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# French Troops Captured a Position Near Avocourt

## Fierce Fighting Last Night in the Verdun Region---Germans Compelled to Pause Inr Breathing Spell---England's Anti-air Craft Defence Proves Effective.

PARIS, April 6.—The War Office announced this afternoon the capture by the French of a large portion of the position north of Avocourt known as the Bois Carre, or Square Woods. This ground was captured in the course of fighting which went on all of yesterday afternoon and last night in the Verdun region, west of the Meuse, on the Avocourt-Bethincourt line. At one point along this line the Germans succeeded in pene- President would suggest a break in trating French positions. Two attacks were made by German troops on French positions north of Caillette woods, but they were without avail.

BERLIN, April 6.—The Vossische Zeitung, referring to the Verdun operations, says: "For the moment our position may seem discouraging, but there is still entire confidence in the strength of the German forces. Let us not be pessimistic, so we may not weaken the spirit of our soldiers."

### Germans at Verdun Have Been Forced to Pause and Recuperate From Their Losses SIME SIDELIGHTS ON

(Canadian Press.)

LONDON, April 6 .- Again the fury of the Verdun assault has spent itself and the Germans have been forced to pause and recuperate from their losses. Except for an intermittent canponade in the Douaumont-Vaux sector, fighting has been praclically suspended. The French claim only the capture of communication trenches in the Caillette wood.

But that it is anything more than a pause, the French dare not yet hope. Even as the fired troops rest after the terrific strain of the past week they must be alert against a surprise, or a new attempt to overwhelm their defence.

Both the Germans and French are utilizing the opportunity to strengthen their lines and to rush up much needed supplies.

In the close hand to-hand fighting the wounded have been greater than in almost any week since the attack began six Foundation Company of Montreal by the Minister of Public Works weeks ago. Although the Germans have adopted extraordinary ceived no one, except possibly themselves. Certainly they have cancel the award of the Minister of Public Works, and to call for new tenders not deceived the French, who have been able to calculate not only the number but the disposition of the attacking troops

## German Cruiser Adalbert Was Twice

COPENHAGEN, April 6.—The German cruiser Prinz Adalbert was twice torpedoed by British submarines before she was rate, while the question of cancellation was under consideration, certain tele first time the vessel was torpedoed was in August last, while Council and the Vice-President of Rhodes, Curry & Co. she was on her way to Libau. She was towed back to Kiel, and repaired, and started again for Libau in October, when she was torpedoed and sunk. Only 80 men of her crew of 600 were the Prinz Adalbert had been sunk by two shots from a submarine off Libau. -Unfortunately, the despatch added, only a small Hon. John E. Wilson and Rhodes, Curry & Co. portion of her crew could be rescued.

### German Zeppelin Was Forced to Flee By the British Anti-Aircraft Gunners

LONDON, April 6.—The increasing effectiveness of England's anti-aircraft defences was demonstrated last night, when the single Zeppelin which undertook the fifth raid in six days. was prevented from penetrating the northeast coast, and was forced to flee after the briefest visit of the kind yet made,

The night was clear, with moonlight, and without wind Searchlights discovered the raider coming over the sea, and never once lost him during his stay. As he reached the coast he was flying comparatively low, and the smallest guns found him such an easy target that he was forced to rise to a great height. The larger guns then found the range and, aided by the searchlights they surrounded the Zeppelin with a terrific hail of shrapnel and high explosive shells. After manoeuvring near a north sea coast town, for about ten minutes, during which only a few bombs were dropped, the raider was seen to turn and to sail homeward.

### EMPEROR TO VISIT FRONT.

ROME. April 6.—Emperor Francis Joseph, disregarding the warnings of doctors, has determined to visit tre Italian front. Preparations for the journey have been completed and very lively interest in the awarding of the contract for the Petitcodiac bridge. possibly the aged monarch will leave Vienna next week.

#### COMPLAINT AGAINST GREECE.

PARIS. April 6.—The Entente powers have complained to sult of this investigation.

#### GERMAN OFFICIAL REPORT.

American passengers, President Wilimmediate action, unless some undeed that the President has determined upon the course of action he will ask Congress to approve

"He declined to state whether the President would suggest a break in

#### LATE PRIVATE RIORDAN.

The funeral of Private Gregor Riordan, 104th Battalion, took place at Woodstock yesterday, Rev. J. J. Ryan celebrating Requiem High Mas The deceased was a brother of Miss

Correspondence Which Passed Between Hon. John Von Tirpitz. E. Wilson and a Member of an Amherst Contracting Firm---Contract Was Needed to Save Mr. E. N. Rhodes, M. P. From Defeat

A most remarkable answer was brought down in the House this week of uesday, after having been postponed from the previous Wednesday. It conerns the cancellation of the contract for the Petitcodiac bridge at Moncton, which it will be remembered was awarded about the 1st of April last to the

Then there was a hitch. Strong pressure was brought to bear upon measures in attempts to conceal their losses, they have de- Covernment by Dr. Price and his associates to take the matter in hand, to

#### THE CONTRACT WAS CANCELLED.

Baxter and Murray and the President of the Council, Hon. John E. Wilson, ancelled the contract awarded by their colleague, Hon. John Morrissy, who Torpedoed by British Before Being Sunk was the responsible head of his department, and called for new tenders.

There had been vague rumors that Messrs. Rhodes, Curry & Co., and other Nova Scotia concerns, wanted the work divided up between them. At any sunk last October, according to the Aarhus Stifts-Tidende. The grams and correspondence passed between the President of the Executive

#### GOVERNMENT HAD NO KNOWLEDGE.

In the question that was asked, referred to above, the Government was saved. An official despatch fro mBerlin on Oct. 25 last said interrogated as to its knowledge of this correspondence, and the answer was "No. The Government has no knowledge of any communications between

> This answer is on a par with the answer given to another part of the question, that the new tenders were considered by the Council at the reques of the Minister of Public Works. Now the correspondence in question, the Opposition is assured, was placed before at least some of the members of the Council, and while the contract was still in abeyance the president of the fighting on land and sea. Council, Hon. John E. Wilson, sent the following telegram

Fredericton, N. B., April 9, 1915. A. S. Curry, Vice-President Rhodes, Curry & Co., Amherst, N. S.

Contract for Moncton bridge not settled. Expect to give you definite in formation soon. I am looking after your interests. Will send plans and (Sgd.) J. E. WILSON. specifications for Bathurst bridge.

#### A LETTER FROM A. S. CURRY.

contract for the Moncton bridge, as we need the work very badly.

I may say, if there should be a general election this summer, if we can secure some of this work to help keep our men going and our shops fairly feel that he is master of the situation, strong and powerful busy, it will help Mr. Rhodes very much. As conditions are now, with the greater part of our plant shut down and so many men out of work, I am afraid he will have a hard time to win his election, so anything you can do for us in that line will help wonderfully.

(Sgd.) A. S. CURRY. From the above it would appear that Messrs. Rhodes, Curry & Co, had a Government of New Brunswick, even if there was a Liberal as Minister of lin and nine of the crew have landed here. Public Works, to help out the Tory candidate in Cumberland County.

This letter and telegram have been laughed over in Amherst for some the Greek government of arbitrary arrests declared to have time. The success of Contractors and Engineers, Ltd., in landing the contract been made by the tireck police. The reply to the complain! for the Petitcodiac Bridge was but an outcome of the whole plot. The authwas not conclusive. A new inquiry will be made and the Greek ority of the Minister of Public Works for New Brunswick was thrust aside government, it is said, will take measures according to the re- and the wish and will of a few understrapper members prevailed in the coun-

#### GERMAN SUBMARINE SUNK.

## The British Navy Stands in the Way of German Success---First Lord Greatly With the Success Impressed Trench Warfare.

NEW YORK, April 6 .- The London correspondent of the Tribune cables under yesterday's date:

Arthur J. Balfour is First Lord of the Admiralty, head of the British navy, the greatest navy in the world. With it out of the way, Germany could win the war in a couple of months, take over the British Isles, hammer France into submission, and demand ruinous indemnities that would turn the world topsyturvy. It is Mr. Balfour's job to see that the navy remains very much in the way. Recently I had the pleasure of seeing and talking with him at his London home, only a stone's throw from the office of the Admiralty. Fully six feet tall, and broad in proportion, Mr. Balfour does not show his sixty-eight years. His manner and courtesy are charming, if that adjective may be applied to a man. He is gentle and kind, without a trace of the brusqueness commonly associated with sea lords.

I should say that war is the last game Mr. Balfour would select for enjoyment and reaction. He is the antithesis of

#### PRAISES TRENCH WARFARE.

Turning the conversation to the question of fighting, I asked What has been the big surprise of the war, submarines, aerial warfare, speed or gun range?'

None of these," replied Mr. Balfour. "In my opinion, trench warfare and the value of artillery. Students of the submarine have not been surprised; they had thought out and planned ways of increasing its efficiency, and also defences against it. Students of air problems have not been surprised at the development of aerial warfare. The development of both of these branches of fighting has been rapid, but along lines thought out before the war began.

But no one anticipated that trench warfare would play so great a part in modern fighting, and no one forecasted the tremendous importance of artillery. Even the Germans, with all their thoroughness in making preparation for this conflict, failed to foresee to what extent trench fighting would have to be relied on, once the contending forces were of anyway near equal strength.

#### A STRIKING ILLUSTRATION.

The Germans prepared for artillery fighting, but Verdun is a striking illustration of the fact that they have not reached perfection. They pounded and/smashed fortifications which were considered impregnable, but still they have not been able to reach their objective.

We were standing at the entrance to the Admiralty, and officers passing in and out saluted the first sea lord. In every case he returned the salute, but talked on just as if he were in his study with nothing to distract his attention. He is a member of the War Council, and as such knows every detail of the

#### NO SPIRIT OF BOASTFULNESS.

It struck me as highly interesting that this man, the head of Great Britain's navy, should consider that the surprises of the war come from the field rather than at sea. There was not a single word of boatsfulness from him about the British navy, but I came away with a feeling that he was not worried by any Germany decided finally to try conclusions on the sea, Britain would meet her without fear of the result.

n. John E. Wilson, Fredericton, N. B.

Dear Mr. Wilson, Fredericton, N. B.

Of British naval officers I have met, there was not a single one who was a pessimist. There is a spirit of unrest among thank you very much for the information; hope we will be able to secure the them, the unrest of the perfectly trained thoroughbred in the paddock before the race, a keenness to get into action. At the head is Balfour, calm, courteous and serene. He makes you as the British navy itself. You can give no higher praise to any

#### BRITISH STEAMER SUNK.

QUEENSTOWN, April 6.—The British steamer Zent, 3,890 tons, has been torpedoed without warning, west of Fastnet. According to the President of the Council, he was looking after their faterests, Forty-eight members of her crew are missing and are supposed and if Mr. Curry is to be believed, it was almost a necessity for the Tory to have been drowned. Two men were killed. Captain Mar-

#### U. S. CONSUL MAKES REPORT.

WASHINGTON, April 6.—The American consul at Havre reported today that in the sinking of the Norwegian steamer Baus, presumably by a submarine, four persons perished, but that no Americans were on board.

#### BULGARIANS ARRESTED.

ormed the village of Haucort, northwest of Verdun, the War a squadron of French and British warships, the ministry of ma- others. It is believed that they were intriguing against the