

# The St. John Standard

VOL. VIII. NO. 158.

TWELVE PAGES

WEDNESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 27, 1916.

WEATHER—FAIR

PRICE TWO CENTS

## DRIVING LAST OF THE ENEMY FROM COMBLES BRITISH AND FRENCH PUSH FORWARD ADDING THIEPVAL AND GUEDECOURT TO CONQUESTS

### Entente Armies Continuing Their Smashing Drive Along the Somme, Sweep Huns From Important Position Which Has Been Stumbling Block to the Advance to Bapaume and Peronne---Town Filled With German Dead When Fight Had Ended.

## ALLIES HAVE CLEAR PATH TO BAPAUME AND PERONNE

### British and French Sweep Into Combles from Three Sides After Taking Morval and Fregicourt, Smash German Defences and Drive Last of Defenders from Town After Terrific Fight.

Paris, Sept. 26.—The town of Combles is entirely in the hands of the Anglo-French forces. This is announced in the official statement from the war office tonight, which adds that the battle north of the Somme is going in favor of the Allies. The French also have advanced further north of Fregicourt. Along the Bethune road the French have gained additional ground.

Elsewhere along the front in France there has been intermittent cannonading.

#### Thiepval Taken by British.

London, Sept. 27.—In addition to the capture of Combles the official communication issued by the war office last night reports the occupation of the important town of Thiepval, on the northwestern end of the Somme front, the high ridge to the east of it and a strongly fortified redoubt.

Combles, the pivotal point in the German line, guarding the approach to Bapaume, on the north, and Peronne, on the south, of the Somme front, has fallen before the terrific attacks of the French and British, the Germans fighting to the death or surrendering when there was no longer hope.

French and British troops swept in from three sides after their captures of Morval and Fregicourt, broke through the German defenses, over-ran the town and carried all before them. This place, with its marvelous subterranean passages and powerful fortifications, had been caught in the grip of the Allies, who, coming from the north and the south, had already advanced far beyond it, and cut off communication with the rear except a narrow strip, which was covered by the Allied guns.

At the end of the fighting the town was filled with the bodies of Germans who had fallen fighting, the French official statement says.

#### Germans' Admission of Defeat.

Prior to the loss of Combles the effect of the victories of the French and British armies, in the capture of important strategic positions on the previous day, was reflected in the official communication issued by the German war office, which, after describing briefly the great artillery bombardment of the Entente Allies, lasting four days and the attack between the Ancre and the Somme, admits that "the conquest of the villages on the line of Guedecourt must be recognized" and adds, "but before all we must think of our heroic troops, who faced the united Anglo-French frontal forces and the unimpeded employment of material of the world's war industry, prepared for many months."

#### Thiepval and Guedecourt Taken.

Both Thiepval, at the northwestern end of the British line, and the fortified town of Guedecourt, northwest of Lesbois, have also fallen into the hands of the British. Around the former place many hard battles have been fought since the inception of the Entente offensive on July 1. General Sir Douglas Haig's men, after capturing Thiepval, drove on eastward and took the Soller redoubt, a strongly fortified position which lies between Thiepval and the bend in the British line at Courcellette. The French likewise advanced beyond Fregicourt and captured the wood between that village and Morval and the greater part of the German fortified positions lying between this wood eastward across the Bethune road to the western portion of the German line of communication, to the south from Bapaume.

The German casualties in the fighting are declared to have been heavy, and in addition during the two days' fighting more than 1,900 Germans were made prisoners by the French, while the British took in excess of 1,500. Large quantities of booty, including machine guns, were taken by the Entente Allies.

While Petrograd continues silent with regard to the operations on the eastern front, both Berlin and Vienna talk of the repulse of strong Russian attacks in Volhynia, Galicia and the Carpathian mountain region.

On the Roumanian front the Austrians and Germans have been compelled to evacuate the Vulcan and Szurdok passes of the Transylvanian Alps in order to avoid an extensive

#### encircling movement started by the Roumanians.

Sofia reports the capture of the Amzarsch-Pervels line in Dobruja from the Russians and Roumanians, who retired northward.

#### Raid by Aircraft of the Teutonic Allies since Saturday night have resulted in the deaths of 139 persons—74 in England and 65 in Bucharest, Roumania. A large number of persons also were injured in both regions by the explosion of bombs dropped from Zeppelins and aeroplanes.

#### On Italian Front.

Rome, Sept. 26, via London (5.20 p. m.)—Violent counter-attacks made by the Austrians on positions the Italians had taken near the summit of Monte Sief, in the Upper Cordevole Valley, have been repulsed, the war office announced today. The statement follows:

"In the Astico district the incessant barrage fire maintained by our artillery has rendered futile the enemy's attempt to consolidate the position we evacuated on the summit of Monte Cimone."

"At the head of Vanol Valley the enemy's artillery continued unsuccessfully throughout yesterday to shell our new defenses northeast of Monte Cauriol."

"In the Upper Cordevole counter-attacks, delivered with increasing violence against the position we took on Saturday towards the summit of Monte Sief, were decisively repulsed, with heavy losses to the enemy."

"On the remainder of the front there have been only artillery actions. Our batteries caused explosions and fires at Pescosta and Corvara, in the Gardre Valley, and the enemy shelled the suburbs of Gorizia."

"Hostile aeroplanes dropped bombs on Grigno and Cismon, in the Brenta Valley. One man was killed and a few men were wounded."

#### Teuton Advance in Roumania is Checked.

Bucharest, Sept. 26, via London—A full set in the Dobruja front, along the line between the Danube and the Black Sea, at which the reinforced Russian and Roumanian armies checked the German and Bulgarian invasion. In Transylvania also comparative calm prevails.

The following announcement was issued here today:

"On our north and northwest (Trans-

## CANADIAN AIRMEN TOOK PART IN NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL RAIDS

Ottawa, Sept. 26.—The naval service department has been informed that Canadian aviators have recently figured in several successful Allied raids. Fifty more men are wanted for the service.

## 450,000 UNION MEN ON STRIKE BY FRIDAY

### Threats of Industrial Tie-up in New York Promise to Materialize—250,000 Men to Quit Work Today.

New York, Sept. 26.—Union workers to the number of 250,000 will be on strike tomorrow, 100,000 more on Thursday and another 100,000 on Friday, it was asserted late today by Ernest Boehm, labor leader, after a meeting of the joint labor conference committee of unions at which dual reports of strike votes were received.

## PREMIER HEARST AND SENATOR DENNIS RETURNING HOME.

London, Sept. 26.—(Montreal Gazette cable)—Senator Dennis of Halifax expects to sail for home, with his sister at the end of the week, as well as Premier Hearst of Ontario, and Hon. Dr. Fyne.

London, Sept. 26.—(Montreal Gazette cable)—The Jiu Valley, we repulsed several attacks by the enemy. On the remainder of the front patrol engagements occurred.

"On our south front, in Dobruja, local fighting took place between detachments."

"Last night a Zeppelin succeeded in reaching Bucharest, but was driven off by our guns. During the journey the airship dropped three incendiary bombs, which caused no damage."

## HON. MR. ROGERS OFFERS TO ACCEPT SERVICE OF SUBPOENA IN OTTAWA

Special to The Standard.  
Ottawa, Ont., Sept. 26.—The following telegram was today sent by Hon. Robert Rogers to Commissioner A. C. Galt at Winnipeg: "Press report that you want to summon me for contempt. If so, you can have service made here, and I agree it will be just as effective as if made in Manitoba." (Signed) Hon. R. Rogers.

## WAR DECLARATION AT ANY MINUTE IS THE BELIEF IN GREEK OFFICIAL CIRCLES

### GOVERNMENT SUBMITS TO ENTENTE PROPOSAL TO ABANDON NEUTRALITY IF ACCORDED LOAN SUFFICIENT TO MOBILIZE AND EQUIP ARMY—VENIZELOS PLAYING LAST TRUMP IN HIS STRUGGLE WITH KING—EXODUS OF HIS FOLLOWERS FROM ATHENS.

Athens, Sept. 26, via London—In circles very close to King Constantine the belief is expressed that he will declare war immediately—possibly even this evening.

Athens, Sunday, Sept. 24, via London, Sept. 26.—(Delayed)—The Greek government today submitted to representatives of the Entente a proposal that Greece drop her policy of neutrality on condition only that she be accorded a loan sufficient to pay for the mobilization and equipment of the army.

#### Demand War.

London, Sept. 26.—General Constantine Moschopoulos, chief of staff of the Greek army and 500 officers have signed a memorial addressed to the King demanding that Greece abandon its neutrality in the war. Earlier reports that Gen. Moschopoulos had resigned, according to the Reuter's despatch from Athens conveying the above information, were premature.

#### Venizelos' Statement.

London, Sept. 26.—A despatch to Reuter's Telegram Company from Athens says:

"The steamer Hesperia has arrived in Suda Bay, and former Premier Venizelos will disembark in the morning."

"The Patria today publishes a statement made by M. Venizelos before his departure from Athens, in which the former premier said:

"The purpose of the movement of which I am taking the lead, with Admiral Condouriotis, is purely national. Circumstances compel me to form a provisional government, not to overthrow the Athens regime, but to form a force for the defense of Greece Macedonia, that being the only means left to preserve the unity which has already been harmed by those who ceded Macedonia to the enemy. The Athens regime remains intact, and if it moves in the right direction I will stand beside it politically and militarily, and assist it in every way. I am leaving as a soldier who, having failed to persuade his comrades, does not turn against them, but shoulders his rifle to fight the enemy."

#### Playing Last Trump.

Athens, Greece, Sept. 26, via London, Sept. 26.—Following the depart-

## 38 DEAD IN LATEST RAID ON ENGLAND

### Injured in Monday Night's Zeppelin Attack Numbered 27—Revised Figures of Saturday's Victims Show 38 Killed, 125 Injured.

London, Sept. 26.—Owing to deaths from injuries having occurred and the casualties not having been reported by the police immediately, some amendment must be made to the list of casualties caused during Saturday night's raid. The corrected figures follow:

Killed—23 men, 12 women and 3 children; total 38.  
Injured 56 men, 43 women and 26 children; total 125.  
Last night's raid total casualties so far reported are:  
Killed 36, injured 27.  
Very slight damage was done of military importance.

## BOOTY TAKEN IN COMBLES IMMENSE

### Germans had Accumulated Enormous Quantity of Munitions and Supplies in Underground Regions of the Town.

Paris, Sept. 26, via London, Sept. 27.—The text of the official statement tonight says:

"The booty captured in Combles was large. The Germans had accumulated in the subterranean regions of this place an enormous quantity of munitions and supplies of every kind. We collected 100 wounded Germans who had been abandoned by the enemy. Combles is filled with German corpses."

"This afternoon, our troops, developing their advantages, captured a small wood situated north of Fregicourt, half way to Morval, and also the greater part of the strongly fortified ground between this wood and the western horn of St. Vaast wood, to the east of the Bethune road."

"The number of unwounded prisoners captured by the French since yesterday now reaches 1,200. We have collected up to the present thirty machine guns."

"On the rest of the front there was an intermittent cannonade."

## THE BIGGEST STROKE OF THE ALLIED DRIVE

### Capture of Thiepval by British Comes as Pleading Surprise.

### GREAT SUCCESS WON AT VERY SMALL COST.

### Capture of Combles One of Supreme Feats of War and a Crushing Blow to German Hopes.

London, Sept. 27.—The capture of Thiepval by the British and of Combles by the combined Anglo-French forces, announced in the latest official communications, is regarded here as the most important success on the western front since the opening of the grand offensive.

The fall of the stronghold of Combles was expected. For weeks it had been in progress of encirclement by the British on the north and west and by the French on the south and east. But the capture of Thiepval, which was announced too late for comment in the papers, has proved a genuine surprise, because it has been a stumbling block in the advance of the British left almost since the beginning of the offensive July 1, when a check at Gommecourt was suffered.

Thiepval's fall gives to the Anglo-French forces the whole line of low hills which slope to the plain upon which the town of Bapaume makes the next fortified centre. The semi-official accounts of the capture of Combles speak of the large number of warlike stores taken. Reuter's official correspondent says:

#### Great Success at Small Cost.

"This great success was won at very small cost, thanks, in part, to the excellence of the artillery, and in part to a real collapse of the German defense."

Reference is also made to the apparent weakened morale of the German troops, who are declared, in some instances, "to have fled from their trenches, throwing away their rifles."

The Times attaches significance to the "breakdown of the German defense, confessed in their account of the Combles battle," and says "it means that the German general staff is apologizing for the crushing defeat."

The Daily Mail declares that the Anglo-French forces have "accomplished one of the supreme feats of the war in capturing Combles, which the Germans two years ago selected as one of their pivots, and fortified it with every art known to man."

## ROUMANIAN SUCCESSSES IN TRANSYLVANIA

### Again Occupy Heights on Both Sides of Szurdok and Vulcan Passes, Berlin Report Admits.

Berlin, Sept. 26, by wireless to Sayville—Russian troops yesterday made six successive attacks in strong formation against the Austro-German positions near Manajow, in Galicia, says today's German official statement, but the attacks failed under the heaviest losses for the Russians.

#### Roumanians Win in Transylvania.

Berlin, Sept. 26, by wireless to Sayville—Roumanian troops have again occupied the heights on both sides of Szurdok and Vulcan Passes, in Transylvania, says the German official statement issued today. German troops repulsed all the Roumanian attacks against the passes, the announcement adds, but were withdrawn according to army orders.

## IN THE BRAVES' FIELD IF THE RED SOX WIN

### Arrangements Completed to Play Boston Games in National Team's Ground—Capacity of 42,000.

Boston, Sept. 26.—Arrangements have been made to play the Boston games of the world's series at Braves field, as was done last year, J. J. Lannin, president of the Boston Americans, announced tonight. As it is mathematically still possible for the local club to lose the league pennant, Mr. Lannin added the provision to his announcement: "If the Red Sox win, Braves field has a seating capacity of 42,000."