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MORNING DAILY

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## GERMAN ARMY STRONGER THAN WHEN WAR STARTED

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The German high command is feverishly hastening its preparations for some great stroke on the Western front. Despatches today reported vast forces being massed day and night at various points along the Franco-British line.

### GERMAN AIRMEN CONTINUALLY OVER BRITISH LINES.

More German aeroplanes than have been seen in months have been aggressively seeking to spy out British positions, batteries, ammunition dumps and supply stations. Unusual raiding activity, part of the same effort to obtain information as to strength of front positions, developed all along the line.

### THE TEUTONS HAVE EASED OFF IN ITALIAN CAMPAIGN

A perceptible lessening of Teutonic pressure on the Italian front was reported today. It served to confirm the belief here in London that considerable forces of Austro-Hungarian troops had been switched from that theatre to the west. Great numbers of the Emperor Charles' troops are reported already there, having been transferred from the Russian lines.

### ARTILLERY DUEL OF EXTREME VIOLENCE.

The artillery duel along both French and British fronts today was attaining a maximum of violence. The Germans are taking the initiative in this combat.

### BRITISH REPULSE ENEMY ATTACK AT VACQUERIE.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—"A local attack by the enemy yesterday afternoon against our positions north of La Vacquerie (Cambrai front) was repulsed," says today's official communication.

"We carried out a successful raid last night in the vicinity of Pontreue north of St. Quentin, in which we captured prisoners and a machine gun.

### LONDON TIMES DEMANDS SEARCHING INQUIRY

LONDON, Dec. 15.—There was Times this morning prints conspicuously an editorial demanding a prompt and searching inquiry into the battle on the southern end of the Cambrai salient on Nov. 30, and on the following days, owing, it says, to disquieting first hand amplifications of censored accounts. These are said to include charges of blundering and assertions that the British were caught unready.

### Good Work of Our Airmen.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The London great activity in the air on Monday, especially in the Cambrai region, according to the official statement on aerial operations issued last midnight.

British aeroplanes dropped bombs on enemy villages and the Germans bombed the British lines. Five German aeroplanes were brought down and three British machines are missing. On Tuesday British aeroplanes dropped bombs on a large railway junction northeast of Pirmasens, in the Bavarian Palatinate, about 100 miles east of Verdun. The statement reads:

"The weather became suitable for flying on Monday and great activity in the air took place on both sides. The enemy's machines were particularly active west of Cambrai, making repeated attacks on our artillery machines. Our aeroplanes dropped many bombs and fired many rounds from their machine guns on enemy villages, hutments and trenches. In the evening hostile machine dropped bombs on our army areas, but only slight damage was done.

"During the day two German aeroplanes were brought down in air fighting and two others were driven down out of control. As hostile balloon was brought down another German airplane was shot down by our infantry. Three of our machines are missing.

"At 11 o'clock Tuesday morning our machines left their airdromes in fine weather to bomb certain factories in Germany. On reaching the area of their objectives the pilots found their targets obscured by clouds, but seeing a clear gap further northeast they continued the fight in that direction and through a gap in the clouds they recognized a large railway junction northeast of Pirmasens and dropped their bombs upon it. The closing of the gap in the clouds prevented observation of results. Although the whole sky was covered by low clouds during the return journey, all our pilots succeeded in reaching their airdromes safely."

## CANADIAN AVIATORS EXCELLED BY NONE

### Head of British Air Service Pays a High Tribute to Local Airmen

TORONTO, Dec. 17.—"We appreciate the Canadian pilots because they are the finest specimens of manhood at the front." In those words did Lord Montagu, of Beaulieu, head of the British air service, pay special tribute to the Canadian aviators who have left Canada, before the Empire Club in the Cafe Royal.

In a short speech Lord Montagu reviewed the great work of the air service and issued a strong call for renewed interest and efforts on the part of the Canadian public on behalf of aviation.

He complimented Toronto for having one of the best equipped aeroplane factories in the world and declared that General Hoar, who is in charge of the Royal Flying Corps in Canada "has done wonders." He was hopeful that this factory would soon be making machines of a higher type and added that it was the nucleus of a still bigger aeroplane industry throughout Canada.

The Royal Flying Corps in Canada, he said, had done wonders and had surpassed the records of many of the English camps. "You have sent over specially well-trained pilots," he told the club, "that are full of individual initiative and personal bravery."

"We need every recruit, and you cannot give us too many." As instances of Canadian bravery, he cited the cases of two Toronto pilots, Flight-Lieutenants Hodge and Cunningham, of the School of Science University of Toronto.

Lord Montagu then touched upon the growth of the air service from 30 or 40 squadrons at the beginning of the war to its present great strength. "It has grown by thousands and is going to have an increasing and all powerful force in this war. We are going to have so many aeroplanes," he continued, "that we are going to clear the air of Germans and blind our opponents by driving them from the air, because aeroplanes are the eyes of the army. The aeroplane is the necessary prelude to attack and to victory."

"The bombing section of the service," he said, "has taken other duties and now takes the place of the machine gun of the trenches. They now shoot staff officers, drop their conventional pills on hangars, carry out raids on railway depots, harass German billets and in short, make their life entirely detestable."

As to long range bombing in which the flying service is making great strides, Lord Montagu declared: "I hope to see the time when we shall attack the entire German industrial section known as Westphalia." He figured that it is only 200 miles from a certain point on the western front and that the attack will easily be made. "I hope," he assured his audience, "to make their lives more and more uncomfortable."

"If we could deliver a knockout blow," he said, "at Essen, it would be far better than bombing the munition dumps at the front. Just as we beat the Germans at all their tricks of this war so will we increase our long range bombing to a ten-fold force."

In conclusion Lord Montagu declared: "Once we get real supremacy in the air, everything else will follow and victory will be near. This is going to be a long and better struggle. Don't count on an early victory, but set your teeth," he urged. "We must not relax our efforts to win. Our united force will eventually overcome every obstacle."

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## DISAPPROVES OF GENERALS IN PYJAMAS

LONDON, Dec. 17.—The Times this morning prints conspicuously an editorial demanding a prompt and searching investigation into the battle on the southern end of the Cambrai salient on November 30, and on the following days, owing, it says, to disquieting first hand amplifications of censored accounts. These are said to include charges of blundering and assertions that the British were caught unready.

"It was perhaps hardly possible from day to day," the Times adds, "and certainly unwise to attempt an authoritative account of the situation as a whole, though we cannot estimate, for example, of the German losses in men and morale which have inspired too many of the published messages."

After asserting that the new line, as reconstituted, is securely held, the Times continues:

New Facts to Hand  
"The published and censored version is being amplified daily by innumerable disquieting first hand accounts from officers and men who participated in the actual fighting. It is high time that this mass of partial information should be placed in its true perspective, blundering and blame, if anywhere due, should take shape in prompt disapproval of every blunderer."

"The Times forestalls a possible charge that in its article it is intriguing against Field Marshal Haig, by saying:

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## SIR EDWARD KEMP IS NOW IN CHARGE AFFAIRS OVERSEAS

LONDON, Dec. 15.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—Sir Edward Kemp, took over the administration of the Canadian military forces overseas. At a luncheon given by Sir Geo. Perley, at the Carleton Hotel today there were present, Lieut. Gen. Sir Richard Turner, V. C.; Major General Sam Steele, Garnet Hughes and William Hodgins; Brigadier General Meighen, Thacker, MacRae, Hughes and Neil, and Deputy Minister Colonel W. Gow, and the heads of the departments.

Sir Geo. Perley introduced Sir Edward Kemp, who made a splendid impression by a business-like statement.

"All realize," the Minister stated, "that we are custodians guarding the interests of the Canadian army for the Canadian people."

He then went on to outline his policy.

SUSPICION.  
From The Washington Star.  
"You suspect the new waiter of being a German agent?"  
"Yes. The other used to receive tip with polite gratitude. This one acts as if he were collecting an indemnity."

BLEEDING.  
From the Buffalo Express.  
"Would you give your life-blood for your country?"  
"Sure!" said the man who's always in a hurry. "I've done so already. I was in such a hurry to get downtown this morning to buy Liberty Bonds that I cut myself shaving."

## SNOW STORM HELPS AN ITALIAN ADVANCE

ROME, Dec. 17.—Snow is falling heavily in the mountains along the northern Italian front and optimism prevails among the Italians that this will definitely aid them in holding the Austro-Germans back from the Italian plain. Amid the first flurry of the storm on Tuesday the enemy resumed his attack among the hills and was rewarded by the capture of several positions. Later, however, the Italians in a counter-attack regained their lost terrain, after which the artillery duels were resumed, but with less strength.

### Official Statement

The Italian official statement reads: "Yesterday there was a sharp fighting between the Brenta and Piave rivers. Numerous Austrian troops attacked our positions in the Col della Beretta region, and while other parties pushed on to Coldella Orso, large German units stormed heavily in the mountains along the northern Italian front and optimism prevails among the Italians that this will definitely aid them in holding the Austro-Germans back from the Italian plain. Amid the first flurry of the storm on Tuesday the enemy resumed his attack among the hills and was rewarded by the capture of several positions. Later, however, the Italians in a counter-attack regained their lost terrain, after which the artillery duels were resumed, but with less strength."

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"By evening, on account of our stubborn resistance and the severe losses suffered the enemy reduced his activity to artillery firing, which during the night became normal again. Nothing of note worthy importance occurred on the remainder of the front."

"Two enemy machines were downed by British airmen."

## GREAT MASS ATTACK BY FOE IS FUTILE

LONDON, Dec. 17.—A fierce mass attack was made by the Germans Thursday against the elbow in the bend of the British line between Bullecourt and Queant (about ten miles west of Cambrai), says the Reuter correspondent at British headquarters in France. Their intention was to overwhelm their opponents by their weight of numbers. Owing to the staunchness of the British opposition, the attack only enabled the Germans to get a footing in about 500 yards of the British front line, when the attack was arrested.

### Very Small Local Success

The attack was reduced to the limits of a very small local success at the most. The correspondent adds that it is difficult to get details, but the fighting lasted from dawn until one o'clock in the afternoon, and the continuance of firing after that suggested a British counter-attack.

In his description of the battle, the correspondent says:

"What apparently was intended as a determined German attack upon the sector of our line east of Bullecourt was delivered shortly after dawn, and owing to the staunchness of our troops was reduced to the limits of a very small local success at the most. The spot the enemy chose was the elbow in the bend of our line between Bullecourt and Queant.

"The Germans opened an intense bombardment as the first streaks of a frosty dawn were paling the eastern sky. Our artillery promptly replied with a barrage put down between the opposing trenches, to check an advance.

### Attacked in Close Formation

"Assaulting waves of Bavarian troops came over in close formation it was the manifest intention to throw great pressure upon the front of the attack and overpower the defenders, if possible, by sheer weight of numbers.

"Fierce fighting ensued, but it is too early to get details, since communications are always difficult during engagements. So far as I can gather, the Germans managed to get some sort of a footing in about 500 yards of our front line trenches before their attack was arrested.

"The artillery duel continued until about 1.30 o'clock, when it died down, but the constant rattle of machine guns suggested that some fighting was still in progress, and it is quite possible that we are counter-attacking."

"This is really all there is to tell. It seems reasonable to believe that the Germans failed in their project, whatever it was, since the extent of their gain was so small and so indefinite in point of tactical achievement that it is difficult to regard it as representing any scheme of operations."

"The weather remains fine and dry, so that open warfare is still possible at a time of the year when normally both sides would be settled into winter quarters."

The British statement reads: "This morning the enemy delivered a strong local attack on the front about a mile east of Bullecourt. On the right of the position attacked the enemy succeeded in entering a short length of front line trench, which formed a salient in our line and had been demolished by the bombardment preceding the attack."

"At all other points the attack was repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy, many of whose dead are lying in our wire. A number of prisoners were captured.

"The enemy's artillery has been active during the day in the area of his attack, and has shown some activity south of Lens and in the neighborhood of Armentiers and Messines."

### EDISON'S CIGARS

The famous inventor, Thomas Edison, is an inveterate smoker, and the story goes that some little time ago he complained to his tobaccoist of the astonishing way in which his cigars disappeared, and did not believe he could possibly have smoked them all himself. Accordingly the dealer agreed to make some "fake cigars." "I'll fill 'em with horsehair and hard rubber," he said. Some weeks later Mr. Edison again saw the tobaccoist. "Look here," he said, "I thought you had arranged to fix up some fake cigars!" The tobaccoist looked at him in hurt surprise. "Why I did!" he exclaimed. "Don't you remember the box with a green label—cigars tied with yellow ribbon?" Mr. Edison smiled. "Why," he said, "I smoked those cigars myself."

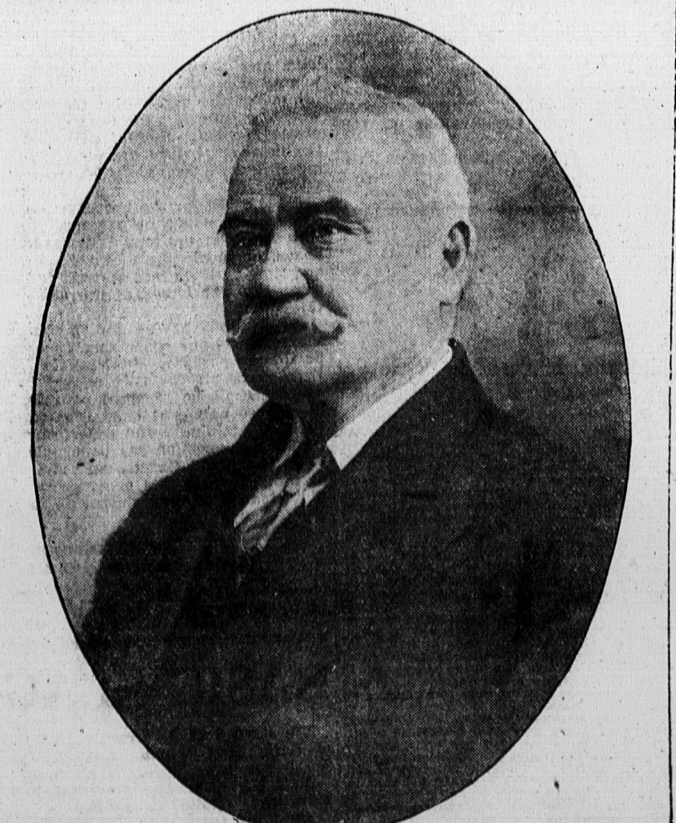
## BOSTON CONGRESSMAN FIRES THE FIRST AMERICAN SHOT IN WAR AGAINST AUSTRIA

Italian Army Headquarters in Northern Italy, Dec. 17.—The first American shot against Austria was fired by Representative Tinkham of Boston on the lower Piave, when Mr. Tinkham pulled a string firing a large 149 millimetre gun, sending a shell hurling across the Piave to the Austrian positions at Gofio.

A huge cloud of black smoke marked the place where the shell burst. The Italian batterymen gathered around the gun and raised a cheer as the American Congressman fired.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Reinforcements from the Russian front for the Austro-German invaders of Italy are still arriving, an official despatch from Rome today announced. The German plan of action, however, has suffered much delay in its development, information from Austrian sources revealing that it had been planned to reach Bassano eleven days ago. Four Austro-German divisions were put out of action in recent operations between the Brenta and Piave rivers.

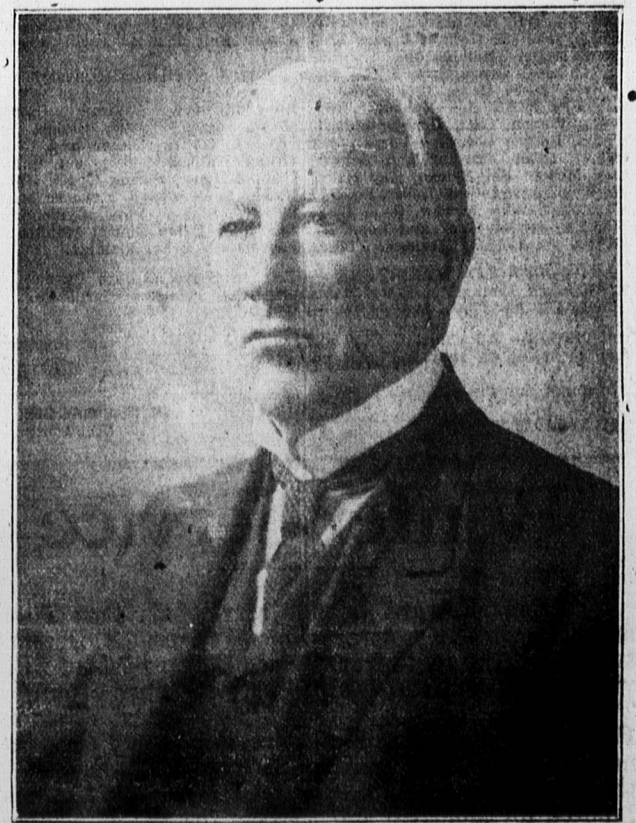
Italian aviators report that Austro-Germans massing large forces near Froza and the enemy feverishly constructing defensive works before Monte Grappa.



MR. DONALD NICHOLSON  
Union Win-the-War Candidate for Queen's County



R. H. Baden



MR. ALEXANDER MARTIN  
Union Win-the-War Candidate for Queen's County