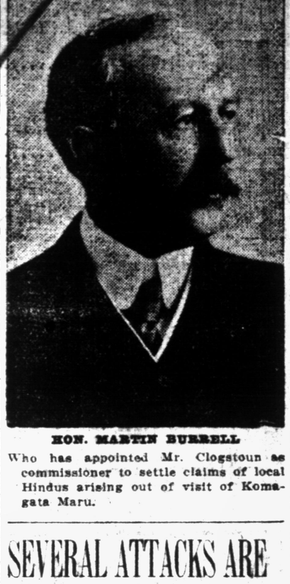
Winding Up of Komagata Maru Claims Ordered



HON. MARTIN BURRELL

Who has appointed Mr. Clogstoun as commissioner to settle claims of local Hindus arising out of visit of Komagata Maru.

SEVERAL ATTACKS ARE REPULSED BY FRENCH

Enemy Makes Number of Efforts to Dislodge the Allies From Position in Region of Arras

Paris, June 14.—The following official communication was issued by the War Office tonight:

"In the sector to the north of Arras we repulsed during the course of last night several attacks against our trenches on the road between Aix Noulett and Souchez, consolidated the positions gained by us to the east of Loretta, made a further advance to the right of these positions of about 150 meters and progressed to the southeast section of the Labyrinth. The artillery struggle in this sector has been nearly continuous.

"To the southeast of Hebuterne we arrested by our fire an attack against our trenches on the road from Serre to Mailly-Mallet. The check to the enemy was followed by a violent bombardment.

"In the region about Quennevieres farm we made slight progress in the branch ti nches and saps and inflicted serious losses to the enemy reconnaissances. Throughout the day the artillery engagement has been quite lively.

"In Lorraine we have carried our lines forward in the region of Embermenil and the forest of Parroy. Our progress in that sector continues without interruption."

GERMAN BLOCKHOUSE TAKEN BY BELGIANS

King Albert's Troops Occupy Enemy Position in Region of Dixmude—Counter-attaok Dispersed

Havre, June 14.—The official statement issued from Belgian headquarters June 13, read as follows:

"During the night of June 12-13 offensive actions along the entire front were marked by an effective artillery fire. We sent forward a detachment on the right back of the Yser toward Dixmude. One of our detachments occupied a German blockhouse. The enemy, who attempted to re-occupy the post, was dispersed by the fire of our machine guns.

"The German artillery showed little activity today, bombarding only mildly various points on the lines comprising Ramscapelle, Pervyse, Ostkerke and Noordschoote. Our artillery replied energetically."

M. VENIZELOS GAINS MAJORITY IN HOUSE

Former Premier of Greece Defeats Present Premier, Who Only Wins 120 Out of 316 Seats

Athens, June 15.—Returns received up to 1 a.m. from the general election show that former Premier Venizelos' adherents have returned a majority everywhere except in Macedonia, where his candidates were defeated by the government representatives.

Venizelos' nominees were elected in Attica, Boeotia, Crete, Epirus, Achaia, Elias, Mitylene, Chios, Samos, Cyclades and other provinces.

Not a single candidate of M. Gournatris, the present Premier, was elected in Attica, Boeotia and Epirus.

M. Venizelos carried 15 of the 16 seats in M. Gournaris' own district.

According to ministerial reports the Gournaris followers won only 120 out of 316 seats.

TO FINALLY WIND UP KOMAGATA MARU CASE

Mr. H. C. Clogstoun of Vancouver Island Is Appointed Commission to Assist in Settlement

HELP FOR LOCAL HINDUS

Deserving Cases Will Be Assisted in Prosecuting Their Claims Against Hindu Committee

Ottawa, June 14.—Mr. H. C. Clogstoun of Vancouver Island has been reappointed as commissioner to assist in the final readjustment of certain claims by Hindus in Vancouver in connection with the famous Komagata Maru case. It will be recalled that in May, 1914, this steamer, chartered by one Gurdit Singh, appeared in British Columbia waters with between three and four hundred Hindus on board, the intention being to land these men, although the immigration regulations at that time prohibited the entry into British Columbia ports of all artisans and laborers, regardless of nationality.

After much contention and delay, a test case was taken to the courts and the view of the Immigration Department was sustained, and the landing of the Komagata Maru passengers was definitely refused. Gurdit Singh had meanwhile assigned his charter to two local Hindus, who in conjunction with a small committee of their fellow countrymen had succeeded in securing money from many of the local Hindus ostensibly on the grounds that this was a commercial venture which would be profitable to the subscribers, but evidently the committee was also animated by the desire to land the passengers regardless of the departmental regulations.

Reimbursement Demanded.

When this object failed, the committee demanded reimbursement from the immigration authorities. The request was not got. The Hindu passengers then seized control of the Komagata Maru, and a deadlock resulted.

Violence was offered to the local authorities when they attempted to board the vessel, and with the assistance of the militia and naval authorities steps were taken to restore order on the Komagata Maru and enforce the law.

At this juncture Honorable Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture, arrived at Vancouver by the request of the Prime Minister, and after consultation with the immigration authorities and with Mr. A. H. MacNeill, K.C., solicitor for the Hindus, wrote a letter to the latter to the effect that as he was informed some of the Hindus had subscribed money in good faith, expecting to be recouped by the sale of the cargo, he would advise the Government to appoint a commissioner to investigate the case and would urge that sympathetic consideration should be given to those who deserved generous treatment—this to be conditional on the Hindus giving up control of the ship and allowing the captain to return to the port whence he came.

As a result of this action a resort to force was avoided and the Komagata Maru left Vancouver.

In pursuance of the minister's promise, Mr. H. C. Clogstoun, C.I., was appointed commissioner, the Government being fortunate in thus securing the services of a gentleman who had had many years' experience in India, and who had now retired on pension and had lately become a resident of Vancouver Island.

Mr. Clogstoun went very thoroughly into the whole matter and made his report. It was shown that some of the committee, of which Bhag Singh, now deceased, and H. Rahim were leading members, made speeches of a violent character and urged their compatriots to subscribe in order that the passengers might be landed. But though this was the general motive in subscribing, some of the local Hindus may have looked upon it as a commercial venture and it seems clear that many of them were in a sense exploited by the committee and some of these men later took legal action against the committee for the return of their money.

The view of the commissioner was that the actions and motives of the committee did not entitle them to favorable consideration. He suggested, however, in regard to local Hindus who had subscribed in good faith that although no legal claim existed the Government might assist them in prosecuting their claims against the committee and deal with necessitous cases in the spirit of Mr. Burrell's letter.

Owing to the extraordinary pressure upon the Government during the war action on Mr. Clogstoun's report was delayed, but the Government has now reappointed him, with instructions to dispose of the whole matter on the lines indicated in his report.

Views may differ as to the wisdom or unwisdom of immigration in this country from India but the Government and the people of Canada recognize that thousands of India's British subjects are now fighting for the Empire in France and there will be a general desire to afford Hindus in this country just and humane treatment. The millions of loyal natives of India disapprove seditious utterances and lawbreaking as strongly as Canadians do. Such things cannot be countenanced but Hindus who reside in Canada and respect its laws may be sure of receiving that justice and sympathetic treatment which is accorded to all loyal and peaceful citizens in a British country.

Dying! A Picture With

When this picture, taken in France, reached as that of William Cox of Eccleshill. The ne of killed, so it is assumed he was near death w

CANADIAN ART AGAIN IN HO

Col. F. W. Morrison States That First Brigade Has Been in Action for Four Days

Ottawa, June 14.—The following letter has been received from Colonel F. W. Morrison, commanding the First Artillery Brigade, dated Northern France, May 27:

"We are in action in the next hottest corner to Ypres and getting the same blacksmithing. My brigade is just in the rear of the infantry trenches and a mile further forward than any other battery. We were ordered into the position and the rest of the troops around here said we would not last out one day but we are darned close to the enemy's guns and it is now the fourth day and our casualties are yet light. But this afternoon they are going at us with big black fellows. A funny thing happened this afternoon that reminded me of the story of how the Virginian and Little McLean changed the babies about during the dance. A big shell caught about a dozen telephone wires which are laid along the ground and blew the ends so far apart that it was almost impossible to discover which joined to which.

Funny Stuff Starts.

"When the breaks were being repaired the shells were falling freely, so the lineman joined red wires to red wires, black to black, etc. Then the funny stuff started.

"Is that the howitzers?"

"No, who in hades are you? This is the field hospital. Is that the forward trenches? No, this is the divisional staff, what are you doing on our line? And so on. The amount of profanity was terrible.

"There has been heavy fighting here for a week. The weather is hot and the front is covered with unburied dead and the stench reaches heaven. Between our lines and the enemy's both dead and dying lie stewing together in the sun and we cannot get to them.

Hecatombs of Buried.

"Close to us here are the trenches we captured from the Germans and they are hecatombs of buried and unburied dead.

"I had to reconnoitre the whole front of our line yesterday and it was an appalling mess of tumbled parapets, broken rifles, bloody equipment, bodies buried, unburied, and those that had been exhumed by bursting shells, sprinkled over with flies.

"The Canadian division is once more together here and the losses are again becoming heavy. We hear that another division is being formed to make up a Canadian army corps, and I hope that means a promotion for those of us who have put ten months in on the ob."

REPRISALS DISCONTINUED

Officers Held by Germans Will Now Be Treated as Ordinary Prisoners of War.

Berlin, June 14.—As a result of the stopping of the exceptional treatment which was being accorded German submarine boat prisoners in England reprisals against an equal number of British officers, prisoners in Germany, has been discontinued. Germany today notified the American embassy that the British officers who were selected for retaliatory treatment here would, like the submarine prisoners in England, hereafter be confined with the other prisoners of war and given the same treatment.

With this incident out of the way it is hoped that the negotiations between Great Britain and Germany for the release of enemy civilians who are incapacitated for military service, which was interrupted when the captured crews of submarines were placed in confinement, may be resumed. The negotiations at that time were virtually completed.