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The Daily Mail

* The Weather. *
* Maritime: Strong winds or *
* moderate gales from north- *
* west; few local showers, but *
* for the most part fair and cool. *

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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, N. B., MONDAY, MAY 21, 1917

TWO CENTS PER COPY

GOVERNMENT WILL SUMMON A CONVENTION OF IRISHMEN

Several Lines of German Trenches Fall to the French

The Enemy Got the Worst of a Sharp Engagement in the Champagne District---800 Prisoners Captured---British Take an Enemy Support Trench.

PARIS, May 21.—Several lines of German trenches in the Champagne, near Moronvilliers were captured last night by the French, the War Office announces. The French took 800 prisoners and found the wrecked German shelters filled with dead. The Germans lost heavily in ineffectual counter-attacks and finally left the French in undisputed possession.

LONDON, May 21.—British troops during last evening captured a support trench behind the Hindenburg line trench taken during the morning, the War Office announced today. The text of the statement reads as follows:

"Our operations in the Hindenburg line between Bullecourt and Fontaine-les-Croiselles were continued with success during the night. Our troops, who had carried a front trench in the Hindenburg line yesterday morning and had repelled several counter attacks, renewed the attack in the evening after hand-to-hand fighting, captured a support trench also.

"Hostile counter-attacks were again beaten off with heavy losses to the enemy, whose troops were engaged in the open by our massed artillery. A large number of the enemy's dead were found in the captured positions. About 150 prisoners have so far been taken by us in these operations. Two German divisions have been engaged in the fighting in this neighborhood since yesterday morning. We carried out a successful raid last night near Loos. Early this morning an enemy party endeavored to enter our trenches southwest of Messines, but was driven off and molested us no longer."

LISBON, via Paris, May 21.—The scarcity of bread and potatoes has caused an outbreak of rioting here. Mobs attacked several stores, but order was restored by the police.

THE FRENCH STEAMER COLBERT TORPEDOED BY A SUBMARINE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

PARIS, May 21.—The French steamer Colbert, which was torpedoed in the Mediterranean on April 30, was on her way to Saloniki when she was sunk. The ship was struck by a torpedo below the water line and the engine room was immediately flooded. There was no sign of a submarine as the ship began to sink rapidly by the stern. The crew promptly took up their stations, but the boats canted up at such an angle that it was impossible to lower them. The Colbert sank in five minutes and after she had disappeared the submarine emerged and as is her custom, her commander asked the name, description and destination of her victim. Before he could get his information a French patrol boat appeared and opened fire. After four shots had been fired the U-boat submerged just as a sea-plane appeared on the horizon.

FRENCH TORPEDO BOATS DRIVE BACK FLOTILLA OF GERMAN CRAFT OFF COAST OF FLANDERS

BERLIN, May 21 (via London).—An engagement between German and French torpedo boats off the coast of Flanders is reported in an official announcement of the Admiralty. The announcement says: "On the morning of the 20th, off the coast of Flanders, a short outpost engagement took place between German and French torpedo boats. The enemy boats were repeatedly hit by our artillery and our vessels returned without losses or damage."

The French official statement issued yesterday reported a flotilla of German destroyers had been driven back to its base by a patrol of four French torpedo boats. The statement said that one of the French vessels suffered some damage.

APOLOGIZES TO SWEDEN.

COPENHAGEN, via London, May 21.—The German minister at Stockholm is reported in news despatches to have visited the Swedish foreign minister and expressed the deepest regret at the sinking of the Swedish steamers Vesterland, Viken and Aspen. The steamers were sunk in the Gulf of Bothnia, several of the crews losing their lives.

TEDDY IS NOT GOING TO WAR

Oyster Bay, May 21.—Col. Theodore Roosevelt announced last night that all men who had volunteered to serve with him under the American flag had been absolved from all further connection with the movement, and that the only course open to them now is to enter the military service in some other way if they are able to do so, and if not to serve the country in civil life.

ALIEN ENEMIES FOUND GUILTY

New York, May 21.—Captain Franz Rintelen, of the German navy, David Lamar, known as the "Wolf of Wall Street," and Henry B. Martin, described as a Washington lobbyist, were found guilty here last night on indictments for having conspired in 1915 to disrupt the munitions traffic between this country and the Entente allies. The jury, which had been out more than 29 hours, disagreed as to four other defendants.

INVALIDED CANADIANS IN ENGLAND

OTTAWA, May 21.—The number of invalided Canadian soldiers in England on April 27th, according to the report just received by the military hospitals commission was 20,662, including 688 officers. There has been a considerable increase during the week, but nothing like the increase of the week before. The total on April 20th was 19,459; on April 13th, it was 15,192.

Analysis of the latest total shows that between the 13th and 27th the number at Canadian primary hospitals rose from 2,882 to 3,089; in Canadian special hospitals from 1,684 to 1,749; in Canadian convalescent hospitals from 3,870 to 4,265; in special sanatoriums from 76 to 89; and in British hospitals from 6,880 to 11,470.

OPERATIONS ON RUSSIAN FRONT

Petrograd, May 21, via London.—The following official statement was issued here today: "On the western and Rumanian fronts rifle fire and scouting operations occurred. On the Caucasian front, west of Ardasi, a company of Turks made repeated efforts to attack our trenches, but were repelled. Half a squadron of Turkish cavalry endeavored to approach one of the heights about ten miles south of Banes, but was forced to retire."

Mr. A. M. Brewer left this morning for Moncton to work on the Crown Lands survey.

Mr. John Kenny of St. John, and Mr. B. Meywell of Moncton are guests at the Barker House.

COL. ARMAND LAVERGNE TALKS ON CONSCRIPTION

Says He Will Present Himself Without Grumbling When the Call Comes, But Would Rather Wait Until the Huns Came Over Here.

MONTREAL, May 21.—A despatch from Quebec to the Star says: "Being an officer in the Militia, I shall be one of the first to be called out. I shall present myself without grumbling, and be a good soldier, for the government will have spoken, and I shall obey. But the whole thing is wrong. Canada is already practically bankrupt through this war, and now she is taking another step toward ruin and annexation."

Such was the comment made by Col. Armand Lavergne to the Star at Quebec on Saturday last regarding the conscription announcement. "I believe in Canada first," he said. "If it came to a question of Canada's interest, I would let that little island which governs us go, just as she would let us go were the Allies to be beaten by Germany and Canada demanded as a condition in the terms of peace. I would not fight voluntarily except for home defence."

"And, assuming that you have Canada's interests at heart, regardless of the Empire as a whole, you do not believe it is to Canada's advantage to help the Allies defeat the Germans? They should wait till the Germans come over here?"

"Yes."

CONSCRIPTION BILL TO BE ON ORDER PAPER THIS WEEK

Montreal, May 21.—An Ottawa despatch to the Star says: The government bill which introduced into Canada the principle of selective conscription and the resolution calling for an extension of the term of Parliament, will both be placed in the order paper of the House of Commons this week. There is some question as to which will be taken up first, but present probabilities are that it will be the selective draft proposals.

Saturday's cabinet council and another this morning were devoted to a consideration of the details of the conscription bill, and all is not ready. The general principle, however, is agreed upon. It is to be an adoption by Canada of the British system. The Canadian Militia Act is not to be enforced. It has nothing to do with this scheme, and its enforcement, anyway, would not involve, as it is now proposed, special legislation.

The Militia Act calls for active military service between the ages of 18 and 45. In the new bill the limit may be only forty.

TANK CREWS DISPLAY WONDERFUL SPIRIT OF AUDACITY IN ACTION

Have Demonstrated That They Can Give Most Effective Aid in Infantry Attacks---Manned by Men From all Branches of Service.

PARIS, May 21.—"Piloted by audacious crews, the tanks have demonstrated what effective aid they can give infantry attacks," says an authoritative statement on the work of the French tanks, in the recent offensive on the heights between the Aisne and the Ailette rivers.

"The tanks came early on the field, and shortly ahead of the first waves of infantry. From the moment our squadron of cars entered the plateau facing the enemy, the intense fire of heavy guns and machine guns was centred on them. By concentrated fire the enemy sought to pierce their armor, to dislocate the turrets or to damage the wheels of the ponderous machines. Battered incessantly from without, the tanks, however, moved steadily forward."

MEMBERS OF THE CREW DISPLAYED GREAT HEROISM IN THE FACE OF TRYING CONDITIONS

"Many of them went through new and heroic experiences. One of them struck by a shell, caught fire. Its crew was able to get through the damaged exit and join the infantry in the advance. Another tank broke down because of defective mechanism, in front of an enemy trench. The crew dismounted and tried to make repairs under the fire of the enemy. Finding it impossible to repair the machinery quickly, the crew dismounted the rapid-firers and ammunition in order to prevent them from falling into the hands of the enemy in case the tank was captured. This, however, did not occur, owing to the rapidity of our infantry advances."

"Another tank extricated itself from a mass attack made in a desperate attempt to check its movements."

MEN INSIDE TANKS HAVE ONLY SUFFICIENT ROOM TO OPERATE THE RAPID-FIRING GUNS

"Throughout the fighting the crews of the tanks showed a spirit of audacity which supplemented and encouraged the infantry and chasseurs, the latter giving the warmest praise to the co-operation of the tanks."

"Life in the cars during the assault was a most trying experience. There is little room inside, space being allowed only for the men to operate the rapid firers and handle the ammunition. In their advances the cars crashed over obstacles and passed through the blinding hail of concentrated fire."

"All the crews were made up of volunteers from all the branches of the service, infantry, artillery and cavalry being represented. They showed a most admirable esprit du corps and their efforts gave most effective results."

BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL SUMMON IRISH CONVENTION

London, May 21.—It was announced by Premier Lloyd George in the House of Commons today, that the government proposed to summon immediately a convention of representative Irishmen in Ireland to submit to the British parliament a constitution for the future government of Ireland.

Premier Lloyd George stated today that the chairman of the proposed Irish convention will be nominated by the Crown.

"If a substantial agreement is reached regarding the character and scope of the constitution framed by the convention," said the Premier, "the government will take the necessary steps to cable the imperial parliament to give legislative effect there. The convention will be held with closed doors."

The convention, said the premier, would be representative of the local governing bodies, the churches, the trade unions and commercial and educational interests and would include Sinn Feiners. The delegates would be chosen by the respective bodies.

John Redmond, the Nationalist leader, speaking after the premier had made his announcement said that for the first time in her history Ireland has been asked virtually to settle a problem for herself.

"I take for granted," he added, "that all sections of Irishmen feel it their duty to come in."

Four unsuccessful attempts said Mr. Redmond, had been made by three successive governments to reach a settlement but the present proposal was entirely novel. Ireland was being asked herself to draft a constitution for her country. That proposal carried with it the implied obligation that Great Britain would be only too glad to accept the decisions arrived at.

There was a rumor in the lobbies that the duke of Connaught might be chosen chairman of the convention.

Mr. John Kenny of St. John, government factory inspector, is in the city. Miss May Cooke and Miss Mercedes Delgado, who have been spending the past few days with Mrs. W. G. Montgomery, Brunswick street, left for their home in St. John's, Nfld., this morning.