

***** **Notice to Advertisers.** *****

In order to ensure changes being made in advertisements, copy must reach this office not later than 9 a. m. on the day of publication.

The Daily Mail

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

Moderate to fresh southeast to south winds, becoming showery.

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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1917

TWO CENTS PER COPY

British Troops in France Win a Smashing Victory

**Big Drive Started Early in Morning and was Great Success
---Graphic Description of the Encounter by the Staff
Correspondent of the A. P.**

(From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.)

With the British Armies in France, June 3, via London, June 7.—The British armies struck today on a new front and won a victory which supplements the successes at Arras during the past two months. The Germans, though apparently aware that the blow was coming, and seemingly prepared to meet it, were driven from their nearly three years' hold on the Messines region, opposite poor old Ypres, the last remnant of an important Belgian town which, with the help of the French and British in turn, has held out against all the massed attacks the Germans could fling against it, including the first great surprise of poison gas as a means of supposed civilized warfare.

YPRES WAS AVENGED.

Ypres in a sense was avenged today, for Messines Ridge has been the vantage point from which the Germans have poured torrents of shells into the stricken city.

The British also wiped off an old score against the Germans, for they held the ridge in October, 1914, and with very thin forces and practically no artillery fought bloodily but vainly to hold it when the Prussians massed their modern overpowering weapons against it.

THE ATTACK WAS CAREFULLY PLANNED

Today's attack lacked many of the elements of surprise which accompanied the battle of Arras and the successful storming of Vimy Ridge. There has been no doubt for three weeks past as to the intentions of the British. The Germans knew that a big push was to be made against Messines, and they had plenty of time to prepare for the defence of that place. Prisoners taken today, however, declared that the bombardment of Vimy Ridge was child's play compared with the gunfire turned upon Messines Ridge. This fire reached its climax just as dawn was graying the eastern skies, and while the full moon was still high.

ANOTHER BRITISH ARTILLERY TRIUMPH.

Today successes won along a ten mile front from Observatory Ridge southeast of Ypres to Ploegstreet Wood, just north of Armentieres, proved another triumph for British artillery supremacy. As the fighting was entirely on Belgian soil, however, the Belgian artillery stationed some distance north of the actual line of attack, lent aid with a violent bombardment of the German positions within range of its varied calibre guns.

The attack was accompanied by all the arts and devilleries of latter day warfare. The enemy guns and gun crews had been bathed for days in gas shells sent over by the long range British guns. The night was filled with red incendiary flame. Shells that spouted molten metal in surging streams of golden rain crashed in appalling number about the heads of the defending soldiers. High explosives and shrapnel fire was carried out with such rapidity that the very earth writhed under the force of the attack.

A DAY OF RETALIATION.

Mines that had taken two years to dig and filled with an overwhelming explosive, broke into an avalanche of flaming destruction in the half light of dawn. This was indeed a Ypres day of victory and retaliation for the vicious sufferings of two years and eight months.

Hill 60, of evil renown, always the nearest menace to Ypres, went up with other strong points under the impulse of hundreds and hundreds of tons of a secret explosive compound. The mining plans had been so great and so carefully made that the British knew that if they did not affect the strategy of the situation they would at least materially change it geographically. However, both strategically and geographically the assaults were victorious. The British casualties were slight. Three out of every four of the casualties were reported to be walking cases, who would return to duty in a few days.

TRIBUTE TO GEN. PLUMER.

Today's victory was a tribute to the British commander, General Sir Herbert C. Plumer. His army has had the defence of the famous Ypres salient ever since the salient was created. The army has sat in the shadow during the brilliant phases of the Somme and Arras offensives, but at last has come into its own. At many places the advancing men found German troops utterly dazed by the mine explosions and the ordeal of the artillery fire. Many of these troops had but recently come from Russia, where they had spent eighteen months and knew nothing of what actual warfare was like on the western front.

Germans Were Surprised.

They had bolted at the first mine explosion and had only been gathered together in groups by their non-commissioned officers, when the British appeared through the smoke and the shells and made them prisoners.

Their surprise at what a modern battle is like was no greater, some of the prisoners said to the correspondent, than the fact that they were not immediately killed by their captors. They said they were given to understand by their officers that the British always killed their prisoners. It was really pitiful in some instances to see the manner in which these prisoners cringed to their captors. As a matter of fact, the British soldiers, when the fighting is done, are inclined almost too strongly to treat the German prisoners as pals.

The Enemy Bewildered.

Some of the prisoners taken had only gone on the German lines the night before and had made their way forward under a grueling fire and had lost heavily. But the troops already in the line, were calling for relief in such a manner that their appeals could not be denied.

In view of the fact that the attack had been expected the German commanders were endeavoring to get their best units actually into the fighting front, but had under-estimated when the British would strike.

The troops were utterly bewildered when the attack began and fell easy prey to the advancing British.

The Irish, New Zealand and Australian soldiers, who had been rehearsed in every detail of "the show," knew just what to do from the moment the word to advance was given.

THE EARTH OPENED AND GERMAN LINE DISAPPEARED

**The French Advance in the Messines Battle was
Preceded by a Terrible Explosion Which Had
The Effect of an Earthquake.**

LONDON, June 8.—All the special correspondents at the front in their descriptions of the Messines battle, feature the tremendous explosions of mines which preceded the British advance. "The earth opened and the German line disappeared," is one terse description. Every writer likens the effect on the surrounding terrain to an earthquake. One says that the hill on which he stood shook like jelly. Another, who says the explosive used was aminol, writes: "We saw what might have been the doors thrown open in front of a number of colossal blast furnaces. They appeared in pairs, in threes and successive singles, and with each blast the earth shook and shivered beneath our feet. 'It was worse than an earthquake,' said someone who had known one of the worst earthquakes. Thunder clouds of smoke rose in solid form to immense heights from Hill 60, from Wytschaete Wood and other places, and while our eyes were full of the spectacle a thousand guns opened fire. The air shook as the earth shook, and where earth and air met incredible explosions seemed to rend the world until we appeared part of some cosmic revolution.

We saw familiar landscapes, already ploughed and harrowed by the war, vanish or assume grotesque shapes. Hill 60 went up in fine dust."

The correspondents agree in anticipating desperate counter-attacks. They say the Germans are massing vast forces and intimate that the battle has only begun.

PROVINCIAL NORMAL SCHOOL CLOSED THIS MORNING

The annual Normal School closing exercises were held this morning in the large assembly hall beginning at 10 o'clock. Dr. H. V. B. Bridges acted as chairman. All day the gymnasium and canteen department will be open to spectators. The class rooms, library museum and gymnasium exhibit were opened to all this morning.

Dr. Bridges, the principal, gave a short address to the students which was a review of the year's work. Most of the students would pass he was sure, for this year a good showing was made. Many of the male students had taken early exams and had gone to work on the farms or had enlisted. He felt certain that the students would acquit themselves fittingly in the new work that they would be soon taking up.

A nature lesson was given by Miss Claire Wilcox followed by a chorus, "The Clang of the Forge," by the students. "England's Dead," was rendered by Miss Frances Rogers.

A primary reading lesson was given by Miss Josephine Dickie, Class I. Following the lesson was a song rendered by the pupils of Class A2, and this was followed by an exhibition in

LIBERALS WIN BIG VICTORY IN ALBERTA

Edmonton, Alta., June 7. — The Sifton government was returned to power today by an ample majority, the figures tonight indicating that the Liberals will be within one or two of the last Legislature when the parties stood, Liberals 38, Conservatives 18. All the cabinet ministers have been re-elected with good majorities.

Edmonton, June 7. — Results to 10 o'clock indicate the return of the Sifton government by a majority fully as large as that in the last legislature, where it was 38 to 18. In Edmonton three seats have gone Conservative.

All cabinet ministers are elected, although Cross is running close in Edson, and there are two polls to come from Beaver River, where Garlepy is leading by a narrow margin.

Later the election of both ministers was conceded. The result of today's election is an overwhelming victory for the Liberals, who now completely dominate the west.

Liberals Carry Calgary.

Calgary, June 7. — North Calgary gives Davidson, Liberal, 525 majority, six polls to hear from.

Calgary, June 7. — Centre Calgary: Ross, Liberal, 1,035; Tweedie, 967, ten polls to hear from.

The Liberals also have the support of five khaki candidates who were unopposed and there are two deferred elections. On the strength of the early returns it would appear that the Liberals have swept the province of Alberta and will enter the new house stronger than before dissolution.

Mr. A. McIntyre of St. John, is a guest at the Queen.

Mr. F. W. Daniel of St. John, is registered at the Queen.

THE FIRST CONTINGENT OF AMERICAN TROOPS ARRIVES IN ENGLAND

General Pershing's Force Warmly Greeted at English Port---American Warships Anchored off the Coast of France--Greetings from French Navy

LONDON, June 8.—General Pershing and his party arrived early this morning at a port in Great Britain. They were received by the officers of the port, the general commanding the district and the mayor. A band and guard of honor escorted them from the dock. A hearty welcome was extended to the Americans by official representatives of the Admiralty, the War Office and the municipal authorities.

The War Office has assigned a brigadier general of the British army as aide to General Pershing. He took up his duties with the commander in chief as soon as the latter arrived.

General Pershing said to the Associated Press: "Speaking for myself and my staff, we are glad to be the standard-bearers of America in this great war for civilization. The opportunity of landing at a British port and the welcome we received are very significant and are deeply appreciated.

"We expect in the course of a very short time to be playing our part, which I am confident will be a very big part on the western front."

General Pershing and his staff proceeded toward London.

U. S. WARSHIPS OFF FRENCH COAST.

PARIS, June 8.—The minister of marine announced tonight that American warships have anchored off the French coast. The announcement adds: "The French navy greets with joy on their arrival these new brothers in arms who under the flag of the great American republic have come to participate until a final victory has been won in the struggle against the common enemy."

POLITICAL PROBLEMS AT OTTAWA CONTINUE SERIOUS

Ottawa, June 7.—The refusal of coalition by Sir Wilfrid Laurier has not solved the problems of either political party. It has not made it clear that a solution will be reached even by a general election. Nor has it pointed the way to united national effort towards winning the war, towards stable government, or towards a united Canada.

The Quebec problem stays. The political differences of both parties remain. The uncertainties of the whole situation are almost as great as ever. Leaders on both sides are groping their way towards some satisfactory way out of the worst political tangle since Confederation. Politics and patriotism, self interest and war interest, are in conflict, and no one yet sees clearly the outcome.

On the government side the problems in brief are these: How to pass or enforce a conscription bill in the face of opposition, not only from Quebec but from the Labor interests and from a large body of public opinion all over Canada; how to meet insistent popular demand for radical cabinet reorganization now that coalition has been turned down by Sir Wilfrid Laurier; how to satisfy the general demand for firm and courageous national leadership and avoid the penalties of past mistakes if an election is forced, as now seems certain; how to play up the conscription issue and racial prejudice so as to secure another lease of power.

On the Liberal side there is, just as on the Conservative side, a split over the conscription proposals. That, in the last analysis, was the rock on which the coalition ship struck.

The difficulties of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the embarrassment of his position are obvious, and are recognized by members on both sides. If he assented to Sir Robert Borden's demand for the immediate application of conscription, his leadership in Quebec would probably be immediately lost. The Nationalist crowd, fostered in 1911 by the flag-waving political strategists of the Tory party, would spring to life again. Bourassa and Laverne with their sinister influence on Canadian harmony and unity and on Canada's war effort, would destroy, partially at

least what Sir Wilfrid has had at heart all his life. Consequently, the Liberal leader, dreading, as he says in his letter to Sir Robert Borden, "the serious difficulties if the conscription law was passed by the present parliament," cannot bring himself to endorse the conscription proposals.

On the other hand, a considerable proportion of the Liberal members outside of Quebec, believe that conscription must come, and will support it in principle, although believing that the voluntary system under proper leadership and untrammelled by sinister political motives should be given a final trial. They go further, of course, and advocate complete national organization for war work, applying not only to compulsory military service if need be, but also to wealth, industrial service, and every other resource of the nation. They see the present and future dangers of dividing Quebec against the rest of Canada. That would not help win the war; it would jeopardize the stability and practically tie the hands of any government returned to power in an election under those circumstances. Sir Wilfrid, they know, as do also the Conservatives, has always been the far-sighted and consistent leader of his race towards British liberty, British connection and united Canadianism, but even Sir Wilfrid under present conditions, could not retain his influence and prestige in Quebec and still be a conscriptionist. Moreover, it is recognized that his leadership of the Liberal party will be made the basis in an election campaign of the worst appeals to racial prejudice in English-speaking Canada, and perhaps his life record and work might be lost sight of in the heat of the flag-waving campaign.

Offers to Retire.

It is now an open secret that Sir Wilfrid himself, in the interests of his party, and in what he believes to be in the best interests both of Quebec and of Canada, has repeatedly offered to resign in favor of his English-speaking first lieutenant, Hon. Geo. P. Graham. Every Liberal, needless to say, is thoroughly loyal to "The Great Chief" but

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