
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.

Maritime: Fresh westerly winds, fair and cold. Friday, fair and moderately cold.

VOL. XXIV, No. 20 FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1918 TWO CENTS PER COPY

THE FRENCH EXECUTE A BRILLIANT RAID ON THE ENEMY LINES

Extended Over a Front of 3000 Yards and Was 500 Yards in Depth---Austrians Evacuate Some Territory on the Italian Front.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
With the French Armies in France, Jan. 24.—The French on Monday executed a brilliant raid on the German lines eastward from Vienne-le-Chateau, near Four de Paris, along a front of 3,000 yards and reaching a depth of 500 yards. An intense artillery preparation made the progress of the troops easy and they were able to destroy enemy works and shelters before returning to their own lines.
Fifteen prisoners were captured by the French, as well as three machine guns. The French suffered few casualties and none killed. All of the participants in the raid declared that the gunners' work was magnificent, not only as regards destruction, but in the manner in which it completely silenced the enemy artillery.
AUSTRIANS HAVE GIVEN UP THE ATTEMPT TO FORCE A PASSAGE TO THE VENETIAN PLAINS
Italian Army Headquarters in Northern Italy, Jan. 24.—The enemy has evacuated territory on the northern front between Monte Tomba, extending from the Piave river westward. Their defence lines have now been moved back to Monte Spinonia. Italian patrols making reconnaissances in the last few days found that the enemy patrols and sentinels had been withdrawn, and later discovered that the enemy had abandoned the entire region. This retreat is a sequel to the brilliant victory French troops recently obtained on Monte Tomba, inasmuch as the enemy's position thereafter became untenable.
This retirement of the enemy is important as showing that he has given up his effort to force a passage to the Venetian plains by way of Monte Tomba and the west bank of the Piave, and he is now constructing defence works in the rear.

Preparing for an Offensive.
London, Jan. 24.—Reuter's headquarters correspondent, discussing the threatened impending German offensive, says: "It is taken for granted that the utmost (the most violent) onslaught against any part of our front can hope to attain would be to push back a little. Any prospect of breaking through is practically negligible and scarcely worth discussing. In the meanwhile, we are preparing ghastly hospitality for the enemy if he attempts an attack."
French Shipping Losses.
Paris, Jan. 24.—The sinking of two French vessels of more than 1600 tons, and one of lesser size is shown in the weekly report of French shipping losses. Four vessels were attacked unsuccessfully.

BELGIAN MAKES REPLY TO POPE'S PEACE NOTE

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
Havre, Jan. 24.—King Albert, in enclosing the Belgian government's reply to the Pope's peace proposal, wrote a personal letter, as follows:
"Very Holy Father,—I have taken note, with lively sympathy and interest, of the message Your Holiness was good enough to send to the heads of the belligerent countries the first of August, and have hastened to submit to my government, which has studied it with most serious and deferential attention. The result of that study has been received in a note which I communicate to Your Holiness.
"In associating myself with the wishes of the Holy See that a just and durable peace may promptly put an end to the evils from which humanity and particularly the Belgian people, rudely tried, are suffering, I beg Your Holiness to believe in my filial and respectful attachment."
(Signed) ALBERT.
This letter was dated Dec. 27, 1917. The note of the Belgian government says:
The royal government as soon as it received the message of Your Holiness to the heads of belligerents, hastened to reply that it would study with the greatest deference the document expounded in such elevating language. At the same time it desired particularly to express its lively and profound feeling for the particular interest the Holy Father manifested in the Belgian nation, and of which the document was new and precious proof.
"At the outset of his message the

DIVORCE COURT CASES RESUMED WEDNESDAY

Three Witnesses for Plaintiff Examined in FitzRandolph Case Up to This Afternoon.
The Divorce Court resumed its session yesterday afternoon when the suit of Charles FitzRandolph vs. Elizabeth FitzRandolph was begun. Mr. A. J. Gregory, K. C., of Gregory & Winslow appeared as counsel for the plaintiff, and Mr. J. B. M. Baxter, K. C., of St. John, for the defendant. The plaintiff was the first witness called. His direct examination was completed by Mr. Gregory and his cross-examination begun by Mr. Baxter, yesterday afternoon. The cross-examination was completed this morning. The next witness was Mrs. Robert FitzRandolph, sister-in-law of the plaintiff. She was followed by Mr. Gerald Foley, formerly one of the clerks at the Queen Hotel in this city, whose direct examination was completed by Mr. Gregory when court took recess at one o'clock.
The evidence of the plaintiff was largely connected with the facts of his marriage and life since that time. Mrs. FitzRandolph's evidence was similar. Mr. Foley told of circumstances attending disorderly conduct on the part of the defendant at the Queen Hotel in July last.

7 ENEMY PLANES BROUGHT DOWN

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
London, Jan. 24.—The following official communication dealing with aviation was issued tonight:
"Nearly 400 bombs were dropped on enemy billets at Roulers and Menin and on other targets in the enemy's forward area. Several thousand rounds were fired from airplanes at hostile troops and batteries.
"Seven enemy machines were downed in air fighting, two were driven down out of control and an observation balloon was downed in flames. Two of our machines are missing."

ANXIOUS FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE IRISH PROBLEM

Much Interest in Report That Americans Stand Ready to Invest a Large Sum of Money in Ireland.
(Canadian Press direct wire.)
LONDON, Jan. 24.—The Telegraph's Dublin correspondent states that a report from Washington that the United States is prepared to lend Ireland £20,000,000 to obtain the fullest measure of Home Rule, and that American capitalists are ready to invest a like sum in Ireland if the question is promptly settled, is displayed in all Irish papers and has caused the liveliest interest. The Dublin correspondent of the Times says that the report furnishes the friends of a settlement with a new and powerful argument and will serve to increase the disrepute of the Sinn Fein policy whose violence and abuse now embrace the President and government of the United States.
Dublin reports regarding the Irish convention continue to be hopeful. Despatches to the Chronicle contain mysterious references to "certain eventualities following the convention" which might induce John E. Redmond to regard his retirement from leadership as obligatory, and makes an earnest plea in Redmond's behalf, saying: "If he is driven from his position, wherein he would feel obliged to resign because of any action or failure on the part of those who follow him, the party, as far as the war is concerned, would go down with him and all consequences would have to be faced of what would appear to be a betrayal of Ireland, for so the world would read what would appear a betrayal of Mr. Redmond."

HOW CHINESE TROOPS TOOK CITY OF HARBIN

(Canadian Press direct wire.)
A Pacific Port, Jan. 24.—Passengers aboard a trans-Pacific liner which arrived here today from the Orient report the details of the capture by Chinese troops of the Manchurian city of Harbin.
T. J. Davis, of Chicago, one of the passengers, said the Chinese took the city in a unique but effective manner. The Chinese commander, Mr. Davis said, walked into the office of the Bolshevik commander, and promptly killed him. Much fighting followed, Mr. Davis continued, and at the close of hostilities the well drilled Chinese troops had driven the Bolshevik soldiers from the city.

A Terrible Explosion in Coal Mine at Stellarton

TROOPS FROM CENTRAL ONT. HAVE ARRIVED

Deputy Mayor Walker Extended Official Welcome of City—Left Toronto Sunday Afternoon.
The detachment of troops from Ontario which is to be quartered in Fredericton pending transfer elsewhere, arrived here at an early hour this morning. The detachment consisted of 375 men and three officers. Capt. Nelson is in command. The troops consist of a reinforcing draft for the Central Ontario Regiment and left Toronto where had been previously quartered, Sunday afternoon. They were very glad to be able to leave the train here after a long and fatiguing journey. The delay was caused by traffic congestion.
They detrained at the C. G. R. station and marched to the Exhibition Buildings where they will occupy the quarters used previously by other overseas troops. Fires were lighted and rations issued before they arrived and they express themselves delighted with their barracks.
Deputy Mayor's Address.
Deputy Mayor Joseph Walker addressed the detachment at the Exhibition Building, extending the official welcome of the city. His remarks were as follows:
"On behalf of the citizens of Fredericton I extend to you a cordial welcome to the capital city of the Province of New Brunswick.
"You have volunteered your service in defense of home and Empire and I trust by your gentlemanly and soldierly conduct you will command the respect of our citizens who will at all times endeavor to make your stay in our midst a very pleasant one."

Eighty-Nine Men Entombed and it is Feared That Most of Them Have Perished---One of Worst Mining Disasters in the History of Nova Scotia.

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)
HALIFAX, Jan. 24.—An explosion occurred last evening at the Allan shaft of the Acadia Coal Company's collieries, Stellarton. About a hundred men were in the shaft at the time. Seven have just been brought up alive. The Draeger men are going down. Emergency apparatus of all kinds is being concentrated. The explosion occurred shortly after five o'clock, a few minutes after the day shift had left. A blast of smoke was seen to come from the mouth of the pit, but no noise was heard, even by those on the surface near by.
At midnight eight bodies had been brought up dead and seventy-nine were still in the pit, it is believed all are dead. This conclusion was arrived at from the condition of the bodies recovered. Eleven men got out of the mine after the explosion, but they were on a higher level and none of the men on the lower or 1,200 foot level escaped.
TWELVE BODIES RECOVERED AND LITTLE HOPE HELD OUT OF RESCUING ANY OF THE MEN ALIVE

STELLARTON, N. S., Jan. 24.—Twelve bodies have been recovered from the Allan shaft. Up to 2 o'clock this morning eleven bodies were recovered, and shortly after daylight another body was brought to the surface.
The mine is badly wrecked and the work of rescue is difficult. Little hope is held out for rescuing alive any of the imprisoned men.
Some of the rescuers who came to the surface this morning state that the explosion caused great havoc in the mine. These men, who were only able to reach the upper levels, say that the pit is almost blocked up with falls and that it will probably be a week or more before all the bodies are recovered. All night the rescuers worked hard to reach the entombed men, hoping that some would be found alive, but their efforts were vain.

ANXIOUS RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF MISSING MEN STOOD ABOUT THE PIT MOUTH ALL NIGHT
Despite the intense cold last night, hundreds of anxious relatives and friends of the missing men stood about the pit mouth, and at daylight this morning many of them were still there, awaiting word from the rescue parties coming from the mine. Volunteer rescuers are numerous, not withstanding the dangers that they have to face, and the management is rendering every assistance possible.
Hiram Donkin, deputy commissioner of public works and mines, says the Allan shaft is situated on the seam of the famous old Ford pit, the oldest colliery in Pictou county, which was destroyed by an explosion followed by a fire in 1882, when over one hundred men lost their lives, and the pit was flooded and became useless.

ALLAN SHAFT IS ON THE SAME SEAM AS THE OLD FORD PIT DESTROYED BY EXPLOSION IN 1882
The seam on which this old pit is situated is supposed to be the largest in the world, having a thickness in some places of over forty feet. After the old Ford pit explosion, the seam, or at least the main part of it, remained unworked for many years, although the Albion, Intercolonial and other adjacent mines are all supposed to be on seams connected with the old Ford.
On account of its unusual size and the quality of its coal, it was considered suitable to reopen this property, and about 1908 or 1909 a shaft known as the "Allan" was sunk to meet the old seam at a point nearly a mile from the old Ford pithead, and not far from Lourd's Siding. This second shaft, which is vertical, was somewhat further back from the East river than the Ford, and 1200 feet in depth.
A Dangerous Mine.
It should be explained that after the great explosion of 1882 the Ford pit took fire and in efforts to extinguish it the mine was flooded with water from the East river. Certain parts of the pit were known to be dangerous for in working the Allan shaft the miners have approached quite close to the flooded galleries of the old Ford; so closely in fact that they have been able to bore holes and obtain a supply of water for mining purposes.
Will Mean a Great Loss.
The great disaster, following as it does closely after the New Waterford explosion and the awful catastrophe at Halifax, means additional work and immensely increased expenditures for the Workmen's Compensation Board. Sixty-seven lives were lost at New Waterford last July and the Workmen's Compensation Board immediately made adjustment of the claims and are carrying on the payments.
Several hundred of those killed in the Halifax disaster on December 6th

BROAD SPIRIT OF FRENCH VOTERS AT SHERBROOKE

Sherbrooke, Que., Jan. 23.—At the City Council meeting here last evening Charles D. White occupied the mayor's chair for the first time since his election by acclamation.
Alderman Edwards, in moving a vote of thanks to the retiring mayor, Ernest Sylvestre, referred to Mayor White's election as a remarkable manifestation of the broad spirit of Sherbrooke's citizens, where a population of which two-thirds are French Canadians elected an English speaking mayor on his merits as a man and a worthy representative.
Mayor White is a prominent unionist and took an active part in the recent election. He was Conservative candidate in 1911. His election is regarded as representing an ideal civic and racial situation in direct contrast to the exaggerated reports circulated against Sherbrooke citizens during the recent election campaign.