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The Daily Mail

ALL THE NEWS FOR ONE CENT

***** **The Weather.** *****

Maritime: Moderate to fresh southerly winds, partly fair, with local showers, more especially at night.

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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, TUESDAY, MAY 23, 1916

ONE CENT PER COPY

Germans Fail in Violent Attacks on Hill No. 304

Recapture of Fort Douaumont Has Greatly Elated the French Public---Huns Now Hold Only a Small Angle of the Position---Germans Suffer Enormous Losses.

PARIS, May 23.—Fighting continued with extreme violence on both banks of the Meuse along the Verdun front during the whole night. Two German attacks on French positions on Hill 304 failed completely, the War Office announced this afternoon. The French made further gains within Fort Douaumont. The Germans now hold only a small angle in the north-eastern corner of the fort.

The battle around Hill 304 was especially severe. In attacking French positions on the west side of the hill, the Germans used liquid fire and gas and penetrated one of the French trenches, but were dislodged at once. On the east side of the hill the Germans attacked after intense artillery preparations, but were not permitted to reach the French lines.

The principal fighting east of the Meuse was in the sector between Thiaumont and Douaumont. The Germans attacked in mass formation, and are said to have suffered enormous losses. They succeeded in re-occupying one of the trenches north of Thiaumont farm which had been captured by the French in recent fighting.

Press and Public Greatly Elated Over the

Recapture of Fort Douaumont From Huns

PARIS, May 23.—Recapture by the French, after three months fighting, of the greater part of Fort Douaumont, which was taken by the Germans at the outset of the Verdun drive, is received with great elation by the press and public, the more so on account of the effect it is expected to have on neutral opinion. General Nevelle, the French commander at Verdun, took advantage of the fact that the Germans recently have been concentrating all their attention on Dead Man Hill, on the other side of the river, and assembled a large amount of artillery for the attack on the douaumont sector.

French Soldiers Sang "Marseillaise" as

They Began the Attack on Douaumont

On Sunday General Nevelle began a heavy artillery attack on Fort Douaumont and adjacent positions. The hour fixed for the infantry assault was 4.30 p. m. yesterday. When the moment came, French infantry, which had been carefully selected, began the advance, singing the Marseillaise.

The German resistance at some points was stubborn. On the Froides Terre road, and at Douaumont, the French had to force back the German infantry inch by inch at the point of the bayonet. The leading French contingents reached Fort Douaumont at 5 o'clock. They killed the Germans who resisted and sent to the rear a large number of prisoners.

As soon as they recovered from their surprise, the Germans launched a number of fierce counter-attacks, but all failed.

American Military Observers Think the Latest Attack on Verdun is the Dying Gasp

NEW YORK, May 23.—The Paris correspondent of the Tribune cables the following: "I talked this morning with one of the American military observers in France, who had just returned from the front, where he witnessed the German attacks on Verdun on Saturday and Sunday.

"What do you think the attack means?" I asked.

"It looks to me like the dying gasp," he replied.

"But haven't there been a good many of these dying gasps?" I said.

"Yes," he answered. "They began several weeks ago, and since they began the French, who until that time had acted purely on the defensive, have been gradually taking the offensive in to their hands. If you follow the action closely, you will see that recently the offensive as often, if not more often, comes from the French as well as from the Germans.

"This puts the Germans in the position where they have to attack. They are now in the position of the man who was wrestling with the bear. The man was ready to quit, but the bear wouldn't. The Germans have either got to attack at Verdun or submit to attacks by the French, while the French hold the dominating positions. This seems the veritable dying gasp by the Germans at Verdun, but it is a terrible convulsion."

NEGOTIATIONS FOR ARMISTICE.

AMSTERDAM, via London, May 23.—The Munich Neuste Nachrichten publishes a wireless despatch from Madrid which says negotiations are in progress there between the Pope and King Alfonso, and the Pope and President Wilson, for the purpose of arranging an armistice among the belligerent nations, with the object of discussing peace terms."

BACK ON FIGHTING LINE.

LONDON, May 23.—The Prince of Wales has returned from Egypt to the British fighting line in the west. He recently visited the Italian front.

ST. PAUL'S CONGREGATION REGRETS DEPARTURE

Resolution Passed on Rev. Dr. Smith's Resignation--Presbytery Meets Today.

A special meeting of the congregation of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church was held in the Old Kirk last evening to deal with the citation of St. John Presbytery, in which the congregation and sessions were asked to appear to give reasons, if any, whereby Rev. W. H. Smith, Ph. D., should not accept the call to St. John's Church, Vancouver. Mr. T. G. Loggie acted as chairman and W. M. Burns as secretary.

A resolution was passed by the meeting expressing its hearty appreciation of the work done by Dr. Smith during his seven years of service in the congregation.

Messrs. E. Peacock and W. L. McFarlane were appointed to represent the congregation at the Presbytery, which is meeting this afternoon in St. John. The above representatives, together with Messrs. W. M. Clark, J. A. McKinnon, H. S. Campbell and J. M. Thompson, representatives of the session, left for St. John this morning to attend the Presbytery meeting. Dr. Smith at the meeting this afternoon will formally accept the call to Vancouver.

At the meeting today an interim Moderator for St. Paul's Session will be appointed to act during the vacancy. (Continued on page 5.)

AUSTRALIANS ARE USING BIG NAVAL GUNS ON THE ITALIAN FRONT

A Terrible Bombardment is Going on Day and Night---Positions Strongly Held by Italians---Turkish Army is Retreating Towards Bagdad.

(Canadian Press.)

ROME, May 22 (via Paris, May 23).—The Austrians have transferred to the Italian front a number of 381 and 420 millimetre guns. The latter cannon have been taken from the battleships which have been bottled up in the harbor of Pola since the beginning of the war. The detonations of these enormous cannon seem to actually split the Alpine peaks, causing frequent avalanches. But in spite of this terrific bombardment, which is going on day and night, and the reckless expenditure of ammunition by the Austrians, their further advance seems impossible in view of the positions which the Italians hold tenaciously.

ALPINE PEAKS 6,000 FEET HIGH ARE

BEING STRONGLY HELD BY THE ITALIANS

Toni Zugua, a peak 6,000 feet high, which dominates Roverto and the Lagarina and Ara Valleys, is strongly held by the Italians. On the high plateau of Arziero the Austrians occupy only the peak of Spitzlonezza, 5,000 feet high. All the other surrounding high mountains are in the hands of the Italians.

The greatest effort of the Austrians is apparently directed now against the Asiago plateau, to the east of Arziero, where desperate fighting is going on.

TURKS HAVE ORDERS TO CONCENTRATE NEAR

BAGDAD, IN VIEW OF RUSSIAN MENACE

LONDON, May 23.—The Daily Chronicle says: "The Turkish army has begun its retreat toward Bagdad. Evidently orders have been given to concentrate in that locality, in view of the Russian menace from the northeast. The Turkish base in Mesopotamia is at Mosul, which is now the railhead, and it is clearly a good strategic policy on the part of the enemy to shorten his long and exposed line of communication along the Tigris to Kut-el-Amara.

"At Bagdad the Turkish would be in a position to meet the British and Russian thrust at their point of convergence, and obvious advantage, for the distance from Kut to Bagdad is 100 miles.

ONLY PRACTICABLE ROAD FOR RETREAT IS

ON THE NORTH BANK OF THE RIVER

"The river is the real highway, but that the Turks can hardly use, not possessing river steamers and barges. Their only practicable road is that along the north bank of the river. If the enemy succeeds in withdrawing several divisions of troops without heavy loss, he will be singularly fortunate. Forced marches will have to be made if he is to escape our pursuit, which the possession of river transports will enormously facilitate. The extricating of the Turkish rear guard, which must be in fair strength, will be especially difficult."

THE ENTIRE FOOD PROBLEM IN GERMANY

WILL BE NOW HANDLED BY A NEW BOARD

LONDON, May 23.—Advices from Berlin say that it is officially reported there that the federal council has authorized the Imperial Chancellor to establish a new board, which will handle the entire food problem and be directly responsible to him.

The president of this board will be empowered to dispose of all foodstuffs, raw materials and other articles necessary to the supplying of food, all of the fodder and material necessary for the feeding of animals which are still within the German Empire. In urgent cases the president is empowered to send direct instructions to the authorities of the federal states.

Adolph Tortilowitz Von Batocki, president of the province of East Prussia, has been appointed president of the new board.

OWNERS OF SPANISH STEAMER BELIEVE SHE HAS FALLEN A VICTIM TO GERMAN PIRATES

MADRID, May 22.—The owners of the steamer Marques de Mudela, which left Newport, Wales, for Bilbao on May 1, believe that the ship has fallen a victim to a submarine, as nothing has been heard from her since she sailed from the Welsh port. According to the Liberal deputies from Bilbao, the frequent attacks against Spanish ships by German submarines are greatly agitating ship owners on the Cantabrian coast. It is reported that these deputies have asked the government to take action similar to that of the United States, and demand that Germany respect neutral flags. It is said that the shipowners have decided that unless suitable guarantees are obtained they will keep their vessels in port.

H. M. BLAIR TELLS HOW ACCOUNTS WERE JUGGLED

How Annual Deficits Were Turned Into Surpluses Explained in a Sworn Affidavit--Was Compelled to Accept a Personal Draft for \$2000 in Order to Settle a Valley Railway Account.

MONCTON, May 22.—How the Government of New Brunswick deliberately announced false surpluses to the people of the Province, after holding over accounts aggregating very many thousands of dollars at the close of the fiscal year and holding back payment on the same, is shown by a sworn affidavit received here today from H. M. Blair, formerly Secretary of the Public Works Department of the Province. The affidavit is as follows:

THE FAKE SURPLUSES.

PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK, COUNTY OF YORK.

"I, Harry M. Blair, of the City of Fredericton, in the County of York, accountant, do solemnly declare:

"1. That from the 18th day of November, 1911, to the month of April, 1916, I was Secretary of the Department of Public Works of the Province of New Brunswick.

"2. That the fiscal year of the Government of the Province of New Brunswick ends on the 31st day of October in each year, and the accounts are made up to that date.

"3. That in the months of August, September and October, 1913, I did present to the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer's Department for payment certain accounts which were almost exclusively for ordinary expenditure of roads and bridges, amounting to between \$55,000 and \$60,000. These accounts had been checked up in the Department of Public Works and passed upon, the proper requisitions had been signed, and all were made ready for payment. They had been sent to the Treasury Department from day to day as they were prepared, but were not paid. As the accounts accumulated and many of the people who needed their money, which was then long overdue, clamored for payment, I repeatedly and persistently urged payment of those accounts, but was met with the answer that there were no funds to pay them.

"4. That during the latter part of said month of October, in order that the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer might be able to declare that the Government had completed the year with a surplus, these accounts, amounting to between \$55,000 and \$60,000, were handed back to me by the Treasury Department, and I was asked by that department to hold them over until after the end of the fiscal year. I was further asked by the Treasury Department to change the dates of all the requisitions so as to make them appear as if they belonged to the following year. These alterations so requested by the Treasury Department were made. As a result of these transactions, the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer declared, as will be seen by reference to the Auditor General's report for 1913, page A 48, that the Government had ended the year with a surplus of \$12,037.38. If these accounts had been paid, instead of being held back and altered, HE WOULD HAVE HAD A DEFICIT TO REPORT OF BETWEEN \$40,000 AND \$50,000 ON THESE ITEMS ALONE. DURING OTHER YEARS, WHILE I WAS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT COMPELLED US TO ADOPT SIMILAR TACTICS AND MAKE SIMILAR ALTERATIONS.

(Continued on page 5.)

A BIG WAR VOTE.

LONDON, May 23.—In moving the vote of credit for 300,000,000 pounds, as has been forecasted, in the House of Commons, Premier Asquith commented that this was the eleventh vote since beginning of the war and the second for the current financial year. The total granted this year, he added, was £600,000,000, making a grand total of £2,382,000.