in the neighborhood of Ploegste succeeded, after heaving fighting, in pressing our troops back to the neighbor-mood of Neuve Eglise, to new positions.

"On the remainder of the northern battlefront the situation is substantially nchanged. A part of our positions into which the enemy forced his way north of Festubert, was regained by a counter-attack. On the front between Loisne and the Lawe River, and to the north, hostile attacks have been repulsed. Fighting is continuing on the whole front north of La Bassee Canal as far as "South of Arras strong local attacks were made by the enemy yesterday

against our positions in the neighborhood of Neuville-Vitasse, and were repulsed n each case. "Further north the enemy succeeded after prolonged fighting in entering tawa Agency).—In the House of Com- one of our posts near Tilloy-lez-Mofflaines, but he at once was driven out and "The hostile artillery has shown increased activity astride the River Somme

HEAVY ACTION NEAR MONTDIDIER

"On the remainder of the front the night was calm."

Paris, April 12.—Heavy artillery fighting occurred last night in the vicinity of Hangard-en-Santerre, on the front north of Montdidler, the war office and an account of the statement follows: "The artillery battle became rather violents." during the night in the region of Hangard-en-Santerre. 'French patrols developed activity in the sector between Noyon and Canny "Spirited bombardments were carried on in the regions of the Oise Canal gineers were streaming to the colors. Sir Charles Zeeley stated that the young miners of Nottingham not selected by ballot were recruiting voiprisoners.

### MESSINES RIDGE BULWARK OF BRITISH IN FLANDERS

London, April 12.—The Turkish and German forces in Palestine on Wednesday opened an offensive, attacking the British front near the coast, the war office announces.

MESSINES VILLAGE TAKEN.

London, April 12.—The London evening newspapers, in reviewing the situation on the western front, state that in the Wytschaete region the Germans are in the Wytschaete region the Germans are holding the outskirts.

THEOLOGIAN IS DEAD.

Winnipeg, Man., April 12.—Rev. Frederick J. Bergman, pastor of the Lutheran Tabernacle, one of the leading theological writers of America, died suddenly yesterday. He was a native of Iceland.

MESSINES VILLAGE TAKEN.

London, April 12.—The London evening newspapers, in reviewing the situation on the western front, state that in the Wytschaete region the Germans in the Wytschaete region the Germans have taken the village of Messines, while the British and to merville, two miles west of Listrem, which the British held up to yesterday. The salient was extended also slightly to the north near its top to the vicinity of Neuf Berquin, two miles northwest of Estaires, another point heavily in their attack.

At least seventeen divisions are engaged on the German side on the front The Germans today were continuing when the price into the morth of bethune, one of the British lines northeast and north of Dethune, one of the British lines northeast and north of Dethune, one of the British lines northeast and north of Dethune, one of the British lines northeast and north of Dethune, one of the British lines northeast and north of Dethune, one of the British lines northeast and north of Dethune, one of the British lines northeast and north of Dethune, one of the British lines northeast and north of Dethune, one of the British lines northeast and north of Dethune, one of the British lines northeast and north of Dethune, one of the British lines northeast and north of Dethune, one of the British lines northeast and north of Dethune, one of the British lines northeast and north of Dethune, one of the British gaged on the German side of from Hollbeke to Givenchy.

The Germans today were continuing what appeared to be their heaviest pressure in this region and had made some