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DRIVE OF ALLIES PROGRESSING

THE "SPRING DRIVE" IS NOW A REALITY

The British Troops Are Forcing Back the German Entrenched Line From Near the Sea to Lille.

The Centre of Attack East of Ypres---German Line of Communications Will Soon be Threatened---French Drive Towards the Rhine is Gaining Impetus Every Day.

(Special to the Whig.)

London, April 20.—Edward L. Keen cables:

The British "Spring Drive" in France and Belgium is now a reality.

From a point near the sea in Belgium to the vicinity of Lille, British troops are forcing the German entrenched line back. The centre of the attack is to the east of Ypres and the main strength of the British force is believed here to extend northward beyond Pilken.

It is accepted here that the present movement, referred to in official reports as "important," is the beginning of an attempt to reclaim Belgium from the Germans. There has been much criticism of the British War Office for failure to concentrate its efforts on Belgian territory because of the large number of Belgian refugees now in England, and it is thought here that the general staff has finally decided at least to test out the strength of the German lines.

Incidentally, should the movement succeed, the main German lines of communication will be threatened, which will be of great assistance to Gen. Joffre in the movement begun by the French Commander-in-Chief.

While the British are forcing the fighting on the extreme northwest of the long battle line, the French are also very active at the other extremity in Alsace, where the drive toward the Rhine is gaining impetus every day.

Weather conditions have materially improved and highways and fields are again in such shape that movements of artillery are possible.

The British losses are admitted very heavy because of the necessity of attacking heavily entrenched positions.

War Tidings.

Lieutenant Roland G. Garros, the famous French aviator, has been made a prisoner by the Germans at Gelmunster.

Field Marshal Baron Kolmar von der Goltz has been appointed commander-in-chief of the first Turkish army.

The London Daily Mail's Berne correspondent says he learns from reliable German sources that several new submarines will enter into the work of blockading England to-day. He adds that new submarines are new being completed at the rate of two each week by Germany.

The Canadian Scottish have enjoyed two weeks' rest in billets and are in better fighting trim and humor than possibly they ever were. They have been playing baseball within the reach of shells, but like their friends in Kitchener's army have been quite unruffled when the Germans pumped an occasional Weary Willie among them.

It is estimated that the entire German losses since the war began have totalled 2,750,000.

German submarines are active in the North Baltic. They are believed to be laying mines for Russian ships. Swedish and Finnish shipping in these waters has practically ceased.

At Briare, France, General Charles Louis Tremeau, former commander in chief of the French army, died on Sunday. He was sixty-five years of age.

The total Prussian casualties in the war are now 1,106,969, according to six fresh lists of losses published in Berlin to-day. The six lists contained 32,524 names.

A total of 35,000 British and French soldiers were landed at Mudros during Wednesday and Thursday of last week.

Japan has ordered all her warships in Pacific waters near the American coasts, except those salvaging the wrecked cruiser Asama in Turtle Bay, to return to their home stations.

The call issued a few days ago for volunteers for a Canadian aviation corps has brought forth scores of responses.

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Lieut. Goschen, a son of Sir William Edward Goschen, former British ambassador in Berlin, is believed to be one of the ten British officers in solitary confinement at Madgeburg.

UNITED STATES DEMANDS RIGHTS BE HONORED

Does Not Intend to Recede in China According to Despatch From Pekin.

London, April 20.—Reuter's Pekin correspondent is authority for the statement that the United States Government has sent a note to China which bears upon the negotiations now under way between Pekin and Tokio.

It is said that the United States pointed out that it had privileges in China which were conferred by treaties, and that it did not intend to recede from them.

The Pekin despatch adds that the Chinese believe the American note was to have a "valuable moral effect" on the China-Japanese negotiations.

TRANSPORTS SUNK; TEUTONS DROWNED

Story Reaches St. Kitts of Further North Sea Fight Details.

St. Catharines, Ont., April 20.—Unpublished information said to have been received from a British naval officer at home at Dundee, Scotland, on leave, is contained in a letter written to a woman residing on Russell avenue, St. Catharines, by her daughter, who states that the officer informed her that the German cruiser which was sunk by Admiral Sir David Beatty's squadron in the North Sea were escorting two transports which had 5,000 Germans aboard. The letter states on the authority of the officer that the two transports were also sunk and all on board perished.

GERMANS ARE PREPARING TO EVACUATE MENIN

(Special to the Whig.)

London, April 20.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Rotterdam telegraphs:

"Accounts of fierce fighting south-east of Ypres reached me this morning. All yesterday wounded were arriving at Bruges, and it is stated the Germans are preparing to evacuate Menin, fourteen miles south-east of Ypres."

Fighting Is General.

Paris, April 20 (Official).—General fighting has commenced at several important points along the battle front. At present the exchanges are chiefly confined to artillery and this is believed to be the prelude to the Allies general forward movement all along the line. The chief French activity is in the region of Soissons, in the main sector at Rheims, and at a number of points in the Argonnes. That fighting is expected to be pushed with vigor is indicated by the enforcement of strict censorship.

FOUR MEMBERS OF NEW ONTARIO LICENSE COMMISSION.

FREDERICK DANE
TORONTO

These four gentlemen with Mr. Geo. T. Smith, of Haileybury, comprise the new commission which will issue all liquor licenses in Ontario.

CONTEST THE RIGHT

To Tax Liquor Sent From Provinces To Yukon.

Ottawa, April 20.—The right of the Dominion Government to impose an excise on liquors imported into the Yukon Territory from a Province of the Dominion is called in question and a million dollars is claimed by way of refund in a petition of right which has been presented to the Government through the Exchequer Court.

The action is taken by a Dawson City liquor merchant named Lowe, who is acting for himself and others engaged in the liquor business in the Yukon.

Under the Yunon Act it appears a tax of $2 per gallon is imposed upon all liquor imported, and this has been collected in the ordinary way by the Yukon officials during a period of about twelve years.

Considering that the liquor did not come from an outside country, but from a Province of the Dominion to one of its territories the constitutionality of the regulation is questioned, and a refund of all excise paid demanded.

The Government will uphold the act and contest the issue raised by the action.

SHOT BY HIS OWN MEN.

Carranza Loses One Of His Garrison Commanders.

Laredo, Texas, April 20.—General Maclovio Herrera, the Carranzista garrison commander, was killed by men of his own command five miles west of Nuevo Laredo. They mistook him for Villa.

The Villista version was that Herrera rode out from Nuevo Laredo at the head of his troops, looking for Villistas, that his men clashed with a force under Gen. Santos, another Carranzista, and that in the fracas Herrera was shot dead.

The Carranzista story was that the general was killed in a fight with Villistas.

Turkish Fleet Running Short Of Coal Supply

(Special to the Whig.)

Salonika, April 20.—The Turkish fleet is marooned in the Black Sea, where its coal is rapidly becoming exhausted, according to a report reaching here to-day. During its recent dash into the Black Sea, the Russian fleet successfully mined the entrance to the Bosphorus. The Turkish fleet in returning sent destroyers in front. Two of them struck mines and were sunk. The fleet was without mine sweepers and has been unable to clear away the mines with the result that its coal supply is nearly exhausted.

ONE HOUR IN PRISON

The Sentence Imposed Upon Dr. F. G. Hughes, Edmonton.

(Special to the Whig.)

Toronto, April 20.—One hour's confinement was the unusual sentence imposed this afternoon by Justice Clute in the Criminal Assizes on Dr. F. G. Hughes, Edmonton, found guilty of conspiracy in connection with the affairs of the Union Life Assurance Co. The Judge expressed the opinion that Dr. Hughes was not the chief offender in the matter, and with his family had lost $30,000 in the concern. Harry Symons, former K.C., is now serving five years in the peintentiary on this case. Pollman Evans another defendant, is still at large.

The extension of a movement to obtain equal rights for Jews in all belligerent countries was inaugurated in New York Monday as the result of a meeting of 300 delegates composing the National Workmen's Committee on Jewish Rights.

The Melbourne-Sydney express the fastest train in Australia collided with a mail train in Dinalong early Monday. One man was killed, 24 injured including several members of the Federal Parliament.

FAMILIES JOIN

Fathers in the Prisoner-of-War Camps

THE MEN INTERNED

SHOW EAGERNESS TO GET LAND FOR THEMSELVES.

The Minister of Justice Left Monday For the North to Have a Peep at His Alien Charges and See How They Are Being Handled.

Ottawa, April 20.—The wives and the children of the Austrians held as prisoners of war are being taken north this week. They will join the husbands and fathers who have been working in the woods all winter under military surveillance, clearing the land for the Ontario and Quebec Governments and for themselves.

The women and children have been looked after in more civilized centres through the winter months. Now that severe weather is over they are being sent north to colonize along the Transcontinental Railway, part of them going to the vicinity of the detention camp at Spirit Lake, Quebec, and a part to Kapuskasing Camp, Ontario.

The prisoners of war had a busy winter and have cleared not merely the area required for two experimental farms but a considerable additional area. They are showing eagerness to get land for themselves and their efforts to settle are being facilitated in every possible way. This is turning out to be a state-aided co-operative enterprise, and a great success. The families who locate will nominally be prisoners until the close of the war, but the supervision over them will not be irksome, they are so distant from important centres that they could not easily run away and could not possibly learn or communicate anything of service to the enemy. Now that they are taking a stake in the country they are regarded as perfectly harmless.

Several thousand cabins will be erected in the wilderness for these prisoner pioneers. There is no fear but that their circumstances and their situation will assimilate them, and that they will become good Canadians.

Hon. C. J. Doherty, whose department for jurisdiction over prisoners of every kind left yesterday for the north to see how his alien charges wintered, and to see how they have been handled and how they are being handled.

LIEUT. TALBOT M. PAPINEAU.

Of the Princess Pats, who along with Lieut G. Colquahoun, also of the Princess Pats, were the first Canadians to receive the new Military Cross for valor and resource at Neuve Chapelle.

OVER IN FIVE MONTHS?

London, April 20.—In a short, optimistic address to the Canadians after inspection a few days ago General Smith-Dorrien, under whom they are brigaded, predicted that the war would be over, the Germans thoroughly conquered, and the men of the Dominion ready to return to their homes in five months.

CHRISTIANS IN DANGER

Gloomy Picture Of District Surrounding Smyrna.

Mitylene, April 20.—Merchants who arrived last night from Smyrna draw the gloomy picture of the state of things in the district surrounding that city. White Smyrna itself is quiet, pillage and murder are rife in the villages and smaller towns of the littoral, all Christians going in danger of their lives. At Vourla a Greek notable and others have been killed.

Large Turkish reinforcements arrived last week and defence works are being constructed with the utmost energy particularly near Vourla. Several more German officers reached Smyrna a few days ago and have taken over the direction of defence preparations.

British Gains Are Reported By Gen. French

(Special to the Whig.)

London, April 20.—Sweeping claims of material gains in the Ypres region were made by General French in his report to-day.

He denied the German allegations that British troops used asphyxiating gases in assaults, but charges that the Germans did.

"The improvement in the weather has resulted in an increase in air activity and has resulted greatly to our advantage in the Ypres region" he said. "During the last three days we have brought two German aeroplanes to earth and the French have downed two more."

Denied Roosevelt Motion.

Syracuse, N. Y., April 20.—William Barnes won the first important victory in his legal battle with Colonel Roosevelt after the jury was completed yesterday afternoon.

Justice William S. Andrews denied the motion of John M. Bowers, chief counsel to Colonel Roosevelt, to dismiss the complaint on the ground that the statement upon which the suit is based was part of a legitimate political controversy, in no way personal, and therefore privileged.

Urge Germany To Yield?

Amsterdam, April 20.—The Kreuz Zeitung prints an article alleging that influences are at work with the object of persuading the German people to bring about a reconcilliation with Great Britain in a way "which would guarantee Germany's principal foe the fulfilment of her aims in the war."

William Ritson, Welland, was so eager to enlist that he had two "hammer" toes, one on each foot, amputated, and he has now been accepted in the 44th Regiment.

THE ALLIES REFUSE TO CONSIDER PEACE

They Are Now Prepared With Men, Money and Ammunition to Continue War Until Germany is Completely Defeated.

President Wilson's Personal "Observer" is Told in Paris That Germany Would be the Only Country to Benefit by Peace Now---Prussian Militarism Must be Crushed.

(Special to the Whig.)

Paris, April 20.—"This is no time even to suggest peace talk. The stoppage of the war at this time would benefit only one country—Germany. The Allies have assumed the task of crushing Prussian militarism and must refuse to be diverted from that task."

That is the word given Col. E. M. House, personal friend and "observer" for President Wilson, who is now in this city. The position of the Allies was made very plain. In blunt, but very courteous language, Col. House was told that if he desired to initiate a movement for peace this was not the time. Such a mission was worse than useless. Any real or attempted movement to end the war with German troops holding a long line through French territory and Belgium would give Germany too great an advantage. And Col. House was told that France could view only with disfavor the initiation of a movement for Germany's benefit.

The Allies are now prepared, he was told, with men, money and ammunition, to continue the war until Germnay is completely defeated. The countries are united on the necessity of continuation to ultimate victory. The Allies daily are growing stronger while Germany daily is growing weaker. Any attempt by the United States to bring about peace now would be regarded by Frenchmen, so Col. House was informed, as an unfriendly act on the part of the United States.

It is understood that Col. House will communicate the substance of the statement presented to him to President Wilson at Washington.

GERMANS USE GASES

PRISONER CORROBORATES THE OFT-REPEATED REPORT.

To Plug up Their Nose—Kaiser's Soldiers Supplied With Cotton For This Purpose.

General Headquarters of the British Army in France, April 20.—The oft-repeated report that the Germans are using deadly gases in their trench warfare has been attested by a German prisoner speaking voluntarily to a British staff officer. The officer related to the Associated Press correspondent the description given by this prisoner of three-foot cylinders charged with an unknown gas, which they proposed releasing at some expedient time, the plan being to kill or stupify the English, if possible. This expedient, the German said, was to be followed by a vigorous infantry attack, much as infantry advances after artillery clears the way.

"The prisoner exhibited cotton wool," said the officer, "which he said had been supplied them to plug their noses and prevent the gas from killing them also. It is not quite clear to me, however, why a shift of the wind would not turn the tables, blowing the gas into the German trenches instead of ours."

NEAR BREAKING POINT.

Negotiations Between Austria and Italy May End In Ultimatum.

London, April 20.—Whether the negotiations between Rome and Vienna concerning Italy's demands for territorial concessions have been broken off remains for the moment an official secret, but it appears to be universally agreed that the tension is approaching the breaking point.

It is suggested here that the Italian foreign office is awaiting an ultimatum from Vienna on the subject of Italy's military preparations along the frontier as a pretext to sever the remaining ties barring an outbreak of hostilities.

REUTER ENDS HIS LIFE.

Baron, Head of Big News Agency, Found Dead.

London, April 20.—Baron Herbert de Reuter, managing director of Reuter's Telegram Company, was found dead on Sunday at his home near Reigate, Surrey. A discharged revolver was found near his body and the authorities declare there is little doubt he committed suicide. Baron de Reuter was prostrated by the death of his wife last Thursday. Her body is still in the house awaiting interment. Their only son is in the army.

EIGHT GERMAN CHILDREN

Killed By Aerial Raid Buried In a Common Grave.

(Special to the Whig.)

Berlin (via Wireless), April 20.—Eight school children killed in a recent aerial raid over Freiburg, Germany, by French aviators have been buried in a common grave with an elaborate ceremony at the expense of the city. The entire population of of the city followed the little caskets to the cemetery. Telegrams of sympathy were received from school children of Berlin and other German centres.

DESERVE HIGHEST PRAISE.

Canadians Buckled Down Like Seasoned Soldiers.

General Headquarters of the British Army in France, April 20.—Via London, April 18.—"The Canadians may have been full of boyish spirits when they landed in England, but they have been men in the trenches," said a staff officer of the British army, commenting on the report that the Canadians have been lacking in discipline. "They've buckled down like British soldiers should, and their conduct has not only been without reproach, but deserving the highest praise."

This is the first official statement of a staff officer in the field relative to a much discussed question.

ELECTION JUNE 28TH.

Toronto, April 20.—The World says that Monday, June 28th, has practically been decided on as election day.

At Vancouver, B.C., Police Constable R. B. Newington, was shot and then clubbed into insensibility by two burglars, surprised by him while robbing a store.

DAILY MEMORANDUM.

See top of page 3, right hand corner, for probabilities.

"Mutt and Jeff In Mexico," Grand Opera House, 8.15 p.m.

DIED.

IRWIN—In Kingston, April 19th, 1915, William Irwin.
Funeral (private) from his late residence, 301 King street W., on Wednesday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock to Cataraqui cemetery.

POTTER—In Portsmouth, on April 19th, 1915, Christopher Charles, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. John Potter, aged four months.
Funeral (private) Wednesday afternoon, at 2.30, to Cataraqui cemetery.

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