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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.  
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# The Daily Mail

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The Weather.  
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Maritime: Moderate south-west to northwest winds, generally fair and mild today and on Saturday.  
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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1918

TWO CENTS PER COPY

## THE ALLIED ARMIES ON WESTERN FRONT ARE WELDED TOGETHER

### No Point of Junction at Which the Germans Can Make a Thrust---The Enemy Losses Since Beginning of Battle Now Estimated at 350,000.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

French Army Headquarters, May 2.—Under the German blows, the Allied armies seem to be welded together as never before. There is now no point of junction at which the Germans can thrust. The process of welding together the two armies in complete, but it will not stop there. Franco-British divisions will be moved about on a solidly knitted front at the wish of our high command as freshly as German divisions.

Against the enemy's territorial gains must be set the fact that he had to throw 140 divisions into battle in five weeks. A considerable number of these have been twice engaged and some three times.

#### ESTIMATED THAT THE HUNS HAVE ALREADY THROWN OVER 2,500,000 MEN INTO THE BATTLE

Adding these reappearances together, there is a total of 486 engagements of divisions, equivalent to a mass of two and one half million men whom the enemy has already put into battle. As a German division is never withdrawn until it has sustained severe losses, on an average of 2,500 it is reasonable to reckon the enemy's losses since the beginning of the battle at not less than 350,000.

The Germans began the offensive with a reserve of 650,000 in depots in France and at home. Behind there is only the 1919-20 class, consisting of youths, half of whom are under eighteen. The enemy's genuine fighting reserve is thus half-exhausted before he has covered anything like half the distance to his goal.

#### THE GERMANS START A HEAVY BOMBARDMENT WITH GAS SHELLS AROUND VILLERS-BRETONNEUX

British Headquarters in France, May 3.—Early this morning the Germans heavily bombarded with gas shells and high explosives the area west of Merris and around Villers-Bretonneux. There was no infantry action. Possibly the purpose of their practice barrages is with a view to an early resumption of their offensive.

We have been profiting by the lull to prepare to meet any fresh enemy effort. During Wednesday we carried out a successful local enterprise south of the Ancre, advancing our front over a width of nearly a mile to a depth of four hundred yards. The weather has improved and the airmen are doing deadly work over enemy positions.

## THE TOWN OF THREE RIVERS IS VISITED BY A DISASTROUS FIRE

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

QUEBEC, May 3.—The thriving city of Three Rivers is once again threatened with the worst conflagration in years. As it is, at 10.30, half a score of business houses and residences on Bonaventure street, are in ruins and the fire is still spreading. The entire fire fighting force is on the scene, and are putting up a strenuous fight against the flames, but the latter seem to have had the better of it so far. Help has been asked for from Quebec, Montreal, Shawinigan Falls, Grand Mere and other neighboring places.

The fire started at about 10.15 this morning. At 11.15 forty houses on Bonaventure street had been burned up. The people were driven out of their homes on all the side streets from St. Denis to Pleasant Street.

## TWO SOLDIERS CREMATED

(Canadian Press direct wire.)  
Omaha, Neb., May 2.—Two soldiers were burned to death and 13 men seriously burned, when a captive observation balloon of the Cacoquet type exploded tonight at Florence Field, the day balloon school at Fort Omaha, near here, according to a statement by Col. H. B. Hersey, post commandant.

## MAY LOCATE IN MONTREAL

Montreal, May 3.—E. M. Macdonald, former member of parliament for Picton, N. S., who was in the city tonight, stated before he left for Ottawa that the question of his location here as a practising lawyer would be settled within the next few days.

Mr. J. E. Littlefield of Bangor, Me., is registered at the Queen Hotel.

## NEW YORK STOCK MARKET

(Canadian Press direct wire.)  
New York, May 3.—Stocks were fairly strong at the opening of today's market, except for pressure against the automobile group. General Motors lost one and three quarter points, and Studebaker one point. Pools showed their activity, notably Superior and Lackawana steels, Sumatra tobacco, tobacco products, Central Leather, American Can and some of the petroleum, at gains of large fractions to 1½ points. United States Steel moved within narrow limits. Moderate offerings cancelled most gains before the end of the first half hour. Liberty Bonds were irregular.

### PERSONAL.

Mrs. G. A. Taylor and son Allison, who have been spending the winter in the South with Mr. and Mrs. L. A. W. Lemont, have returned home.

## ROADS EVEN NOW REPORTED TO BE GOOD

### PROMINENT ST. JOHN MAN'S TESTIMONIAL

Road from St. John to Brown's Flats in Good Condition—  
Patrol System Heartily Endorsed.

It is almost too early in the year for the Department of Public Works and its Minister to be receiving letters congratulating them upon the condition of the highways and yet, one of the best known wholesale merchants in the city of St. John wrote a letter to the Minister of Public Works under date of April 30th, speaking in warm terms of approbation of the work that had been done upon the roads between Brown's Flats and St. John. As this road was in a most extraordinary condition of disrepair last spring and summer, the statement made by this gentleman, whose name would at once appeal to very many of the business people of the province, is such a marked testimonial that the Minister has consented to its publication without disclosing the writer. The letter is as follows:

"St. John, N. B., April 30, 1918.  
"Hon. P. J. Veniot, Minister of Public Works, Fredericton, N. B.

"Dear Sir:—I had the pleasure of motoring to Brown's Flats over the week-end, and was surprised to find the roads in such good condition for this time of year.

"In the whole distance of 28 miles there were only two or three soft spots in the road between Grand Bay and Westfield, and I had no trouble in getting over these. The road through Westfield and above as far as Brown's Flats is as dry as in summer and not a rut in the whole distance.

"This condition is a great improvement over last year, and one can readily see that it is owing to the excellent work which you had done on these roads last fall. The gravelling, ditching and cutting out of trees along the road has made a great improvement.

"Patrol work along this road now, with a small truck such as you used last fall, filling in a little gravel where bad spots may appear would maintain this road in perfect condition for a long time.

"I felt that a word of appreciation was due you for the great improvement you have made in such a short time, especially in the upper part of this road from Westfield to Brown's Flats.

"You will probably appreciate this all the more when I tell you that I am a Conservative, supporting the Foster government.

"Yours very truly,

## BRITISH MERCHANT SHIP HAD FIGHT WITH U-BOAT

### Had Canadian Officers and men on board-- Submarine was Hit and May Have Been Put Out of Business.

(Canadian Press direct wire.)

BOSTON, May 3.—One of the biggest and fastest of British steamers docked here last night and brought a story of a battle with one of Germany's U-boats of the newest and largest type. The gun crew believe the submarine was sunk, and they are sure that it was at least disabled.

For thirty-six hours after leaving a European port, the big vessel was under convoy. Four hours later, in the dead of the night, the officer on watch sighted a "feather"—the descriptive name give to the arrow-tail like wake of a torpedo.

The gun crew sprang to position just as the great searchlight centred on a periscope about a mile and a quarter astern. A moment later shells were dropping all around the periscope. But the U-boat was not then ready to give up the attack. The first torpedo went wild, but the second came uncomfortably close to the vessel's stern. The ship was firing at the submarine, which by this time had come to the surface.

#### THE U-BOAT DISAPPEARED.

A dozen Canadian officers at the rail watched every shot fired by the gun crew and they all agreed that the twelfth and fourteenth shots appeared to be fair hits. At any rate, immediately after the fourteenth shot the U-boat disappeared. Wireless calls had been sent out and a little fleet of destroyers came puffing up like fire engines answering a triple alarm. They scouted about the sea looking for periscopes or wreckage, but found neither. So the fate of the U-boat may never be definitely known.

Among the passengers, in addition to the Canadian officers, were a number of Canadian soldiers disabled or on furlough.

## A Decided Lull in the Fighting on Western Front

### A. VALENTINE WAS WOUNDED BY A SHELL

#### Fredericton Man With a British Columbia Unit, Since 1914, Expects to Come Home.

One Fredericton man who has served in France for upwards of three years in a British Columbia battalion is now in England in hospital recovering from the effects of wounds in the back from shell fragments. He is Private Albert Valentine, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Valentine of King street, and is highly pleased at the prospect of returning to Canada even if severely wounded.

Two letters were written by him while in hospital in France one April 13th and the other two days later. In the first letter he wrote that one more piece of shell had been taken out of the muscles of his back and that another was to be left in. For two days it had not been known whether he would live or die, but he was then feeling better. The surgeons evidently changed their minds about leaving the other shell fragment in the flesh, for the next letter stated that another piece of shell had been cut out. Private Valentine then was in No. 53 General Hospital and spoke in the highest terms of the treatment he was receiving from doctors and nurses. In two days he expected to be sent to England and expressed the belief that he never would be sent back to France. A pass to Canada was being eagerly looked forward to by the wounded soldier.

Private Valentine had been away from Fredericton for a number of years when the war broke out. He enlisted in British Columbia and was at Valcartier with the original First Contingent, crossing to England in the autumn of 1914 and going to France during the following winter.

Messrs. J. E. Arrowsmith and C. O. Foss of St. John, are registered at the Queen.

Mrs. William Harper of Chelmsford, is a guest at the Queen.

Mr. T. J. Riley of Ashland, N. J., is among the arrivals at the Queen.

Mr. L. F. Roberts of St. John, is a guest at the Barker House.

Mr. Louis Horvitz of Cornwall, is registered at the Barker House.

Mrs. J. W. Clarke of Chelmsford, is among the recent arrivals at the Queen.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Gillan of Woodstock, are registered at the Barker House.

## British Troops had the Best of Some Local Operation Last Night---Ger- man Talk of the Kaiser's Battle has Vanished.

(By Canadian Press direct wire.)

LONDON, May 3.—In the neighborhood of Villers-Bretonneux, on the front before Amiens, the British gained the advantage in local fighting during the night, the War Office announces. On the northern front there was active artillery fighting, especially near Givenchy, the forest of De Nieppe and Loere and south of Ypres.

The text of the statement reads: "Local fighting took place to our advantage last night in the neighborhood of Villers-Bretonneux. We carried out successful raids south of Arras and east of St. Venant, in the course of which ten prisoners and five machine guns were captured by our troops. The artillery had been active on both sides during the night at Givenchy and Forest de Nieppe, in the neighborhood of Loere and south of Ypres."

#### GERMAN NEWSPAPERS INSTRUCTED TO WARN THE PEOPLE THAT A NEW SEDAN IS IMPOSSIBLE

LONDON, May 3.—It is noteworthy that with the lull in the fighting since the German defeat at Ypres all German talk of the "Kaiser's Battle" has vanished. The German experts and newspapers have now been instructed to warn the people that no new Sedan is possible, that Ypres is very strong, and the British fought most stubbornly and after all Ypres is not of importance for the Germans. They declare that the German command may decide not to take Ypres.

Sir William Robertson's warning that the war is likely to last for a long time yet, is commented upon in London as timely. The Times refers to a despatch from Washington stating that diplomats anticipate a peace move, but that no offer of mediation, even from the Pope, will be considered. Any proposal of peace must come from Germany, the Times declares. The Allies will meet any such move with the same unbroken front as they met the latest military offensive.

#### FRENCH MILITARY CRITIC GIVES A MOST ENCOURAGING REPORT ON THE SITUATION

PARIS, May 3.—Henri Bidou, the distinguished military critic of the Journal De Debats, who has just returned from the front, gave Reuter's correspondent a most encouraging account of the position there. He says that the last time he visited the front was just after the capture of Kemmel Hill. He found some gloomy views over the possible consequence of its loss, but when he returned he was delighted to find a spirit of the utmost confidence among the Allied officers and men, resulting from the magnificent manner in which the Germans had been held back.

#### GENERAL FOCH NOW BECOMES COMMANDER OF ALL THE ALLIED TROOPS IN THE WEST

PARIS, May 3.—The military authority of General Foch as the result of the Italian troops, has been extended to all the western fronts, and the General now becomes commander in chief of all the Allied armies in the west, says Marcel Hutin, in the Echo de Paris. M. Hutin met Premier Clemenceau on his return from the meeting of the Supreme War Council at Abbeville. The Premier, without going into details, expressed satisfaction with the results of the conference.

"How is the situation at the front?" asked the writer.  
"General Foch is very optimistic; that's all I can tell you," was the reply.

## THE GOVERNMENT WILL GO RIGHT AHEAD WITH HOME RULE BILL

LONDON, Contrary to the Daily News' statement of yesterday, the Times and the Daily Chronicle today say that the government is going ahead with the Irish Home Rule bill, which is assuming definite shape. The Times says it understands that the government is approaching the subject from the standpoint of a general constitutional revision and the preamble would establish a federal principle for the kingdom. It would possess a parliament for the whole of Ireland, with specific powers recommended in the report of the Irish convention. There is reason to believe, adds the Times, besides the safeguards for Ulster suggested by the convention, that a further safeguard may be provided in the form of an Ulster committee with power of veto over legislation and possibly of administration affecting Ulster.

Valley Railway Work.

St. John Times, Thursday: Thomas Cozzolino, president of the Nova Scotia Construction Company, who was in the city this morning, left on the steamer Champlain for the scene of construction operations on the Valley Railway. A certain amount of work has been in progress all winter, chiefly on the big rock cut at Woodmans' Point, but Mr. Cozzolino said today that it is possible to put on more men now that the weather is favorable and already the number has been added to. The company expects to complete its contract before the summer is over.

### SOCIETY NEWS.

Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Edgecombe and daughter Miss Frederica returned Wednesday after spending the week end in Montreal.

Mrs. George Taylor and her son Lieut. Allison Taylor returned Wednesday from Alabama where they have been spending the winter.

Mrs. Christie of Campbellton, is visiting her mother Mrs. Day of Marysville.