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Sorry Plight of The Opposition Goes to Pieces on Drainage

PROGRESS OF WAR ON VARIOUS FRONTS

Comparative Quiet Around Verdun. British Troops Engaged at La Boisselle where Enemy was Driven from Trenches. Russians Making Good Progress.

(Special to the Guardian.) LONDON, April 13.—With abatement in the terrific battle that has been in progress nearly two months before Verdun and the state of comparative quietude reigning in all other theatres, diplomatic issues growing out of the war are prominently to the fore in the news of the day. The submarine controversy between the United States and Germany is heightened by the disaster which befell the cross-channel steamer Sussex. Germany's denial that one of her submarines was responsible for it has kept the American Government busy gathering data for "information" from Germany concerning the Sussex and attack on various merchantmen since the torpedoing of the Lusitania, which it is asserted is beginning to focus the entire matter of submarines. Great Britain has replied to the American protest against the clause in her Trading with the Enemy Act, which prevents trading with any business firm that has affiliations with or is controlled by subjects of enemy countries. The note asserts that the Act is being enforced for restricting activity of trade of persons under British jurisdiction and that care will be taken to avoid injury to neutrals' commerce. The cases of the Chicago meat packers against Great Britain for holding up cargoes, valued at many millions of dollars, destined to neutral ports, have been amicably settled by representatives of the meat packers and the British Government. Great Britain will pay for the seized cargoes. Before Verdun the infantry remained inactive. Only in the sectors to the north-west, embracing Hill 304 and the front from Le Mort Homme to Cameriere's, has there been heavy work by artillery.

The Germans in Lake Narocz and the Russian bridgehead positions on the Russian front made attempts to advance against the Russians after preparatory bombardments. In each instance, according to Petrograd, they were repulsed. Near Baranouchi the Russian infantry essayed an attack on the Germans but was driven back. On the Austro-Italian line, the usual bombardments and infantry attacks at various points continue. In Asiatic Turkey the Turks delivered powerful counter-attacks in the Caucasus region against important positions recently captured from them by the Russians. The attempts failed, according to Petrograd. Five additional vessels met disaster as a result of mines of submarines. The British steamers Robt. Adamson and Angus and the British barque Inverlorn have been sunk by submarines, while a Danish vessel named the Dorothea has been sunk by a mine and the Dutch steamer Colombia damaged by a mine.

(Special to the Guardian.) PARIS, March 13.—An official communication by the War Office tonight follows: "Between the Oise and the Aisne our artillery displayed activity against enemy organizations at Moulins-Toutvent and Nampcel. West of the Meuse the bombardment of Hill 304 and our front from Dead Man's Hill continues. East of the Meuse at the Wavre artillery was less active and no infantry action occurred during the day. One of our long range guns shelled the station at Novesant-sur-Moselle and on Corny Bridge north of Pont a Mousson. Fire broke out in that section. The day was calm on rest of the front. A Belgian report tells of artillery activity which was spirited in places but otherwise the day was uneventful."

GERMAN BANKERS GETTING FROM UNDER BEFORE THE CRASH.

ROME, April 13.—German bankers, according to reports received in financial circles here, are transferring their reserves to neutral countries without heeding the losses incurred by the unfavourable exchange, so long as they succeed in getting their money safely out of Germany. These steps are ascribed to reports that the last war loan was a failure, and that coercive measures are feared.

Minard's Liniment cures Diphtheria.

CONDENSED ADS. TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

- ONE CENT per word each insertion for advertising in this column. Cash must accompany orders. Minimum charges twenty-five cents. "IDEAL" SAUSAGES ALWAYS ON hand at Holman's, Charlottetown. OYSTERS AT BENNETT'S, 98 WATER Street. SMART BOY WANTED for composing room. Apply Foreman Guardian Office 7917-2-11-MTC. WANTED—GIRL FOR GENERAL housework. Apply 231 Richmond St. 8034-3-31M11. WANTED—A COAT MAKER, APPLY to M. L. Frank McKenzie, Summerside. 8236-4-14M5f. WANTED—GIRL FOR GENERAL housework. Apply 300 Hillsboro St. 8245-4-14M31pd. CAPABLE SALES GIRL WANTED. Apply Crabbe Hardware, Co. 8246-4-14M31. WANTED—EXPERIENCED KIT-chen girl. Apply at Lonergan's Lunch Room 152 Queen St. City. 8230-4-14M31pd. FOR SALE—DOUBLE TENEMENT and cottage in Charlottetown. Apply McLean & McKinnon, Royal Bank Building. 8244-4-14M31. WANTED—A MAID FOR GENERAL housework. Apply Mrs. F. D. McDonald, Georgetown. 8233-4-14M31. WANTED—By a young man heard and room in a private family. Apply Guardian Office. 8116-4-6-m11. WANTED TO BUY A FEW ACRES with buildings in Royalty. Apply McLean & McKinnon, Royal Bank Building. 8244-4-14M31.

LOST BETWEEN ST. DUNSTON'S Cathedral and Kent St. a gold brooch set with onyx. Finder please return to 133 Kent St. 8248-4-14M21.

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MR. E. STEWART OFFERS BY AUCTION April 20th at 1 p. m. his farm at Hermitage Station together with stock, crop and implements. See handbills. 8231-4-14ME11pd.

FOR SALE—WILL BE SOLD BY public auction on the Market Square today, Friday 12 o'clock noon a good driving mare perfectly sound. Benj. Carter, Auctioneer. 8242-4-14M11.

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FOR SALE—DWELLING HOUSE near Railway Station in good order. Numbered 231-232, King Street. Apply to George McDonald, Southport, by phone or P. O. Box 311, Charlottetown or at office of MacKinnon & McNeill, Solicitors, 90 Great George St. 8232-4-14-M31.

FOR SALE—RUBBER TIRE BRO-ugham, Victoria, Two Wheel Show Gle, Double seated Sleigh on bobs. All practically as good as new; made by French of Boston. Used principally for show purposes. For further information apply Box 700, St. John, N. B. 8240-4-14M6f.

Minard's Liniment cures Colds, etc.

The First Open Indication of the Disintegration and Demoralization of the Opposition was Exhibited in the Legislature Yesterday When the Liberals Got Out of Hand and Opposed One Another on the Question of Drainage. Mr. Bell Helpless and Unable to Close up His Ranks, Each Speaker Pursuing His Own Wilful Course Regardless of the Well-known Rules of Party Discipline. Does it Mean Revolt, and Will Some Members Cast in Their Lot With the Government? Serious Situation for Mr. Bell to Handle.

Yesterday displayed the first serious effects of the new leadership of the Liberal party in the Legislature, and has placed Mr. J. H. Bell in the most humiliating position of having one after another of his followers stand up and flatly contradict each other on the advantages and disadvantages of a Government measure. So far as could be judged, one half of the Opposition are ardent supporters of the Government's Drainage Bill, while the other is apparently as ardently opposed to it. These two contending sections occupied the greater part of yesterday's session airing their differences and presenting a sorry spectacle to the audience of a house divided against itself. One speaker at least appealed to have a unanimous vote in favour of the bill, evidently being afraid of the consequences of dissension in the country, which is heartily in favour of the measure.

The ball was opened by Mr. J. J. Johnston, who in the course of a somewhat lengthy speech, not up to his usual jury standard, strongly deprecated proceeding with the measure while the war continued. The uncertainty of the finances of the province, he maintained, during this critical period, offered sufficient justification for postponing a measure which would entail the issue of \$5,000 in order to initiate its operation.

Mr. Dennis followed and urged very strongly the immediate adoption of the measure. He disagreed with Mr. Johnston regarding delay, and pointed out the immense benefits it would confer upon those farms which annually lost great portions of their crops through being swamped.

Mr. Lea admitted that under certain circumstances drainage would be advantageous, but he was not satisfied that the cost under the proposed measure would repay the farmers. He had very grave doubts on the subject, and would not be prepared to approve of the bill unless he was sure the cost would be commensurate with the benefit to be received.

Mr. Howatt was out and out for the measure. He said drainage would be an enormous benefit upon his district and the western part of the province in general. He was at distinct variance with both Mr. Johnston and Mr. Lea on the subject and was prepared to vote for the bill.

It was quite evident by this time that the Opposition were hopelessly divided on the subject, and each seemed anxious to catch the Speaker's eye in order to express his individual opinion. Judging by the course of the debate, it would have surprised no one, had a division been called, to have found many of the Opposition voting with the Government for the immediate passage of the measure, and against Mr. Johnston's plea for delay till after the war. The Leader of the Opposition appeared to be very anxious over the differences revealed, and to all appearances his followers had got completely out of hand on a question vitally affecting the farmers of the province. Mr. Bell's position was a humiliating one, as he sat all afternoon dumb, while his followers rose one after another and expressed divergent opinions upon the principal measure of the session. Surely if ever there was an occasion when unanimity and party discipline should have prevailed it was on this important agricultural measure. But no, each member stood up and followed his own sweet will, apparently supporting or opposing the measure according to his own personal inclinations, or the necessities of his constituency dictated.

Mr. John McMillan said that his district did not need drainage, and if the cost of the scheme was in the vicinity of \$25 per acre he was strongly opposed to it. He was willing to allow the Government to make an experiment in Prince County where something of the kind was evidently needed, but that was about the farthest he would go. Mr. A. E. McLean replied to his colleague that he

wished it to be put on record that he was in favour of the bill, not only for Prince County, but for all over the Province wherever it was needed. He believed that a great many individual farmers would take advantage of the scheme in their own interests apart from district schemes. If there was one thing the farmers appreciated it was drainage, and he believed they were willing to pay for a satisfactory system. No one was more in favour of tile drainage than he. He would give it every assistance and he was prepared to adopt tile drainage as soon as tiles were available. He thought the Opposition should support the bill in its entirety.

Mr. Hughes, who was absent from the House during the greater part of Mr. Johnston's remarks, joined issue with him both as regards the necessity for drainage and the advisability of issuing bonds to launch the scheme. Here it became quite apparent that there was little chance of getting unanimity of opinion in the Opposition ranks. They were all at sixes-and-sevens, and succeeded only in wasting a great deal of valuable time which might more profitably have been devoted to discussing the measure in committee. The adjournment at six o'clock came as an evident relief to the sadly perplexed Leader of the Opposition, and it was felt that he would no doubt avail himself of the interval to attempt to whip his followers into line and make them apparently more amenable to party discipline.

It was evident when the House resumed at night that the Opposition realized that they had created a bad impression by their divergence of opinion, and an attempt was made to convey the idea that they were happily unanimous. But it failed miserably. Mr. Gallant, for instance, went in direct opposition to Mr. Johnston and Mr. Bell. Mr. Johnston had stated that he could not approve of the money of the Province being spent on tile drainage, and Mr. Bell stated emphatically that "the only ground on which he supported the measure was that it does not purpose to add one dollar to the liabilities of the Province." Mr. Gallant had no such scruples. He said "If the Government had come to the House and asked \$5,000 for the purpose of buying tile drains for this purpose I believe it would have been the proper thing to do." Mr. Saunders waxed quite indignant at the opposition that had developed among his colleagues. "It does seem remarkable to me," he said, "that members who have spoken have shown an indifference to this matter of drainage. I believe the farmers of Queen's and King's are behind the times, if it be true they do not want tile drainage, and that the farmers of Prince County are in advance of the times. I shall certainly give the measure my hearty support."

Mr. Bell was the last speaker on his side and endeavoured to cover over the best he could the divergences which had developed among his followers. But he succeeded only in emphasizing them, for in addition to making the extraordinary admission that the only ground on which he approved of the measure was that it added not one dollar to the liabilities of the province, he expressed the serious doubts he entertained concerning proceeding with the scheme without further prolonged experiments.

Mr. Murdoch McKinnon in a brief speech answered all the doubts and difficulties of the Opposition, and assured them that the farmers were behind the Government in this matter, and that they were not prepared to wait to or 25 years, to enable Mr. Bell or any other inexperienced person to dabble in experiments which had been successfully carried out elsewhere.

Later Premier Mathieson scored Mr. Bell and the Opposition unmercifully, stating that they had put on this debate deliberately for the purpose of delaying the proceedings of the House, and retarding the progress of the measure.

REV. JOHN PRINGLE BACK FROM FRONT

Praises Resourcefulness of Canadian Soldiers. Says French Army is Best of Continental Forces. Soldiers Resent Carping Criticism of Canadian Government.

(Special to the Guardian.) ST. JOHN, N. B., April 13.—One of the most interesting passengers to arrive by the Scandinavian today was Major Reverend John Pringle who comes direct from the battle lines in France and Flanders and who is taking a rest in Canada before returning to the front. Major Pringle was attached to the 3rd Canadian Field Ambulance and was one of the Champions with the 3rd Canadian Highland Brigade.

When he left the front on March 29th the opinion amongst the men and officers was that the titanic conflict would be over before another winter. "There will be a big drive somewhere this spring and when it comes it will be the beginning of a very speedy end," said Major Pringle. He was much impressed with the spirit of the English people in the face of the Zeppelin raids. "I had heard," said he, "that the Zepp raids were getting on the peoples nerves but this is not so. The English people with characteristic doggedness shut their teeth and say they will work all the harder to pay the Huns back in their own coin." Asked concerning the Canadian troops Major Pringle said, "their chief value is their resourcefulness. No matter what sort of a job they are put up against they can always adapt themselves to circumstances. The French army is the best of the continental forces. It is a veritable machine and has done fine work, but even the French have to doff their hats to the Colonial troops when it comes to getting up against the unexpected." For months Major Pringle has been quoted as a little French village which he refused to identify beyond saying it was the "hub" from which most of the fighting men on a front of 400 miles radiated. Troops for all sections of that front passed through it. Some idea of the immense traffic as a result of that could be gained from the fact that it had been found necessary to have the main street of the village paved with stone or the transport trains would have become so mired that progress would have been impossible. The Canadians have been stationed to the left of this village with the north of England and Scottish regiments on the right. British transport arrangements for serving that 400 mile front he described as wonderful. There was no confusion but everything moved along like clock work and troops, arms, food supplies and munitions of war passed in steady streams.

One particularly interesting statement from Major Pringle was that the men at the front "resent strongly the mean, petty partisan criticism being directed in Canada against the Canadian Government. I will give you a case in point. Take the Canadian army boots. The politicians opposing the Government said some hard things about the Canadian boot but I had one experience when a battalion commander said to me, 'Mr. Pringle, if you can get 1,000 pairs of Canadian boots over here you can sell them all in five minutes. That I think is a pretty good recommendation for the Canadian boots and that is the truth.' Tonight Major Pringle left for Sydney C. B., where he will spend some days and about the last of this month he will go to Montreal and Vancouver.

THE SCANDINAVIAN ARRIVES AT ST. JOHN.

ST. JOHN, April 13.—The Allan Liner, Scandinavian, reached here early this morning with 113 returned soldiers.

Minard's Liniment cures Diptemper.

THE WEATHER TEMPERATURE, TIDE MOON ETC.

(Special to the Guardian.) TORONTO, April 13.—Maritime: Moderate to fresh winds, generally fair and mild. THE WEATHER.—Yesterday was fair and very mild, light showers in the morning. The highest temperature recorded yesterday was 48 degrees above zero. At nine o'clock yesterday morning it registered 36 above; at nine last night 37 above. The coldest the previous night was 33 above. The tide will be high this morning at 8.07 and tomorrow at 8.45; it will be high tonight at 7.46 and tomorrow at 7.56. The sun sets this evening at 6.45 and tomorrow at 6.47; it rises tomorrow morning at 5.12 and Sunday at 5.11. The moon rises this evening at 2.04. The first quarter of the moon was on Monday, April 10th at 10 a. m. There will be a full moon on Tuesday, April 18th at 1.07 a. m. The length of today will be thirteen hours and thirty-one minutes.

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