

The St. John Standard

VOL. X, NO. 83.

TWENTY-FOUR PAGES

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 6, 1918.

UNSETTLED.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

NAVAL TRANSPORT IS SUNK; GRAVE TROUBLE IN S. AFRICA

A Serious Situation In Union of South Africa Created By The Enemy

Premier Botha Issues Statement Showing That Serious Unrest Exists and That Strong Police and Military Measures Are Being Taken To Cope With Possible Outbreak.

Had Not Militia Taken Charge of Situation Promptly It Would Have Culminated in Grave Disturbances and Probably Serious Loss of Life—An Enemy Plot.

Pretoria, South Africa, July 5.—Premier Botha, of the Union of South Africa, has issued a statement showing that serious unrest exists in South Africa. Strong police and military measure are being taken to cope with the situation.

Premier Botha said that had not prompt and effective military measures been taken the situation would have culminated in a grave disturbance and probably serious loss of life. The Boer leader added that the government had information pointing to the existence of a movement having for its object the subversion of the constitution by violent methods.

Continuing, Premier Botha, in his statement says: "There is good reason for suspecting that enemy agencies are at work in this country and that they are intriguing to stir up strife. Not only among Europeans but also among the natives, and no means or matters are deemed too despicable so long as they can attain their object."

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ALLIES WORRYING THE ENEMY STILL

Numerous Daily Raids Are All Useful and Are Made For a Purpose—The Men Bring in Prisoners From Whom Useful Information Can Be Obtained—Some Other Benefits.

Special Cable to the New York Tribune and St. John Standard by Hilaire Bellec

London, July 5.—These numerous daily raids on the enemy lines or rather local actions bringing in each time some hundreds of prisoners are of a puzzle than most operations. It is important to understand their advantage. They fulfill the following objects: (1) They keep the enemy's line in constant suspense and impose an added task on all his local commands; (2) They keep the massing forces in good spirit and readiness. So far as the value of such minor operations is concerned, they may be compared to sparring in a boxing match—the preparations against or the delaying of heavier blows.

But beyond these obvious objects are the following: (3) They bring in numerous prisoners from whom information can be obtained (4) They check the enemy just as he is about to make an attack himself. They capture positions which are of great local value, as jumping off places against a new enemy attack or later for our own advance. These last two points can of course only be judged upon the spot. And as it is impossible to discuss their value in each particular case, the public usually fails to grasp them. (6) Each of these local actions increases the experience of both commanders and men in the new tactical methods and weapons.

The attack conducted by the Australians and certain other British troops in co-operation with them yesterday and the French attack north of the Aisne the same day are excellent examples of such local actions. The first enlarged the hold which the British have on the plateau which is the main approach to Amiens. It probably served to familiarize the men with new instruments. So did the corres-

ponding attack at Villers-sur-Ancre to the north. The same remark applies to the French attack north of the Aisne. It is characteristic of the tactics of the present war that both these attacks were on much the same scale and brought much the same results with a thousand prisoners in each case.

THE BRITISH HAVE 1,500 PRISONERS ON THE SOMME

London, July 5.—The number of prisoners captured in yesterday's operation on the Somme and in the subsequent German counter-attacks now exceeds 1,500, including forty officers, according to an official statement issued by the war office tonight.

"Except for some hostile artillery activity in the region of Scherpenberg, southwest of Ypres, the statement says, "there is nothing of special interest to report."

Paris, July 5.—The official statement issued tonight by the war office reads:

"There was some activity by the opposing artillery during the day, the firing being quite heavy south of the Aisne River in the regions of Cury and Montgobert. West of Buziers north-west of Chateau Thierry, we carried out a surprise and captured prisoners."

BRITISH REPULSE AN ATTEMPT TO RETAKE VILLAGE OF HAMEL

British Front East of Amiens, on Each Side of Avre and Along the Somme, Seems To Be Storm Centre of Battle Front in France — French Consolidate Their New Position—Italian Continue Progress—Finland To Declare War on Entente Sultan of Turkey May Have Been Assassinated.

The British front east of Amiens, on each side of the Avre and along the Somme river, seems to be the storm centre of the battle front in France.

Here the Australians, assisted by American detachments, surged forward on July 4 and drove the Germans out of the village of Hamel and the Vaire and Hamel woods, to the south at the same time launching a secondary attack on the German positions north of the Somme. Since that time the lines before Amiens have been very active.

The Germans have been repulsed in an attempt to retake the village of Hamel and the wooded positions of the Australians further south. The British official report says that the enemy was stopped easily, but the Germans claim to have checked the British forces east of Hamel and to have thrown them back to their original lines at Villers Bretonneux.

U. S. Front Calm.

With the exception of aerial combats, the American front has been calm.

The German official statement tells of British attacks in the Ypres region, adding that these assaults were repulsed. Heavy artillery fire in this neighborhood is reported from London.

In the meantime the French have been content to hold and consolidate their new positions near Moulin-Sous-Touvent and Autrech, northwest of Soissons, where, in two recent French attacks the Germans suffered severe casualties and lost many prisoners. The French war office says that during the past day there has been heavy artillery fire in the neighborhood of Cury and Montgobert which is on the front southwest of Soissons, where the French won ground by a dashing attack last week.

Italian Front.

Italian forces operating near the mouth of the Piave have continued to make progress in recent fighting, and have taken more than 400 prisoners, as well as a battery of cannon and many machine guns in the mountain region. The Italians have extended their lines northeast of Monte Grappa and have repulsed desperate counter-attacks by the Austrians against positions taken

from the enemy in the Italian drives a week ago.

Stockholm reports that Finland is expected to declare war on the Entente Allies. This probably is the result of German pressure incident to the landing of Allied forces at Kola, on the Murman coast. It has been reported that German and Finnish troops are pushing northward toward the port of Kola to seize vast stores transported before Russia's collapse, as a factor in the war.

Trouble in Turkey.

Rumors of internal dissensions have become current. One is to the effect that the death of Mohammed V, Sultan of Turkey, was not due to natural causes, but the result of a revolt in that country. The other comes from South Africa, where, it is reported, considerable unrest exists and where strong measures are being taken to cope with the situation.

Premier Botha of the Union of South Africa, says the trouble may be attributed to enemy agencies, which are said to be at work among the natives. The premier has appealed to the people to guard against intrigue and assist in curbing those who are sowing discord.

The Czech-Slovak troops operating in Eastern Siberia are reported to have won a victory over the Bolshevik forces.

THE SUPREME WAR COUNCIL CONGRATULATES THE ITALIANS

Prime Ministers of Canada, Australia and New Zealand Attend the Sitting At Paris—Important Decisions Reached—British Empire Thank-Ed By Premier Orlando of Italy For Valuable Aid.

Paris, July 5.—(Havas Agency)—The supreme war council held its seventh session today. All the aspects of the present military situation were considered and important decisions were reached, according to an official statement issued at its close. Among those present were Premiers Clemenceau, Lloyd George and Orlando, Stephen Pichon, French foreign minister; A. J. Balfour, British secretary of state for foreign affairs; Viscount Milner, British war minister; Baron Sonnino, Italian foreign minister; Generalissimo Foch, Field Marshal and Major General Sir Henry Wilson, of the British Army; General John J. Pershing, of the American Army and General Guilian, of the Belgian Army, as well as representatives of the other allies at Versailles.

Praise for Italy.

Sincere congratulations to the Italian army and people for the memorable victory over the Austrian-Hungarian army were expressed at the

GERMAN PRESS MEN ARE FIRST CLASS LIARS

Newspapers Publish Foolishly Falsified Form of British Statement.

BLAME CANADIANS FOR LOSS OF SHIP

British Charged With Violating Red Cross Rules At Sea.

By George F. Stewart. (Special Cable to the New York Tribune and St. John Standard.) Rotterdam, July 5.—Instead of carrying out the advice of the official Wolff agency to await the report of the submarine commandant before expressing an opinion on the sinking of the hospital ship Llandovery Castle the German press publishes a foolishly falsified form of the British official statement by inserting the statement that the ship had been chartered by the Canadian government for "the transport of wounded prisoners."

The Keelische Zeitung also seizes the occasion to print a tirade against the alleged British abuse of the Red Cross on land and sea which is apparently based on a statement by the Spanish Correspondencia Militar which makes the more general statement without offering any evidence.

The Keelische Zeitung sneeringly remarks on the hospital ship carrying Spanish officers which obeyed the travel regulation and adds, "Let Spanish officers be sure they go only on real hospital ships. The misuse of the hospital flag continues on English transport ships."

"The cases where this can be proven are rather old, but English troops were shipped on hospital ships at the beginning of the war. This so-called use and in order to hide their trickery attribute such tricks to us."

MOTHER WINS IN CASE OF FORMER ST. JOHN RESIDENT

Joseph Thibaudeau Loses His Suit For Custody of Four Year Old Daughter—Enoch Arden Case.

Montreal, July 5.—The case of Joseph Thibaudeau, formerly of St. John vs. Anna Frances Wall, his wife, was ended today when Mr. Justice Mersel ruled that the mother should retain custody of their four year old daughter.

The couple had lived at St. John's, Quebec, where the child was born, Duffing apart the woman had married again believing the husband dead. He however turned up again in Montreal and took the action which is now concluded, claiming custody of the child under a writ of habeas corpus.

American Transport Covington, Formerly The Cincinnati Sunk

Ex-German Sixteen Thousand Ton Steamer Had No Soldiers on Board At Time and Only Six of Crew Are Missing—Vessel Sent Down in War Zone.

Submarine Which Hit Covington Not Sighted—Transport Remains Afloat For Hours and Sinks While in Tow—List of Lost Medics on Llandovery Castle.

Washington, July 5.—The American army transport Covington, homeward bound after having landed several thousand soldiers in France, was torpedoed and sunk in the war zone last Monday night. Six members of the crew are missing, but all the other men, with the ship's officers, have been landed at a French port. No army personnel or passengers were aboard.

The Covington formerly was the Hamburg-American liner Cincinnati, which was laid up at Boston and taken over when the United States entered the war. She was 608 feet long, of 16,335 gross ton and had a speed of fifteen and a half knots an hour.

The Covington was struck at 9.17 o'clock Monday night while proceeding with a fleet of other transports convoyed by destroyers. The submarine was not sighted. The transport remained afloat until Tuesday when efforts were made by another vessel and two tugs to tow her to port, but she was too badly damaged to keep afloat.

Lons on Llandovery Castle. Ottawa, July 5.—Eighty-nine members of the Canadian Army Medical Corps are reported missing and believed to have been drowned off the Hospital Ship Llandovery Castle, in a special casualty list issued by the records office of the militia department tonight. The names follow: Lieut.-Col. Thomas Howard MacDonald, address not stated; Major Gustave Mitchell Davis, next of kin, Florence Nightingale Davis, 304 S. Mala street, Welland, Ont.; Captain Arthur Vincent Leonard, next of kin, Annie Leonard, 1470 King street, Toronto, Ont.; Captain George Lutzer Sills; next of kin, Lillian Patience Stewart, Tweedon, Ont.; Hon. Capt. Chapman Donald George MacPhail; next of kin, Mrs. Louise B. MacPhail, 123 Union street, Kingston, Ont.; Captain William James Enright; next of kin, Margaret Doyle Enright, Port Daniel East, County Bonaventure, Quebec; Nursing Sister Minnie Follette; next of kin, O. A. Follette, Word's Brook, Cumberland county, N. S.; Nursing Sister Christina Campbell; next of kin, Angus Campbell, Victoria, B. C.; Nursing Sister Gladys Irene Sare; next of kin, Mrs. A. T. Sare, 101 Chomey Apartment 6, Montreal.

J. R. Clynes Laborite May Succeed Lord Rhondda

Labor Leader a Coming Power — Was Recently Elected To Party's Executive Committee — Move of Considerable Political Importance.

(By Arthur Draper.) London, July 3.—J. R. Clynes, the coming power in British labor, who was recently elected to the party's executive committee, will probably succeed Lord Rhondda as Food Controller. His elevation to that position, which he has filled admirably during Rhondda's long illness, would be a move of considerable political importance, and would, incidentally, strengthen the premier's hand in labor circles.

Rhondda crowned a remarkable career by masterly achievement in as hard a task as any that a British government official ever handled. A friend of Lloyd George, who began life as a son of a Welsh sheepkeeper and died the greatest coal mine owner on the British Isles was appointed Food Controller when the economic situation here became badly muddled. While returning on the Lusitania from a trip to the United States and Canada Rhondda was saved when the vessel was torpedoed, seemingly by fate, which held him for the task of countervailing the German design of

starring England by use of the submarine. At Critical Period. Rhondda joined the George government as president of the local government, succeeding Lord Davenport as Food Controller in June, 1917. He took charge in the most critical period. British tonnage losses were alarmingly high and food stores had dropped until the reserve was frightfully low. No system of rationing worth the name had been introduced, and the temper of the people was far from the best. Rhondda and Hoover co-operated wonderfully well, and the former had not been in office long before an improvement in the food situation was noticeable. An Able Man. He introduced meat, butter and bacon cards and controlled the distribution of bread and tea and also fixed prices upon fish, meat fruits and cheese, and regulated their supplies. When this spring it became necessary to increase the rate of American troops being transported, Rhondda and Hoover were able to transfer a number of ships hitherto used to carry

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