

The St. John Standard

VOL. X., NO. 5

SIXTEEN PAGES

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 30, 1918.

FAIR AND MILD.

PRICE: TWO CENTS.

GERMAN ATTACKS WEAKEN; MOB RUNS RIOT IN QUEBEC

POWERFUL GERMAN ATTACKS FLAGGING

Although Allies Obligated to Fall Back South of the Somme, Abandoning Quesnel, Marcelcave and Hamel, After Furious Fighting, Net Results of Yesterday Slightly Favor British and French—Attacks Are Weaker, But Neither Side is Exhausted.

Allies Passing Through Valley of the Shadow and Fate of British Empire Hangs in the Balance—Although Tide Has Not Yet Turned in Their Favor British Have Reason for Encouragement.

(By Arthur S. Draper)

(Special Cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard)

London, March 29.—Though this Good Friday the Allies are passing through the Valley of the Shadow they are of good faith and courage, facing with unswerving resolution the gravest crisis in the history of the British Empire, for with unabated bitterness the fighting continues all along the wide battle front.

The tremendously powerful attacks are flagging, but neither side has approached a state of exhaustion. Deep anxiety fills the minds of all the allied peoples, but they have reason for encouragement. Although the tide has not yet turned in their favor, the waves which threatened to engulf them are hardly so high or so powerful.

The Anglo-French armies will have a narrow squeeze as the margin between victory and defeat is small. The German generalship and the Kaiser's host are being matched by tenacity, courage and determination. For every yard of territory the enemy is winning by the power of his mass, the British and French are exacting an ever-increasing toll and now the calm confidence with which the Allied leaders are awaiting future developments heartens everyone. The enemy's waves continue to beat back the defenders now, for the depth measured in miles is again measured only by yards, but with the passing days each net gain grows smaller.

(Continued on page 2)

GERMANS AGAIN BOMBARD PARIS

Seventy-Five Persons Killed and Ninety Wounded, Most of Them Women and Children Attending Good Friday Services in Church.

Paris, March 29.—Seventy-five persons were killed and ninety wounded, most of them women and children, as a shell fired by a German long range gun fell on a church in the region of Paris while Good Friday services were being held, according to an official communication issued this evening.

Among those killed was H. Stroehling, councillor of the Swiss Legation in Paris.

This same church was struck by a shell during the celebration of high mass last Sunday and many casualties resulted.

French War Statement.

Paris, March 29.—Along the battle front of the Oise there has been a notable diminution of fighting during the day, according to the war office statement, issued tonight. During the course of the day the offensive activity of the Germans was manifested only by local attacks against a few points along the front the statements continue.

The official report reads: "Along the battlefront of the Oise there has been a notable diminution of fighting during the course of the day."

"The offensive activity of the Germans was manifested only by local

attacks on a few points along our fronts, which are being strengthened every day by the constant arrival of reinforcements. All these attacks were repulsed by our troops with losses for the assailant.

"Raids against our positions in the region of Badonviller forest, Parroy and south of Seppois were completely broken down."

UNITED STATES HOTEL MEN CUT OUT WHEAT

Seven Hundred Leading Bonifaces Agree to Effect 100 Per Cent. Saving for Allies.

Washington, Mar. 29.—Absolute abolition of wheat and wheat products from the menus of all first class hotels in the United States was asked of 700 hotel men by food administrator Hoover here today.

The response was an outburst of cheering.

Rising to their feet the hotel men raised their right hands and pledged themselves to effect a 100 per cent saving in wheat to be sent to the

WARM TOMORROW

Fine and warm weather for Easter Sunday is promised by the relieving weather officials. A warm wave moved eastward yesterday from the western provinces, where the temperature was as high as 64, into Ontario, and in due here this afternoon and tomorrow. There is no storm in sight and those maidens, young and otherwise, and the matrons as well, who have patronized our deserving millinery artists will undoubtedly have ample opportunity to display their rky-groces, if Director Hutchinson will excuse the Bowery slang. However, it is up to him to make good tomorrow and sincere thanks are extended in advance.

HEAVY FIGHTING TAKING PLACE NEAR HAMEL

North of the Somme All British Positions Are Maintained.

London, Mar. 29.—Heavy fighting has taken place south of the Somme in which the British have been pressed back to a line running west of Hamel, Marcelcave, and Lemun, says this evening's war office announcement.

North of the Somme all the British positions were maintained. There were no serious attacks by the enemy in this region during the day.

The text of the announcement reads: "North of the Somme we maintained all our positions. No serious enemy attacks have been launched during the day."

"South of the Somme there has been heavy fighting. Our troops have been pressed back to a line running west of Hamel, Marcelcave and Demun. On the French front, south of Demun the French line runs through Mesleux, La Neuville-Sur-Bernard and Gratibus to just west of Mont Didier. There has been further heavy fighting today on this line."

Fresh French Troops.

Between Mont Didier and Lassigny the French counter-offensive continues. Fresh French troops are arriving. East of Lassigny there is no change in the French line.

"A captured German order shows that on March 21 the objective of an enemy division, which attacked near St. Quentin was to be the Somme, near Ham, a distance of at least eleven miles. Actually the division in question penetrated less than three miles."

London, Mar. 29.—Apart from local fighting at different points, the enemy has not pressed his attacks today north of the Somme, according to the official statement issued by the war office tonight.

"We gained ground at certain places the statement continues.

"South of the Somme heavy hostile attacks developed during the morning in the neighborhood of Mesleux and Demun. Fighting is still going on in this sector."

"It is known from captured documents that the German attack yesterday against the Scarpe had for its objective the capture of Vimy Ridge and Arras. This attack was carried out by at least six divisions in the front line, with four assault divisions in support.

"Despite the force of the attack the impression made upon our battle positions was inconsiderable and the fighting resulted in a severe defeat for the enemy."

"In heavy fighting further south between Dôry and Serre, which had no greater success, no fewer than eleven hostile divisions were identified."

QUEBEC NEWSPAPER OFFICES WRECKED; PLAYHOUSE FIRED

Anti-Conscription Mob Again Defies Authorities and Creates Such Havoc That Mayor Is Obligated to Read Riot Act and Government Authorities Order Out Militia—Two Persons Injured in Second Outrage to Disgrace Ancient City Within Two Days.

Quebec, March 29.—An anti-conscription riot broke out tonight. An angry mob destroyed two newspaper offices and wrecked the premises of the local registrar under the military service act. The buildings in which the offices are located are adjacent to the Auditorium Theatre, and it caught fire. The intention of the crowd, it is believed, was to destroy all the records of cases which have been heard in the exemption courts. Thousands of records were torn up and thrown out of the windows.

The firemen got the fire in the building under control before it had gone far. Mayor Lavigneur read the riot act amidst jeers and called out the militia. The appearance of the militia had a pacifying effect upon the throng.

Up to midnight no reports of arrests had been made at police headquarters. (Continued on page 2)

General Foch Heads Entire Allied Army

One of Victors of the Marne, French Chief of Staff and Eminent Strategist, Appointed to Supreme Command of All Forces in France Fighting the Armies of Germany—Huns Slow Down.

Official information has reached Washington that General Foch, the French chief of staff, has been appointed to supreme command of all the allied and American armies in France. This means unification of all the armies opposing the Germans, a step which the American and French military men long have urged and which apparently has been brought about by recognition of the imperative demand for concentrated effort to hurl back the gigantic thrust of the enemy in France.

General Foch, the great French strategist, to whom has been attributed much of the credit for the victory of the Marne in September, 1914, is being congratulated as the generalissimo of the allied forces in France.

A message of congratulation sent to General Foch by President Wilson on Friday indicates that the forces of the Entente are fighting under coordinated control for the first time during the war.

As indicative of this, General Pershing has gone to General Foch and placed at his command all the American soldiers now on French soil. General Foch would have, in addition to the men on the actual battle lines, a strategic reserve force the size and location of which is not known, but which from recent reports, probably is very large. This force all along has been expected to strike the blow which may deliver a "knockout" to the German offensive.

Huns Slow Down.

After eight days, during which it has swept forward over the rolling hills of Picardy, at times like a tidal wave, the German offensive has slowed down. Instead of a sweeping advance, its progress has been checked at all but one sector of the front and there it has been merely creeping for the past two days—this fact even admitted by the German war office, which usually conceals nothing.

POWER COMPANY ASKS COMMISSION

Bill to Be Submitted to the Legislature Next Week Seeks Authority to Increase Street Car Fares to Six Cents With One Cent for Transfers—Also Higher Rates for Gas and Electricity.

Company Offers to Put Fairness of Its Demand Up to Experienced Commissioner to Be Appointed by Lieutenant-Governor in Council to Submit Report, Expenses of Which Company Will Bear—The Text of the Bill and Petition Accompanying It.

The introduction in the legislature of the N. B. Power Company, bill, on Friday, has revived interest in the requests of the company. The bill was introduced by Mr. Funder of York, acting in behalf of Mr. Dickson of Kings, but the fact that the names of these gentlemen have been connected with the introduction of the bill does not necessarily commit them to its support.

The bill itself, which is brief asks permission to abolish the sale of street car tickets, the charging of the five cent fare and the free transfer privilege and substitute instead a straight six cent fare with an additional charge of one cent for each transfer.

The bill also asks for the right to increase the charge for gas for heating and illuminating purposes to \$2.00 per thousand feet and to return to the rates for electric current for power and light which were formerly charged by the St. John Railway Company. It is requested that these rates shall continue during the prevalence of high prices consequent upon the war.

Accompanying the bill is a lengthy petition setting forth the causes which the company claim impel them to ask for the increase.

THE BILL.

The bill is as follows: An Act to permit the New Brunswick Power Company to make a temporary increase in its rates.

Whereas, owing to the increased cost of operating the plant of the New Brunswick Power Company, owing to the price of coal and other supplies and materials used by the company being more than double, the New Brunswick Power Company has petitioned the Legislature praying that the rates fixed by legislation that such company may charge be increased during the period of the war and the present high prices;

And Whereas, it appears that in many cases the rate such company is by law permitted to charge is less than the company's actual cost of operating, and it is desirable that a temporary increase be granted to such company to enable it to receive the actual cost of operating and a reasonable return on the investment in the company's property.

Be it therefore Enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and Legislative Assembly as follows:

1. (a) The obligation of the company to sell twenty-five tickets good over its lines of street railway for one dollar, and six tickets good over its lines of street railway for twenty-five cents, and to charge a cash fare of five cents for transportation over all its lines of street railway, is hereby abolished, and instead the company is hereby permitted to charge a cash fare of six cents per passenger.

(b) The obligation of the company to grant free transfers is hereby abolished and the company is hereby permitted to charge one cent for each transfer.

2. The maximum price the company may charge for gas for heating and illuminating purposes is hereby increased to two dollars per thousand feet.

3. The maximum rate for electric current for power and light supplied by said company is hereby abolished and instead the company may charge not exceeding the rates heretofore charged by the Saint John Railway Company for power and light.

4. Said rates hereby permitted may be charged by the company during the continuance of the present high prices consequent on the present war and the consequent relative depreciation of the value of the money received by the company for its services.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, on the application of the directors of the company, may, if satisfied that the cost of coal or other operating expenses has increased to such an extent as to render a further increase in fare or rate necessary, grant such further increase in fare or rate and permit the same to continue whilst such increased operating cost obtains.

6. The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may appoint an experienced person qualified to pass upon such matters, to report to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council as to the advisability of granting such increase in rate as in the last section provided, and may act upon the report so made.

7. The expenses of such report shall be paid by the company. The petition is as follows:

Continued on page three.

CANADIAN KILLED

Fort Worth, Texas, Mar. 29.—V. J. Worth and J. Scott Rowan, both members of the Royal Flying Corps, were killed in aviation accidents today.

TRAIN WRECKED

BULLETIN Sydney, N. S. Mar. 29.—The incoming night express from Halifax is reported derailed at Shubenacadie. Express, postal and baggage cars went off the track. No one was injured.

(Continued on page 3)