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VOL. XXIII., No. 290

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1916

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FRENCH BATTLESHIP SUFFREN BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST

French Troops Drove Huns Out of Captured Trenches

Severe Fighting on Eastern Side of Hill No. 304 on the Verdun Front---Halifax May be Chief Transatlantic Port
---A Blockade of Greece.

PARIS, Dec. 8.—The Germans last night were driven out of trenches which they had captured on the eastern side of Hill 304, on Verdun front, it is announced officially today by the War Office.

Heavy fighting is in progress on the Macedonian front. Three successive counter attacks on the Serbians have been made by German and Bulgarian troops in the region of Stravia. The War Office announces that these attacks were repulsed by the Serbians.

MONTREAL, Dec. 8.—A special London cable received here reports that many British merchant ships are being armed with heavier guns in order to better fit them to meet submarine attacks. It is stated that if the United States holds that such armament places these ships in the war vessel class, that Halifax will become the chief American port for transatlantic shipping during the war.

ATHENS, via London, Dec. 7.—The blockade of Greece begins officially at 8 o'clock tomorrow (Friday) morning. The members of the British naval stations have been ordered to embark on the Greek transatlantic liner King Constantine. In response to the demand of the Entente yesterday for an explanation of the manoeuvres of Greek troops, the Government has explained that these movements have ceased.

BERLIN, (by wireless to Sayville), Dec. 8.—The surrender of a force of 8,000 Roumanians is announced by the War Office in the official statement issued evening concerning the fighting in Roumania.

Opinion in London is That German Triumph in Roumania Has Definite Limitations

LONDON, Dec. 8.—The Roumanian Government still withholds announcement regarding the latest events, and the only news available respecting the Roumanian situation comes from Roumania's enemies.

Pending further information, the London morning papers print second thoughts on the Central Powers' successes by the military critics and editorial writers.

The gist of these opinions is that while it would be useless to seek to attenuate the moral advantage and considerable accession of useful supplies obtained by the Central Powers, it would be easy to exaggerate the evil consequences to the Entente. Expressions of certain German newspaper quoted show that the informed people of Germany realize that their triumph in Roumania has very definite limitations.

Bucharest Surrendered Voluntarily, and The Main Roumanian Army Remains Intact

Among those things which, it is contended here, materially modify the successes of the Central Powers is the fact that Bucharest voluntarily surrendered. The main bulk of the Roumanian army, so far as known, is intact and nearing Terrain, where resistance can be more effective.

The losses the Germans must have suffered from the stubborn resistance of the Roumanians, it is pointed out, can be ill spared by the Teutons.

THE HEALTH OF KING CONSTANTINE.

PARIS, Dec. 8.—The health of King Constantine is again causing anxiety, according to news from German sources. The old wound in the King's side continues to suppurate, a despatch says, and has kept constantly opening. The King is said to be very weak.

READY TO HELP GREECE.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—A despatch from Switzerland, as forwarded from Rome to the wireless press, says Germany and Austria have offered their services to Greece in opening land communications, if Greece declares war on the Entente.

ASQUITH OFFERED AN EARLDOM.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—According to the Daily Chronicle, King George yesterday wrote to former Premier Asquith offering him an earldom and the Order of the Garter. It is understood that Mr. Asquith asked permission to decline both of these honors.

ST. GEORGE SWEEP BY FIRE FIEND

St. John, Dec. 8.—Fire broke out at 4 o'clock this morning in St. George, on the C. P. R. Shore Line division, destroyed seventeen buildings, including seven stores, with a loss of between sixty and seventy-five thousand dollars.

To check the progress of the flames dynamite was resorted to. A call for help had been sent to St. John, and apparatus was being sent, when word came that the fire was under control. There is said to be little insurance.

MARITIME MEN IN CASUALTY LIST

Ottawa, Dec. 8.—Casualties among Maritime men are reported today as follows:

Infantry.
Previously reported wounded, now also missing—J. Myers, Trenton, N. S. C. Parker, Upper Newport, N. S.
Artillery.
Died of wounds—Driver W. A. Bland, Halifax.

Rather Quiet on The Western Front

London, Dec. 8.—"Except for reciprocal intermittent shelling, there is nothing to report," says today's official announcement concerning the Franco-Belgian front.

Hon. Josiah Wood, Lieut. Governor, who had been at the Queen for a few days, went to St. John this morning.

FRENCH BATTLESHIP MAY BE LOST WITH ALL ON BOARD

PARIS, Dec. 8.—The battleship Suffren, which left port on November 24th, has not been heard from since, and the Minister of Marine considers the vessel lost with all on board.

The Suffren sailed for Lorient, a French naval station in Brittany. The battleship displaced 12,750 tons. Her normal complement was 730 men; she was 410 feet long and 70 feet beam and was laid down in 1888. She was armed with four 12-inch, ten 6.4 inch and eight 4-inch guns, twenty-two 3-pounders and four torpedo tubes.

Last year the Suffren took part in the bombardment of the Turkish forts at the Dardanelles. She entered the Straits to attack Turkish batteries, and according to an official Turkish announcement was damaged seriously and withdrew in flames. She was sent back to Toulon for repairs.

Pullman Cars For Returned Soldiers

Moncton, N. B., Dec. 8.—At the request of the Military Hospitals Commission, several Pullman cars are being converted into hospital cars, to be used in transporting returned wounded soldiers from the port of landing in Canada to interior points.

104th Band in Scotland.

Word received from members of the 104th Overseas Battalion, under command of Lieut. Col. G. W. Fowler, M. P., is to the effect that the band of the battalion left England on Saturday last for Scotland on a ten days pass. It is also rumored that the 104th will do guard duty in the city of London during the coming winter. Percy Edgecombe, Joseph Donovan and W. J. Kelly, of Fredericton, are with the 104th Band.

More Canadians Reach England

Ottawa, Dec. 8.—It is officially announced through the chief press censor's office that the following troops have arrived safely in England: The 163rd French Canadian Battalion from Bermuda; the 5th Pioneer Battalion, Montreal; and artillery draft and naval details.

Donation to the 236th.

Brigadier General Hugh H. McLean was yesterday in receipt of a check for \$250 from Sir Hugh Graham, of Montreal. This money will be devoted to the purchase of kilts for the 236th Battalion, now being mobilized at Fredericton. Sir Hugh Graham has taken a deep interest in the Kilts and has constantly assisted the recruiting work of the unit.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE TO ADOPT SWEEPING MEASURES OF REFORM

State Control of Industries and Means
Of Transportation on Land and Sea
On the Program---Extension of Tax
On War Profits.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—The political writers in the London morning papers generally emphasize the importance of Mr. Lloyd George's success with the Laborites. His offers to them during the prolonged conferences are stated to have included, in addition to five or six ministerial posts, the establishment of a labor ministry, the inclusion of a labor delegate at the eventual peace conference, and the promise that labor should have a voice in all matters relating to peace.

It is said in certain quarters that some of these concessions were demanded as part of the price of adhesion, and that the Laborites required government control of mines and shipping during the war, and that it should take possession of all vacant land for production.

The Nation's Man Power to be Directed To the Utmost Production of Munitions

The statements of the political correspondents further show that Mr. Lloyd George was prepared to adopt a sweeping measure of state control, embracing all industries and means of transportation on land or sea, so that the nation's man power could be directed to the utmost production of munitions, the maintenance of necessary export trade the fullest development of food cultivation by state organization and the control of agricultural operations.

Under the Proposed New Policy, No Class Will be Able to Complain of Unfair Treatment

The conference, it is stated, pressed the Premier with the questions, conscription of labor and the conscription of wealth, and it is understood that he answered assuring the conference that his policy would be in the direction of regulating the work of the whole manhood of the country so that no class would be able to complain of its treatment.

It is further stated that there will be a large extension of the tax on war profits, all profits being calculated on an average of 3 years prior to the war, all the profits in excess of this being taken by the state.

Protest Against Lord Robert Cecil's Appointment to the Foreign Office

The Evening News, one of the strongest supporters of Premier Lloyd George, published prominently a protest against the suggestion that A. J. Balfour be appointed Foreign Secretary and Lord Robert Cecil retained as parliamentary under secretary for foreign affairs. It says:

"The great enthusiasm with which the formation of a new government is received everywhere is dampened for the moment by the persistent rumor, on apparently good authority, that Mr. Balfour is to go to the Foreign Office with Lord Cecil. Lord Robert Cecil's record in the Foreign Office is well known. It would be nothing short of disastrous if the man who persistently adopted a policy leading to the weakening of our blockade and the consequent feeding of the Germans, should again be placed in command.

At a meeting of Liberals today it was stated that A. J. Balfour would be Foreign Secretary in the new cabinet and that Lord Cecil would remain parliamentary under-secretary for foreign affairs.

The Irish Question.

The Manchester Guardian says that the report that Premier Lloyd George will attempt an immediate solution of the Irish question by means of an Imperial conference is not unlikely.

Reform Club Supports New Government.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—The Reform Club today passed a resolution expressing confidence in Mr. Asquith and also the determination of the organization to support the new government in whatever steps it may take to prosecute the war vigorously.