

CANADIAN ARMY IN FRANCE IS STRONGER THAN EVER

Enters Upon the Spring Campaign with Confidence—Holds Larger Front Than Before—The Canadian Artillery and Machine Gun Fire Bothers the Enemy.

By W. A. Williams, correspondent of the Canadian Press.
Canadian Army Headquarters, Feb. 13.—After three and a half years of war, Canada is in the field to march on to victory stronger than ever before. The Dominion's fighting strength, both in men and in guns, is constantly increasing. Military regulations prevent any extensive statement from the field as to the developments in the Canadian forces, but I am able to say that Canada's splendid support of the Military Service measure has placed the military authorities in a position where they not only are assured of reinforcements for the existing units, but can add largely to their fighting establishments.

During the Passchendaele operations, new forces of artillery came from the Dominion to France, and while not actively engaged in the desperate fighting last October and November, long ago took their place in the line, where they are now acquitting themselves splendidly. The Dominion is entering upon a spring campaign stronger in men, material and guns than at any time since the mobilization at Valenciennes marked the creation of the historic first division, and is holding a larger front than ever before. It is impossible yet to give any details of the increase in forces, but one effect is to materially strengthen the rifle strength in the line.

Canadian Fire Bothers Germans.
(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Canadian Army Headquarters, Feb. 13.—The battlefield continues quiet, the only outstanding feature of the past four days being the capture of a German prisoner, who, losing his way, blundered into one of our working parties. He was captured only after a rifle duel in which he was slightly wounded. The capture proved to be valuable, not only for the purpose of identification, but because the prisoner confirms our impressions of the accuracy of our night artillery and machine gun fire. He says that the harassing bombardment which has been directed at the German lines has inflicted many casualties and has upset his communications and movements as well.

MAY CALL OTHER CLASSES UNDER MILITARY SERVICE ACT

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Ottawa, Feb. 13.—In view of the urgent necessity for reinforcements, it is considered likely here that further calls of other classes under the Military Service Act may not long be delayed. Class one has already been called up and all but exemptions, appellants or deserters are in khaki. Class two, which is next under the Act, and may soon be called up, includes men between the ages of 20 and 35 who are married or are widowers with children.

It is stated that the Government will soon give out returns showing the result of the first call. This statement is already in course of preparation. It may be taken for granted, however, that the issue of the statement, especially in view of the situation on the eastern and western fronts, must lead to further calls under the terms of the Act.

OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS.

British.

"We carried out a successful raid last night upon the German trenches south-east of Hargicourt, capturing eleven prisoners, including an officer. Patrol encounters, in which casualties were inflicted on the enemy, took place last night, southeast of Lens.

"Apart from hostile artillery activity in the neighborhood of Epesay and northeast of Ypres there is nothing further to report.

"Our aeroplanes bombarded several German towns with great effect."

French.

"There was a fairly heavy artillery fire last night in the neighborhood of Pinon, on the Aisne front," says to-day's War Office statement. North-east of Rheims the bombardment was also rather lively. The French carried out successful raids and drove off the German attacking detachment in the Embermesnil region.

MURDER CASE AT KITCHENER.

Charles Gerbig Pleads Not Guilty to Murder of His Wife.

(Canadian Press Despatch)
Kitchener, Feb. 13.—The first trial heard in this city in twenty years was commenced this morning at the spring assizes of the supreme court before Justice Masten, when Charles Gerbig pleaded not guilty to the charge of having murdered his wife by cutting her throat with a razor at their home on Samuel street on or about November 29th last.

The evidence given this morning was largely a repetition of that given at the inquest, and related to the discovery of the remains two days after Gerbig and his wife had been missed by neighbors.

WHIG CONTENTS.

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- 5—Eastern Ontario News; St. Valentine's Day.
- 6—The Forum; Amusements; Announcements.
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- 8—Pleas Guilty to Crime.
- 9—Told in Twilight.
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SALUTE OF THE ALLIED ARMIES; U. S. SALUTE DIFFERS SLIGHTLY



HOW THEY SALUTE—LEFT TO RIGHT, FRENCH, ENGLISH, SCOTCH AND AMERICAN. The different methods of saluting in vogue among the allied armies invite interesting comparisons. From left to right they are French, English, Scotch and American, somewhere "over there."

GERMAN THRUST AGAINST BRITISH

Has Been Fixed For Some Time in March, a Prisoner Says.

INTENSIVE PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE BY THE KAISER'S FORCES.

Great Numbers of German Soldiers Are Being Constantly Drilled in Making Attacks.
British Army Headquarters, in France, Feb. 13.—Some time in March has been set by the Germans for at least one offensive operation on the British front, according to a German prisoner who has just been taken. This captive did not know whether general offensive operations were intended at that time.

The statement of the prisoner is not surprising in view of the intensive preparations that are being made by the enemy all along the front and the remarkably fine drying weather which now has continued for many days. Abnormal train movements have been observed for some time back of the German lines, and new troops and guns keep making their appearance at various points.

Great numbers of German soldiers constantly are being drilled in making attacks and the artillerymen also are being given special training. French raids and aerial scouting for the purpose of obtaining information continue to be the order of the day by both armies, who know that big events will happen in the near future.

THE WORLD'S NEWS IN BRIEF FORM

Tidings From All Over Told in a Pithy and Pointed Way.

A big rising in reported in Petrograd. Activity increases on the western front.

The Dominion Parliament may open on March 21st.

Montreal is taxing its 20,000 bachelors \$10 a year.

Some German papers fear Russia will turn traitor to the peace pact.

Stratford Police Commission declined to boost salaries of the force.

The Canadian Government will supply the farmers with tractors at cost-less freight.

It is understood the Winnipeg Telegram will discontinue publication this week.

Tanks are expected to play a more prominent part in the French operations this coming spring and summer.

The Canadian Methodist church will shortly establish a thirty million dollar church fire insurance company.

The coal famine may end in two weeks, Pennsylvania Fuel Administration officials say. Reports from the coal sections say the railroad movements of anthracite and bituminous are now nearly normal.

The Western Canadian operators believe that by speeding up they can furnish all the Canadian west with coal as far east as the head of the lakes.

Major J. H. Ratz of Ottawa, assistant medical adviser to the Pension Board, and formerly medical officer overseas, is dead, at the age of forty-eight.

Hon. T. W. McGarry, provincial treasurer, announced Tuesday that he would shortly make a public announcement regarding the provincial war loan which will be floated this year.

TO DISCUSS STEPS TO INCREASE FOOD

Co-operation Between the Federal and Provincial Governments Aimed At.

Ottawa, Feb. 13.—Co-operation between the Federal and Provincial Governments in an effort to increase production of foodstuffs in Canada will be the leading theme for discussion at the conference of members of the Dominion Cabinet and Premiers for the various provinces, which opens here on Friday next. The Dominion Government has already taken steps to encourage farmers to break new ground for cultivation and cattle raisers to graze larger areas, similar to that of last year, with a view of bringing farm labor into the country.

It is further provided for the admission of motor vehicles and power-liners free of customs duties. Finally, it has made an agreement with Great Britain to grant the permission of duties on farm tractors and beef cattle.

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FARMER SENT FOR TRIAL.

Alleged to Have Cheated Soldier's in Wood.

Oshawa, Feb. 13.—Elias McMullen, a farmer, was charged in the Police Court yesterday with selling wood under false pretences to a soldier's wife. Col. J. E. Forewell, County Crown Attorney, prosecuted. After hearing the evidence Police Magistrate Crysdale committed the defendant for trial, bail being accepted. It is alleged the wood was sold as being beech and maple hardwood, and delivered at night, and that when examined next day it was found to be a poor quality of basswood and cedar.

Dilemma of a Wildcat.

Belle-Fontaine, Pa., Feb. 13.—While running a shifting engine to a mine in the Snowshoe region, when the thermometer registered 21 degrees below zero, the crew noticed a wildcat on the tracks ahead, apparently caught by the head. When the locomotive struck the animal it ran into the woods with a gurgling cry. On investigation the men found the cat's tongue hanging to the rail. The wildcat had come to a spring nearby and evidently stepped into the water, with the result that when it was crossing the tracks and stepped onto a frosty rail, its foot immediately froze fast. In attempting to lick its foot loose the cat's tongue was caught.

Not to Decide Till April.

New York, Feb. 13.—Acceptance of the resignation of President Barrow and decision to ask permission from the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues and the National Commission to hold in abeyance until April 1st the question of abandoning play this season were announced at the meeting yesterday of the International League club owners.

Germany's action regarding Russia, the Premier pointed out, proved that her declaration regarding no annexations had no real meaning. No answer had been made regarding Belgium that could be regarded as satisfactory, he declared; no answer had been given regarding Poland, or France, with her legitimate claims for the restoration of her lost provinces; not a word had been said about the men of the Italian race and tongue now under the Austrian yoke.

Must Go On.

Until there was some better proof than had been provided in any of the speeches to which he referred that the Central Powers were prepared to consider the aims and ideals for which the allies were fighting, it would be the nation's regrettable duty to go on and make preparations necessary in order to re-establish international rights.

It was true that he had stated in November that it was not intended that the Supreme War Council should have executive functions, but since that Russia had gone out of the war, and a number of German divisions had been brought to the western front from the east. The situation had become very much more menacing, and the allies had met at Versailles to consider the best methods of meeting that menace.

If the House of Commons was not satisfied with the conduct of the war the only way was to change the Government. Field Marshal Haig and General Robertson, he added, were present at the session of the Supreme War Council and approved its decision.

The Premier requested the House not to press the Government regarding the arrangements made for countering the coming blow of the Germans.

The Premier declared that Germany's violation of her engagement not to remove troops from the eastern front had to be borne in mind when there was any discussion of terms of peace, because it had a real bearing upon guarantees. The situation had been changed completely by these reinforcements he asserted.

Millions of Lives Dependent Upon the decisions of the Supreme War Council depended millions of gallant lives, the honor and safety of the country and the war aims upon which the future of the world was dependent. If information in this particular were to be given to the enemy he would prefer that the responsibility be placed upon other shoulders.

The change in the military situation brought about by the sending of German troops from the east to the west was a factor which must be considered, and it was essential that the whole strength of the allied armies should be made available for the point where the blow would come. Arrangements should be made under which the allies would treat their army as one to meet the danger and menace, wherever it should come.

THE CHALLENGE OF LLOYD-GEORGE

Asks Commons Not to Press Government As to War Arrangements.

MILLIONS OF LIVES DEPEND UPON THE DECISIONS OF THE SUPREME WAR COUNCIL.

The Allies Must Be Ready for the Blow—Haig and Robertson Both Approve War Council's Decision.

London, Feb. 13.—Commenting on the recent speech of the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, Count Czernin, in reply to President Wilson, Premier Lloyd George said in the House of Commons yesterday afternoon that when it came to the real substance of the demands of the allies Count Czernin was adamant. The Premier said he had read with profound disappointment the replies given to President Wilson and to the declarations of the British Government by Count von Hertling, the German Chancellor, and Count Czernin the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister. It was perfectly true that, as regarded the tone, there was a great deal of difference between the two speeches, and he wished he could believe there was a difference in substance.

Standing By War Aims.

The Government stood by the considered declaration made at the meetings with the trades union representatives early this year. The Government did not recede in the least from its war aims, as they had been stated. It was no use, he said, crying peace when there was no peace.

Regarding the Supreme War Council, it was impossible to make a statement as to the decisions it reached without giving information to the enemy.

He would like any member to point out anything in the speeches of Czernin or von Hertling which could possibly be regarded as proof that the Central Powers were prepared to make peace on terms which could be regarded as just and reasonable.

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ARMIES READY FOR BIG MOVE

The Tension Along the British-German Front is Tightening.

GROUND FIT FOR FIGHTING

ENEMY CONTINUES TO POUR IN GUNS AND TROOPS

All Leave is Stopped—The Situation is Described as Uncanny and Portentous.

With the British Armies in France, Feb. 13.—The tension along the British-German front is tightening. As the extraordinarily bright, mild weather has continued to dry out the sodden fields, the two great armies have become more alert. The inertia of the days when the western theatre was held in the grip of snow and impassable mud has disappeared, and the contenting forces are poised, watching each other like duellists, for the first move, which will mean that the most sanguinary period of the war has begun.

Something seems bound to happen before another month has passed, if the present weather holds. Indeed, even now, the ground in some sections is quite fit for fighting.

The enemy continues to make intense preparations for what has been advertised as the "great offensive." German troops and guns keep pouring into the western front, and there are indications that a few Austrian units are in Flanders.

Certain areas back of the German front have been cleared for action, and daily bodies of troops have been practicing attacks under the tutelage of experts. Prisoners say that leave for the soldiers was stopped on January 20th.

Identification Raids. So far as actual fighting is concerned, it is still confined to identification raids, air activity and occasional bursts of artillery. Along many miles of front, which the correspondent visited in the past two days, there is an ominous quiet. One may sit for hours on a vantage point so close to the German lines that the enemy can be seen walking about; yet there are few sounds of strife.

The enemy is playing possum or ignoring the military movements behind the British lines, and the British themselves are sitting tight, saying little. The silence is uncanny, and it is portentous.

Naturally the allied preparations cannot be discussed, but it may be said that everywhere there is the spirit of optimism. Every soldier in the long lines knows what is coming and smiles with assurance, for he knows what his supports are. The allies still have a preponderance of men and guns along this front, and they have a determination to use this advantage. The Germans will find that their opponents have not wasted the winter months.

War Tidings. Active local operations were carried out Monday night by the French. German raiding parties were beaten back and 250 German prisoners were taken.

Berlin reports that after a day of lively artillery fire on the Sette Comuni plateau on the Italian front, the Austrians attacked south of Sasso Rosso, clearing supporting positions and capturing nearly 150 prisoners.

The Austrians on Monday renewed their attacks on the northern Italian front west of Brenta river, but were held in check by the Italians. Austrian columns were torn to pieces by Italian artillery.

Separate Peace Not Expected. London, Feb. 13.—Referring to Roumania, Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of Bekeade, said that he believed that "though the armistice expires in a few days, Roumania has no intention of making a separate peace. They have a fine army, equal to dealing with anything in front of them if their food supplies are secured."

Movie Shows Must Close on Mondays. Ottawa, Feb. 13.—The fuel regulations as they apply to places of amusement have been amended by the Fuel Controller. The heatless Mondays commence next week, Feb. 18th. Many theatre proprietors have asked that the heatless days be changed from Monday to Tuesday. It has been decided to give theatres the option of closing on Tuesdays instead of Mondays.

However, moving picture shows, bowling alleys, billiard and pool rooms still have to close on Mondays. The order is in force until March 25th.

Largest Surplus Ontario Ever Had. Announcement Made in the Legislature By the Provincial Treasurer.

(Canadian Press Despatch)
Toronto, Feb. 12.—The largest surplus in the history of the province of Ontario was announced by Hon. W. T. McGarry, Provincial Treasurer, in making his annual statement to the Legislature yesterday afternoon. It amounts to \$1,751,374, or more than six hundred thousand dollars in excess of the surplus for the year 1915-1916. This would have been much greater, the provincial treasurer said but for the generous contributions made by the province to war objects.

During last year the net debt was reduced by more than a million. Expenditure on capital account was ten millions, of which more than half was for hydro-electric purposes. Receipts from the Department of Lands, Forests and Mines was over three and a half millions, including half a million arrears in nickel taxes. Over three millions was received from succession duties.

Premier Hearst introduced a bill to provide for the extension of Legislature until after the close of the war in accord with a statement made to the house by him on Friday.

Failed to Meet. Payment to City. Winnipeg Railway Was Almost Driven into Liquidation Last Month.

Winnipeg, Feb. 13.—For the first time in its history the Winnipeg Street Railway Company has failed to meet its financial obligations to the city on the date fixed under its charter.

The five per cent of its earnings, up to December 31st, which, under its charter the company must pay the city by the following February 1st this year has not been paid. At a public meeting the Street Railway Company's counsel, Edward Anderson, K.C., stated that the company was not financially able to meet the charge this year, amounting to approximately \$90,000. Mr. Anderson stated that the company was almost driven into liquidation last month.

Reduction in revenue owing to the competition of the "jitneys" in Winnipeg, is given as the principal reason for the depreciation in the street railway company's finances.

Hotel Moved Six Miles. Sarnia, Feb. 13.—To move a twenty-room hotel six miles over the ice in the track that has been accomplished at the lower end of the St. Clair River, where a hotel was carried on skids on the north channel, being pulled by twenty-four horses. The ice was from one to three feet in thickness, and the combined weight of the huge building and the teams had no effect on the ice. The hotel now reposes at Pearl Beach.

Stands Trial For Sedition. (Canadian Press Despatch)
Kitchener, Feb. 13.—Ferdinand Leister, of Hespeler, who is alleged to have declared "he would not contribute any money to defeat his nation," must stand trial at the Assizes here, where the grand jury has returned a true bill against him on a sedition charge.

No bill was returned in the sedition cases against H. Oederburg and I. H. Heuber.

Celebrated 100th Birthday. London, Ont., Feb. 13.—Mrs. Ann Beattie, of 50 Byron Avenue, has just celebrated her 100th birthday. She has a clear recollection of the rebellion of 1837.

American Casualties. Washington, Feb. 13.—General Pershing four American soldiers killed, one severely wounded and three missing in the action on Feb. 7th, 8th and 9th.