

The St. John Standard

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THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 17, 1918.

FAIR AND COLD.

PRICE: TWO CENTS.

SEVERAL VICIOUS ATTACKS REPELLED BY THE ITALIANS

ROBERTSON HOTEL IS DESTROYED

Well Known Bathurst House is Ruined by Fire and Water.

TOTAL LOSS ABOUT THIRTY THOUSAND

Guests Asleep When Blaze Breaks Out, But All Escape.

THE FIREMEN WORK UNDER DIFFICULTIES

Hotel Was One of Best Known in Province of New Brunswick.

Special to The Standard.

Bathurst, Jan. 16.—One of the oldest, largest and most popular hotels in New Brunswick was destroyed by fire early this morning when the Robertson Hotel here caught fire during the height of the worst storm of the season. The fire was discovered about three o'clock and the sleeping guests just had time to clothe themselves and gather up their belongings when the large wooden building burst into flames from end to end.

When first seen the blaze had made considerable progress in the upper part of the ed and was too far advanced to be checked by the apparatus in the hotel.

Escaped in Safety.

The large number of guests was safely got out however and shelter found for most of them in other hotels in the town. In spite of the furious storm the fire department was early on the scene and although the raging gale and deep snow handicapped them they succeeded in confining the fire to the hotel building and holding it under complete control all the time. The Robertson Hotel building was one of the oldest in this part of the country, the main part having been built nearly a century ago. It has been conducted at different times by such well known hotel people as Bowser, Wilbur, Keary, Robertson, Balrd, and for the past few years has been managed by Andy Gorman, who moved here after his Campbellton hotel was destroyed. The fire gutted all the upper part of the building and the lower part was destroyed beyond repair by water. The loss will reach \$30,000, and insurance carried amounted to \$25,000.

LITTLE DOING IN FLANDERS

Enemy Raids British Post to Northwest of St. Quentin—Raid on French Falls.

London, Jan. 16.—The report from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters in France tonight says:

"Early this morning the enemy raided one of our posts northwest of St. Quentin. Two of our men are missing."

French Statement.

Paris, Jan. 16.—The official communication issued by the war office tonight says: "There was slight artillery activity along the whole front. In the region east of St. Die an enemy raid on one of our small posts completely failed."

Eastern theatre. Jan. 16.—There were quite spirited artillery actions on both sides at the Cerns Bend. Enemy patrols were repulsed on the Serbian front.

"There was no event of importance on the rest of the front."

Berlin, via London, Jan. 16.—The supplementary statement from general headquarters this evening, says: "On the western slope of Monte Porzio several attacks delivered by the Italians yesterday afternoon failed."

SERIOUS POLITICAL STRIFE IN GERMANY AND AUSTRIA ECLIPSES BATTLE FIELDS

Russian Peace Terms Partly Cause of Troubles in Germany — Hungarian Cabinet Resigns Because of Dissatisfaction Over Conduct of the War—Plan to Form Independent Hungarian Army Vetted by King Charles.

THE SITUATION BETWEEN RUMANIA AND RUSSIA APPARENTLY GROWING ACUTE

Austro-Germans in Mountainous Region of Northern Italy and Around Lower Piave River Make Vicious Counter-Attacks, After Heavy Preparatory Artillery Work to Recapture Lost Positions but Fail.

Although the peace negotiations between the Bolsheviks and the Teutonic allies have resumed at Brest-Litovsk, the peace by agreement section of the German populace and some of the newspapers continue their expressions of dissatisfaction with the ambitions of the pan-Germans, and the terms that have been advanced by the German delegates at Brest-Litovsk as the basis for a peace.

Amsterdam despatches announce that an understanding has been reached between the political and military parties in Germany on the basis of the Russian programme of no annexations or indemnities in the east and leaving to Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, in case of a German victory, the liberty of dealing with possible annexations in the west, but the evidence tends to show that the factions are still at odds. Additional meetings at which speakers endeavored to outline the viewpoint of the militaristic element have been broken up and it is announced that Chancellor Von Hertling is to be permitted to deliver his delayed address on Germany's war aims to the main committee of the Reichstag next Friday for which the country has been clamoring.

Hungarian Cabinet Quits.

Adding to the political strife in Germany and Austria comes the announcement of the resignation of the Hungarian cabinet, due to the conduct of the war. Failure to obtain adequate support for the military programme put forward by the cabinet is given as the reason for the resignation of the ministry. The programme included the formation of an independent Hungarian army, which King Charles vetoed.

The situation between Rumania and the Austro-Germans is growing acute. On demand of the American ambassador and the heads of the other diplomatic missions accredited to Russia, the Bolshevik authorities have released the Rumanian minister and the attaches of the Rumanian legation who were arrested Sunday. The council of national commissioners of Russia now has sent an ultimatum to Rumania calling for the immediate release of members of the Bolshevik arrested recently in Rumania. A rupture of relations with Rumania and "most energetic military measures are threatened for non-compliance within twenty-four hours."

Active in Italy.

Except in the Italian theatre, the military activities are still confined to small affairs carried out by raiding parties and bombardment on various sectors. The Austro-Germans both in the mountain region of northern Italy and around the lower Piave river have made vicious counter-attacks, after heavy preparatory artillery work, to recapture the positions wrested from them early in the week.

All the attempts were without result.

Again there has been greater activity in this area in which five enemy aeroplanes were sent to earth—four by British and Italian aviators and the other by anti-aircraft batteries.

Only eight British merchantmen were sunk by mines or submarines last week. These figures, given out by the British admiralty in its weekly statement of shipping losses, shows a great

decrease in the number of vessels sent to the bottom as compared with the record for the two previous weeks, in each of which the aggregate was twenty-one.

BIG DECREASE IN SINKINGS!

London, Jan. 16.—Another marked decrease in the sinkings of British merchantmen by mine or submarine in the past week is noted in the report of the Admiralty, issued tonight. In this period only six merchantmen of 1,600 tons or over were sunk, and in addition, two merchantmen under 1,500 tons, and two fishing vessels.

In the previous week the Admiralty reported the loss by mine or submarine of eighteen merchantmen of 1,600 tons or over, three merchantmen, under that tonnage, and four fishing vessels. The report of January 12 gave the sinkings as twenty, eighteen being 1,600 tons or over.

SAYS GERMANY MUST GIVE IN

Power of Hun Armies and Those of Other Central Nations Has Diminished, Declares Norwegian Shipowner.

Halifax, Jan. 16.—Christopher Hannevig, Sr. father of Christopher Hannevig, the New York shipbuilder, shipowner, shipbroker and banker, the latter well-known in Halifax banking and business circles because of his visits here in connection with his shipbuilding plant at Harbor Grace, N.S., was a passenger on a liner when she called at Halifax on her way to New York. Mr. Hannevig, Sr., is one of the big men of Norway and coming to America to visit his son will probably remain a couple of months. He has built and operated a considerable number of Norwegian sailing vessels and followed the sea for many years. That Germany cannot invade England and cannot capture Paris and that peace will come by the Kaiser and his allies giving in, was the opinion expressed by Mr. Hannevig, Sr. "The German army could not get to Paris three years ago and it could not reach Calais then," Mr. Hannevig said, "and it is my opinion that it can not now or in the future. The power of the German armies has diminished, while the Entente's strength has increased. England cannot be invaded and the Germans cannot invade Paris. The war will end and peace will come by Germany giving in. The spirit of democracy has already asserted itself among the German people, but it is not yet powerful enough to overthrow the military system although it is growing among the masses and will succeed."

NOVA SCOTIANS GO YEARS MARRIED

Boston, Jan. 16.—Captain and Mrs. William Chisholm observed the sixtieth anniversary of their wedding at their home in Malden this week. Capt. Chisholm is 85 and his wife 81. Both were natives of Debert River, N. S. Mrs. Chisholm was Miss Mary Ann McCollough.

LABOR CONFERENCE WITH GOVERNMENT

Ottawa, Jan. 16.—The labor conference with the government continues tomorrow. All through the day and into the evening labor problems were discussed, and tentative suggestions taken into consideration.

As the question stood at the close of the day, the government representatives called to discuss farm labor shortage had been placed in possession of the fact, and the government intimated that any suggestions for meeting the difficulty would be welcomed.

As first drawn and as approved at the White House the order called for the closing of factories beginning tomorrow morning. This was changed upon the consideration of the conditions which would result when millions of workers went to their duties un-

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN UNITED STATES TO BE SHUT DOWN NEARLY WEEK

Drastic Order by National Fuel Administrator Garfield Goes into Immediate Effect and Vast Amount of Machinery Will Not Be Started Tomorrow Morning—Order Applies to All War Industries as Well as to the Non-Essentials.

NEWSPAPERS WILL BE PERMITTED TO USE COAL FOR ONE EDITION DAILY

In Addition to Five Day Shut-Down Fuel Administration Will Close All Manufacturing Industries Except Those Producing Food on Every Monday for Period of Ten Weeks—The Policy Means Total Cessation of Business in Most All Producing Industries for Fifteen Days.

Washington, Jan. 16.—America's manufacturing enterprises with but few exceptions, in all states east of the Mississippi River, were ordered by the government tonight to suspend operations for five days beginning Friday morning as a drastic measure for relieving the fuel famine.

At the same time as a further means of relief, it was directed that industry and business generally, including all normal activities that required heated buildings, observe as a holiday every Monday for the next ten weeks. This will close down on Mondays not only factories, but saloons, stores, except for the sale of drugs and food, places of amusement and nearly all office buildings.

While the order does not mention shipyards, it is known that they will be permitted to continue operations as usual, although munitions plants will be closed.

The government's move came entirely without warning in an order issued by Fuel Administrator Garfield, with the approval of President Wilson prescribing stringent restrictions governing the distribution and use of coal. It was decided upon hurriedly by the president and government heads as a desperate remedy for the fuel crisis and the transportation tangle in the eastern states. Even munitions plants are not exempted from the closing down order.

Officials tonight would not discuss the far-reaching effects the action would have on the industrial fabric and questions as to how the order was to be interpreted to meet a specific problem went unanswered.

The Steel Mills.

Washington, Jan. 16.—Responsibility for supplying enough steel plates for government shipbuilding to whatever size the programme may be enlarged was assumed today by J. A. Farrell, president of the United States Steel Corporation and chairman of the American Iron and Steel Institute's steel plate committee. He told Chairman Hurley of the shipping board, if the mills were not ready to meet any demands he would make them so.

Limits Coal Supply.

Washington, Jan. 16.—An order cutting off coal supplies to a number of the less essential industries was under preparation today by the fuel administration. It will limit supplies to the industries until the fuel famine in the east is relieved.

The order also will classify a list of preferential shipments, including in the following order: Household requirements, public utilities and bunker coal. It will provide for the limitation of coal supplies to war industries if necessary to meet the emergency.

Fuel administration officials believe that enforcement of the order will bring early relief.

Announcement of Order.

Announcement of the provisions of the order was made by Fuel Administrator Garfield after a White House conference which was attended also by Secretaries Baker and Daniels. Earlier in the day Mr. Garfield had sought the views of other officials and it was the unanimous opinion that the measures contemplated were necessary under the circumstances.

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FUEL FAMINE CAUSED BY RAILROADS

Miners Declare Trouble is Due to Great Shortage of Cars.

PLENTY OF COAL HAS BEEN MINED

Miners in Convention Realize Seriousness of the Situation.

MUCH IDLE TIME AMONG WORKERS

Many Miles of Loaded Cars on Tracks, But Not Being Moved.

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 16.—Leaders among the fifteen hundred delegates here from the twenty-one coal producing states of the country attending the biennial convention of the United Mine Workers of America, expressed sympathy today for people and business interests in many districts that are suffering from fuel shortage in the present severe weather.

The announcement from Washington, shutting down manufacturing industries for five days means the miners realize more than ever before the seriousness of the situation and the importance of their work to the committee for the health and prosperity of the people. As the situation is, the miners say they feel they have done all that is possible under present conditions to relieve the situation.

Blames Railroads.

"The trouble is with the railroads," said John P. White, former president of the miner's union, who is now associated with national fuel administrator Garfield as labor advisor. Mr. White, who is attending the convention as a delegate, said: "It is not a question of production. There is plenty of production, but the railroads cannot move the coal that is mined. There are miners walking the streets in mining towns right now unemployed, because the railroads do not furnish cars."

"There are miles and miles of loaded coal cars on railroad tracks that are not moving. The trouble is the country has outgrown the railroads. The railroads have not kept the pace."

Mr. White's remarks regarding idle time among the miners was confirmed in talks with many delegates from different parts of the country.

One leader said there is no general idleness anywhere but in spots, many spots, he said, men are not working full time because of the lack of railroad cars. In the Central Pennsylvania bituminous fields, one delegate said, some miners are working on an average of three and four days a week for the last three or four weeks.

Car Shortage.

In parts of the anthracite regions coal companies are not only unable to get cars but are not able to get sufficient timber, because of railroad congestion, to timber mines. This means that operations must be suspended until the working places are made safe for the men.

The miners today received a practical demonstration of what a coal shortage means. The convention adjourned before noon until tomorrow to permit committees to meet. This gave more than a thousand of them an afternoon off, but there was no place to go because the country fuel administrator last night ordered all theatres, moving picture shows, bowling alleys, billiard rooms, lodge rooms, and remain closed until further notice. There was some grumbling among the miners over their restricted freedom, but all realized the probable necessity of the action.

SIX CHILDREN LOSE LIVES IN FLAMES

Aroostook Mother Seriously Burned in Fruitless Attempt to Rescue Her Little Ones.

Caribou, Me., Jan. 16.—While their father was away from home the six children of Charles Bard, residing near here, were burned to death. The house caught fire probably from an overheated stove and was soon in flames. A high wind prevailed and little help was at hand. Nothing could be done towards rescuing the little ones.

Mrs. Bard, the frantic mother, rushed into an apartment to get the children but the smoke and flames drove her back. She was seriously burned. The children were undoubtedly unconscious from smoke at the time and several of the youngest were asleep.

The oldest child was ten years of age and the youngest a baby of four months. Mrs. Bard was cared for by neighbors.

TURKESTAN A REPUBLIC.

Stockholm, Jan. 16.—The proclamation of Turkestan as an autonomous republic allied to the federal republic of Russia is announced by the Ukraine information bureau.

Charlottetown, P.E.I., Jan. 16.—A petition signed by a large number of lobster packers has been forwarded to Premier Borden asking that all fisherman and lobster factory employes be exempted from military service for the season of 1918.