
* Notice to Advertisers. *
* In order to ensure changes *
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* copy must reach this office not *
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* publication. *

The Daily Mail

* The Weather. *
* Maritime: Moderate winds; *
* fair with somewhat higher tem- *
* perature. Saturday: Moderate *
* winds, and for the most part *
* fair. *

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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1917

TWO CENTS PER COPY

BULLECOURT HAS FALLEN INTO HANDS OF THE BRITISH FORCES

Germans Getting Ready For Another Strategical Retreat

British Troops Are Now Within Two Miles of Queant on the Famous Switch Line---Japanese Submarines to Help in War Against German Pirates.

Bullecourt is at last in British hands and the Drocourt-Queant line appears doomed. The tremendous sacrifices made by the Germans have proved in vain, and the flames of burning towns behind their lines gave color to reports that Field Marshal Von Hindenburg is contemplating another strategical retreat. The capture of Bullecourt has brought the British to within two miles of Queant, on the northern side of the famous switch line. Their guns have already encircled it at an equal distance to the south and east, and only a narrow gateway to the northwest lies open to the German garrison. Bullecourt itself, over which such torrents of blood have flowed, stands on a height overlooking a broad valley which runs directly to Queant. It will presumably take some time for the British to establish their heavy guns on this height, but the fate of ueant seems sealed.

PARIS, May 18.—A number of Japanese gunboats have arrived at Marseilles to aid in the war on German submarines and convoy French merchantmen. If the experiment has satisfactory results it will be extended and other assistance may be offered by the Japanese.

Several attacks were launched by the Germans last night in the vicinity of Craonne. Today's official statement says they were repulsed. French reconnoitering parties penetrated the German lines in Lorraine. The statement follows:

"In the region of the Chemin des Dames the activity of the enemy was concentrated on the Californie plateau, where there was a violent bombardment. Several attacks in the extreme northeastern part of the plateau were repulsed after very spirited grenade fighting, and all our positions were maintained. In the Champagne the artillery fighting was intense during the night in the region of Montcarillet and Mont Paul. A surprise attack by the enemy east of Auberive was repulsed by our fire. In Lorraine one of our reconnoitering detachments penetrated the adversary line near Petoncourt and destroyed a number of defence works. Everywhere else on the front the night was calm."

INDICATIONS POINT TO ANOTHER RETREAT

BY THE GERMANS ON THE WESTERN BATTLE FRONT

PARIS, May 18.—The desperate German counter offensive that has been going on since the day before yesterday in the region of Laffaux is considered in competent quarters here as tending to mask a further retirement of German first line on other parts of the front. During the last few days the number of fires in villages behind the German front, both north and south of St. Quentin, has greatly increased. The town of St. Quentin itself, which has been gradually burning for the last few weeks, is now overhung with heavy smoke clouds. These facts are considered indications of a retreat, being similar to those which preceded the last retirement in which the Germans left a vast area of devastation.

THE UNITED STATES MAY LIMIT EXPORTS TO SCANDINAVIAN AND OTHER NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

WASHINGTON, May 18.—The rationing of Holland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland and Spain was discussed formally today at a conference at the State Department between British Foreign Secretary Balfour, Secretary of State Lansing, Secretary of Commerce Redfield and British and American trade experts. The necessity of limiting exports strictly to those countries, both to prevent their finding their way into enemy territory and to conserve every possible ton of Allied shipping for the most essential work, was considered in all phases. A general understanding was reached as to the complete participation of the U. S. in the rationing system already developed by the Allied nations. The detailed working out of the agreement, however, depends on the enactment of legislation giving the President power of embargo and granting the shipping board control over all cargo space.

WON FAME AS A CONJUROR

London, May 18.—John Nevil Maselyne, London's famous conjuror, died in London today. Mr. Maselyne was 78 years old and for nearly fifty years had been almost an English institution. His celebrated show house, Egyptian Hall, was almost as well known as Westminster Abbey or Buckingham Palace.

Assumed His Duties.

Mr. Burton H. Hill of St. Stephen, yesterday assumed the duties of the office of Provincial Railway and Highway Engineer to which he was appointed a few days ago.

SHIPS SUNK IN THREE MONTHS

London, May 18.—Three hundred and seventy-one British vessels have been sunk in the three months since the Admiralty began issuing statements without giving the tonnage of vessels. In that period over 45,000 vessels have entered or left British ports. Of the ships sunk 250 have been of over 1,600 tons and 113 below that tonnage; 108 have been fishing craft.

To Adjourn Tonight.

The House of Assembly will adjourn tonight for recess over the weekend. It will sit again on Monday night.

VALLEY RAILWAY ENQUIRY BEGUN THIS MORNING

J. M. Stevens of Edmundston is Commissioner and F. B. Carvell, K. C. is Counsel for the Government ---Mr. Ross Thompson, C. E., the First Witness

Mr. John M. Stevens, K. C., of Edmundston, who has been appointed by the Provincial Government a Royal Commissioner to investigate all matters pertaining to the St. John Valley Railway, held his first court this morning in the Sheriff's Office in the County Court House. Mr. F. B. Carvell, K. C., M. P., appeared as counsel for the Government, and Mr. S. Dow Simmons acted as stenographer. Mr. Ross Thompson, Chief Engineer for the St. John & Quebec Railway Company, was present, and placed in evidence the contract entered into with a Nova Scotia Construction Co. for the building of the road, and other documents connected therewith.

It was decided that the next sitting would be held in the Court House, St. John, on June 5th at 10 o'clock in the morning. In the meantime a number of subpoenas will be issued to officials of the Contracting Co. and others whose evidence is deemed necessary.

To Have Counsel.

The Commissioner stated this morning that the enquiry will be open and that all parties will have the right to be represented by counsel if they wish.

Mr. Thompson first submitted the list of tenders received in response to the call made in December, 1915.

These tenders, it will be remembered, were not acted upon, and new ones were invited. On the second call tenders for the work were received from the Nova Scotia Construction Co., and Messrs. Kennedy & McDonald, of Antigonish, the first named concern tendering for both sections of the road and the latter for one. The tender of the Nova Scotia Construction Co. was the lowest and a contract was entered into with them on May 4th, 1916.

Filled in With Lead Pencil.

Mr. Thompson stated that the successful tenderers were compelled by the directors of the company to lower their prices in some instances. The figures in Kennedy & McDonald's tender were filled in with a lead-pencil, and the directors thought that there may have been collusion. The Nova Scotia Construction Co. were therefore told that if they did not accept the price changes made by the engineer, new tenders would be called for. Released from Contract.

Mr. Carvell called attention to a

MAY ADOPT MODIFIED CONSCRIPTION

Montreal, May 18.—An Ottawa despatch to the Star says:

"Conscription on a modified scale is now regarded as almost inevitable in view of the need of recruiting for overseas and the failure to get them by the volunteer process."

"Possibly Sir Robert Borden's speech this afternoon may touch upon this situation, particularly the urgent need of men. In any event there is a noticeable diminution of opposition to the idea of a modified compulsion applied on the principle of selection. Local boards would determine whether men's services are of greater value to the state in their present callings or as recruits for overseas."

"That his shaping in the direction admits no doubt. It is only a question of the time when it will be effective and the exact process which will be invoked."

MARITIME MEN IN CASUALTIES

Ottawa, May 18.—Nineteen killed in action, thirteen died of wounds and 69 ill or wounded make up today's casualty list of 95 names. The Maritime Province names follow:

Infantry.

Killed in Action:

H. L. Currie, Charlottetown, P. E. I.; C. P. Fielding, Truro; W. H. B. Heath, Halifax.

Died of Wounds:

W. C. Ward, Sackville, N. B. Artillery.

Killed in Action:

C. E. Clarke, Fredericton, N. B.

THE KAISER AND CZAR HAD A SECRET PACT AIMED AT FRANCE

Late Count Witte Discovered the Existence Of the Treaty in 1915 and Succeeded in Blocking It---The Kaiser Was Very Angry.

PARIS, May 18.—A long account of a secret pact between the Kaiser and Emperor Nicholas and aimed against France, is given in the last issue of the Moscow Russkoye Slovo to reach Paris. According to the story, the existence of the treaty was discovered by Count Witte in 1905, while the peace negotiations between Russia and Japan were proceeding at Portsmouth. Count Witte, furious at the deception of the Czar, informed the Kaiser that unless the pact was cancelled he would refuse to countersign the treaty of Portsmouth.

As German bankers were interested in a loan to Russia, this would hit them hard, and, the story goes, rather than have complications in his economic policy, the Kaiser acceded.

Neither Emperor, however, ever forgave Count Witte. At the beginning of the war Count Witte communicated the facts to B. Glinka, editor of the Messenger Historique. He bound the editor to keep the information secret until he, Count Witte, was dead and circumstances warranted the revelation of Nicholas' inconceivable levity or treason, "whichever you like."

THE PREMIER OF RUSSIA IS PLEASED WITH SETTLEMENT

Says the Most Serious Crisis in the Modern History Of Russia Has Been Satisfactorily Settled---Congress of Peasants.

PETROGRAD, via London, May 18.—The formation of a cabinet in which six socialists are included has been completed.

PETROGRAD, via London, May 18.—After the solution of the governmental crisis by the reception into the cabinet of five socialist representatives of the Council of Deputies, Premier Lvoff received a representative of the Associated Press and expressed satisfaction over the solution and his confidence in the future. Premier Lvoff said: "The most serious crisis in the modern history of Russia has been satisfactorily settled and conditions already show marked symptoms of improvement. It is my impression that the new coalition cabinet will receive the support of all reasonable Russian citizens. We have for the first time the prospect of a government which will combine both moral authority and material power."

A Peasants' Congress.

A congress of 569 delegates, purporting to represent the peasants of all Russia, has assembled here. The programme covers four points: First, the crystallization of the opinion of the peasant class on all vital national subjects; second, the necessity of imposing on all citizens that the new freedom brings not only new rights, but new duties; third, the safeguarding of the interests of the peasant class; fourth, the safeguarding of the interests of the whole country.

The honorary chairman pointed out at the opening of the Congress the necessity of the resumption of active operations on the battle front.

SPANISH CABINET WILL FORWARD ENERGETIC NOTE TO THE GERMANS

Madrid, May 18 (via Paris) — An extraordinary meeting of the cabinet was held last evening immediately upon receipt of news of the sinking of the Spanish steamer Patricio of 3,500 tons. The accounts stated that the crew was saved but that one sailor was seriously wounded. The government authorities were extremely reserved as to the result of their two hour deliberation on the case but it is supposed that the cabinet decided to send another note of the most energetic character to Germany. A violent clash between Francophiles and Fernandophiles occurred here last evening as the outcome of arguments over the Spanish note to Germany and Germany's reply concerning the sinking of the Spanish steamer San Leandro. Several hundred persons took part in fist fighting and some of them used canes during the encounter.

Rev. Dean Neales and Mrs. Neales have returned from Windsor, N. S.