

VIMY RIDGE BATTLE DISGRACEFUL DEFEAT FOR GERMAN TROOPS OPINION OF CAPTURED PRUSSIAN

Despite Intensity of Cannonade, Ridge Could Have Been Held Against Infantry Attack if the German Officers Had Known Their Business—Sharp Comment by Prussian Who Admits Loss of Famed Ridge was Sad Blow to German Hopes—He Believes Officers were Panic-Stricken—Additional Instances of Splendid Courage Shown by the Canadian Officers and Men.

(By Stewart Lyon, Special Correspondent of the Canadian Press.)

Canadian Headquarters in France, April 17.—The battle of Vimy was a disgraceful defeat for the enemy troops who took part in the action. This is the strongly held opinion of high-born officers of the Prussian Guard captured by patrols on our front, where a whole brigade of this guard has taken the place of the Bavarians drawn out after the battle.

An officer who is well known in British Columbia, where he has visited as a big game hunter, says that despite the intensity of the cannonade, of which it is only fair to say, he had no personal experience, the ridge could have been held against the infantry attack by resolute men who had served on the ridge, and who knew the extent of the measures and means of sheltering the force holding it from bombardment. The blow has been most serious yet inflicted, for the bat-

tle not only deprived his country of much war material, but indicated demoralization of the men who garrisoned the ridge.

Medical returns as to the wounded Germans taken in the battle show that slightly over eight hundred out of a total of four thousand captured required surgical treatment. There may be something in the officer's view, that the bombardment produced a panic among the German infantry.

Smoke still rises from Lens, where the enemy seems to be burning everything of value. The mines may be wrecked in the Lens district, but the coal remains, and new shafts will be sunk.

The enemy resistance on our front east of the Vimy Ridge has stiffened. Everybody on this front has been greatly encouraged by the good news from the south of Arras. During the recent scouting work of the Canadians a young officer and pa-

triot of less than a dozen men killed or captured several members of the fleeing German infantry. A concealed machine then opened fire on the horsemen. The lieutenant fell wounded, but refused the rescue proffered by his sergeant, who he ordered to run back to the infantry lines with the important information gathered during the ride through the enemy's country. The sergeant got through, but the lieutenant is posted as missing, and is presumably a prisoner. His self-sacrifice had important results.

ORGANIZED LABOR SETS FORTH VIEWS

The views of organized labor on a workmen's compensation act were presented to the commission at a public meeting held last night in the government rooms, Prince William street.

Representatives were present from the Locomotive Engineers, Railway Trainmen, Locomotive Firemen, Longshoremen's Association, Freight Handlers, Street Railwaymen's Union, Cigar Makers and Carpenters and all were agreed that a new act was necessary for the proper protection of the workman and his family in case of injury through accident.

George H. Brown, The first witness was George H. Brown, representing the Locomotive Engineers. Mr. Brown was inclined to favor the British Columbia act as the best in Canada because of the fact that it included practically all classes of labor. He felt that every laboring man should come under the act and all payments should be made by the board of commissioners rather than as under the Ontario act, where certain classes had to adjust the claims themselves between employer and employee. He claimed that the compensation should be at least two-thirds of the wages earned and the widow should be paid at the same ratio as an injured man.

Stephen H. Shaw, representing the Railway Trainmen, was the next to be heard. He favored the British Columbia act as a basis to start with, but that required some amendments. One provision which the organization he represented wanted in the new act was: That the board of commissioners pay to a partially disabled man the difference between what they said he was able to earn and what his employers would pay him if there was any, and in support of this contention he cited the case of a man who had been making over \$100 per month, was badly injured, after a time the board said he was able to earn \$50 per month, but all his employers would pay him \$25 per month, because the commissioners had said that he was able to earn \$50 he got nothing more from the province, and his organization claimed that this was not fair.

Another thing which they objected to in the British Columbia act was the provision for charging the employer for the first aid work conducted under the commission; this should all be paid for out of the assessment. They wanted the compensation made seventy-five per cent. of the injured workman's wages and that all cases to be dealt with by the board as they were opposed to the necessity of each individual dealing with the employer.

W. M. Campbell, of the Locomotive Firemen, endorsed the recommendations of the two previous speakers. Thomas McGinnis, who represented the Freight Handlers, said that they were not satisfied with the present act and wanted one where all the payments would be made through a commission independent of both employers and employees, and he endorsed the proposals of the previous speakers.

Fred. Johnston, representing the Street Railwaymen's Union, John Kemp, the Cigar Makers, and James Sharp, the Carpenters, supported the proposals made.

F. J. G. Knowlton, president and Commissioners J. B. Giddip, J. L. S. S. and L. W. Simms were present with Roy A. Davidson secretary. J. E. Tighe, J. E. Tighe, representing the Longshoremen's Association, presented their recommendations. They ask that the compensation be seventy-five per cent. of the wages, that the pension for a widow be increased, that \$10 be paid for each child in the family irrespective of the number, that the number of waiting days be reduced to three, that the maximum payable in the case of death be raised to \$2,500, the weekly payment be increased to \$15 per week, that payments be made weekly in all cases until the injured person is able to work again and the word person include all workers, men, women and children.

Mr. Tighe asked the commission if they would be in a position to recommend a bill at the coming session of the legislature, and if not, if they would assist the Longshoremen's Association in having some amendments to the present law covering the points

outlined passed as they felt that these were very necessary. Mr. Tighe stated that seventy-five per cent. of all the accidents in the province happened on the waterfront, and in view of the loss of purchasing power which a dollar formerly possessed he thought that the increase they were asking for was justified.

They particularly wanted the weekly payment clause adopted as it was a real hardship for the men to have to wait for a settlement of their claim and in many instances the men had to settle at a loss to themselves in order to get the money when they needed it. In the past winter eighty cases had

been treated at the Emergency Hospital on the West Side and at least twenty more had been treated at their homes without going to the hospital. Mr. Tighe was assured of the sympathetic co-operation of the board in their efforts to have these amendments passed at the coming session of the legislature as it would be im-

possible for them to frame a bill in time. He stated that sixty-five per cent. of all the accident claims were paid by the C. P. R. and he felt sure that if the amendments asked for were passed they would be willing to keep a claims agent here to pay the claims weekly.



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