

THE WEATHER.  
Maritime—Strong winds and  
gales, shifting to west and north-  
west, with snow, clearing at  
night.

# The St. John Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

OPERA HOUSE  
TODAY  
at 2.30, 7 and 9  
"DAMON AND PYTHIAS"

VOL. VII. NO. 292      TEN PAGES      THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 9 1916      PRICE TWO CENTS

## FRENCH IN TERRIFIC COUNTER-ATTACK DRIVE GERMANS FROM POSITIONS IN CORBEAUX WOOD

### Violent Infantry Fighting Along Ten-Mile Front—French Forced to Give Up Villages of Forges and Regneville, but Enemy Gains Offset by Loss of Ground in Corbeaux Wood and Upper Alsace—Russians Capture Another Town on Black Sea.

Paris, March 8.—The French, by a strong counter-attack, succeeded today in driving the Germans from the greater part of the Corbeaux wood, which they occupied yesterday and according to the official statement issued by the war office tonight the Germans now hold only the eastern extremity of this wood. The Germans, however, have re-captured the Hardsaumont redoubt. Douaumont, to the north of Verdun, is again being heavily bombarded.

#### Fierce Fighting on Ten Mile Front.

Fighting of great violence between the French and German infantry has been in progress from Bethancourt, northwest of Verdun, to the Meuse, and east of the Meuse from the southern slopes of the Cote de Tielou to the Douaumont region—battle fronts aggregating about ten miles in length. Spirited artillery duels, continue along the remainder of the front about Verdun.

A continuation of the German drive northwest of Verdun is declared by Berlin to have netted the Germans French positions over a front of nearly four miles, and virtually two miles in depth, and enabled them to capture fifty-eight officers and 3,377 men. The villages of Forges and Regneville, the heights of Habsen and the Cumieres heights, fell into the hands of the Germans.

The French did not give up these positions without strong resistance, and suffered heavy casualties, especially along the fringe of the Cumieres Wood.

In the Corbeaux wood, which was occupied recently by the Germans, the French launched a heavy counter-attack and drove the Germans out of the greater part of the positions.

East of the Meuse the Germans have recaptured the Hardsaumont redoubt, over which there has been such heavy fighting, and in a line straightening manoeuvre, have made progress on a front of about five miles, along the southern slopes of the Cote de Tielou, and the Cote Du Poivre and in the Douaumont region.

In the Woerue district, southeast of Verdun, the Germans have forced the French to loosen their hold on the village of Fresnes. Here the Germans assert they captured 700 prisoners. In the Meuse hills the French artillery is counter-bombarding the guns of the Germans.

Trenches captured by the French in Upper Alsace, destructive bombardments of German positions at several points north of the Argonne, and shelling in the forest of the Argonne, are told of in the French official communication. Sixteen French aeroplanes have dropped a number of shells on the Metz-Salmbons station, in Persin the Russians are forcing their advance at a lively pace, and have captured the town of Senneh to the north of Kermanshah.

Artillery activity is increasing along the Dnieper river and the Bessarabian frontier, probably presaging the re-opening of a progressive campaign.

#### British Damage Enemy's Defences With Trench Mortars.

London, March 8, 10.29 p. m.—The British official statement on the campaign in the west, issued tonight, reads as follows:

"Last night the enemy sprang a mine near the Ypres-Comines railroad, doing no damage. Our artillery bombarded that vicinity today.

"By exploding a small mine today eastward of Leventine we interrupted the enemy's mining. Near Grenay there has been fighting with trench mortars, during which we did considerable damage to the enemy's defences. The enemy shelled our positions in craters to the east of Vermeles.

"Elsewhere nothing occurred."

#### Austrian Report.

Berlin, March 8, via wireless to St. Pauli.—The report on military operations issued yesterday at Vienna by the Austrian headquarters and received here today, is as follows:

"Detachments of the army of the Archduke Joseph Ferdinand drove the enemy from an entrenched position near Karpilosek which they then occupied. Northwest of Tarnopol an Austrian detachment drove the Russians from a trench one thousand metres in length. In this place and on the Dnieper and Bessarabian frontier the artillery action on both sides is growing lively."

### GERMAN FLEET OUT FOR SHORT JAUNT SEARCHES TRAWLER AND RETURNS TO BASE

London, March 8 (7.13 p. m.)—A German fleet, consisting of at least fifty big warships, followed by a large gray-painted armed trawler fleet, two big Zeppelins, and numerous submarines, was sighted Monday afternoon in the North Sea off Terchalling Island, North Holland, according to the report of a steam trawler which has arrived at Ymuiden, says Reuters Amsterdam correspondent. The fleet was proceeding westward.

"The correspondent adds that Monday morning five large cruisers of unknown nationality passed Ymuiden at full speed.

HAVE RETURNED TO BASE.

London, Mar. 9.—The German fleet returned to its base this morning, says Reuters' Ymuiden correspondent, telegraphing Wednesday.

"A Dutch trawler searched by one of the warships," the correspondent adds, "reports that many of the vessels had a peculiar appearance. Those carrying several funnels had a sternmost funnel painted yellow or covered with yellow cloth, while the other funnels were grey."

### CANADIAN ARTILLERY DID SPLENDID WORK NEAR YPRES

#### Helped British Bombard German Positions and Won High Praise—"No Man's Land" Held by Canadians all Along Their Line.

London, March 8, (Montreal Gazette Cable), (General Headquarters, Northern France).—After a lapse of six months since my last visit to the front it is most pleasing to find that the spirit, health and discipline of the Canadian troops are at high water mark. Despite a trying winter our men have maintained a good standard of health, one excellent feature being the practical elimination of "trench feet."

General Alderson told the Canadian pressmen that he held the officers responsible for such care as would remove this form of disease, while one colonel told your correspondent that he considered that any appearance of trench feet was tantamount to a charge of criminal neglect on the part of the officer commanding. Snow has fallen several times in the past ten days. At first there was a frost, but latterly the snow fall has only added to the water and mud. Atmospheric conditions have diminished the amount of aerial warfare.

#### Hold No Man's Land.

The Forty-Second Battalion, of Montreal was attacked last week by a bombing party, but turned the tables on the enemy by killing two and capturing one wounded German, themselves escaping unscathed.

"The Canadians now hold No Man's Land all along their line," said one general. As a result of this there is comparative immunity from surprise attacks.

Canadian artillery, with which are several Montaguers, recently took part in the heavy bombardment of German positions conducted by British artillery near Ypres. A general, well known to Ottawa citizens, told your correspondent that their artillery work was of a very high standard, receiving special commendation from the Imperial authorities.

Generals MacDonnell and Leckie, both in base hospitals, are progressing satisfactorily. The former is able to walk about, although the latter is still weak on account of several hemorrhages. General Armstrong suffered a slight accident in a railway wreck, his foot being injured. Colonel Gascoigne is suffering from influenza.

Bishop Gwynne, assistant chaplain-general, preached to the Mounted Rifles yesterday.

Colonel Harry Baker said that the men are all well, and satisfied with the new organization.

The press visitors were cordially received by Gen. Alderson, and they were shown much kindness by the brigadier-generals.

Colonel Bridgen has been appointed assistant director of medical supplies for the Third Division.

Colonel Cameron, of Montreal, succeeds to the command of Number Two Hospital.

### RUSSIANS TAKE RIZA, TOWN 35 MILES FROM TEBRIZOND

#### Turkish Coast Defences on Black Sea Crumbling Before Bombardment of Russian Gunboats—Turks Not Keen for Fight Send Emmissaries Offering to Surrender.

Petrograd, via London, Mar. 8.—Russian troops have captured the town of Riza on the Black Sea, thirty-five miles east of Tebrizond. This announcement is made in the official statement issued from general headquarters, which adds that the Russians have occupied the town of Zeha, north of Kermanshah, in Persia.

The official communication says: "Western (Russian) front: In the Riga sector our artillery has several times brought about the cessation of operations of German working parties and silenced enemy batteries."

"On the Dvinsk position, near Ilouk, fighting for mine craters continues. All German efforts to occupy them have been repulsed."

"Southward of the Ponzlvesch railroad we have pushed back the Germans and made a slight advance. Northeastward of the Olyka station on the Kovel-Rovno line, the enemy tried twice to approach our trenches but on each occasion was repulsed with heavy losses by our fire."

"In the Upper Stripa region we permitted a strong body of the enemy to approach within fifty paces of our trenches, without firing a single shot, and then dispersed them with our fire."

"North of the Bogana (Hukowina) our scouts have destroyed a German post."

"Caucasian front: In the coastal district our troops continue to press the Turks closely. We captured the town of Riza on the seventh."

"Persian front: We have occupied the town of Senneh, fifty versts northward of Kermanshah."

#### Turks Giving Up the Struggle.

Petrograd, via London, March 9, 12.55 a. m.—The activity of Russian torpedo boats in the Black Sea against coast towns east of Tebrizond is continuing with success. According to recent despatches from Sebastopol, the Turkish coast defences are crumbling up before the intensity of the Russian bombardments.

There is apparently a growing disposition on the part of the Turks along the Anatolian shore to surrender without fighting. In many cases, according to reports received here, the Turkish population have sent out emissaries in boats to the Russian fleet, offering submission to Russia. Russian cruisers continue to bombard Tebrizond.

Rumors of Turkey's willingness to enter into peace negotiations with Russia are increasingly current here, but there is no official confirmation that Turkey has, up to the present, made actual overtures to the Russian government.

### PORTUGAL AND GERMANY NEAR BREAKING POINT

#### Portuguese Minister to be Given Passports Unless German Ships Released.

#### KAISER DECORATES MOEWES' COMMANDER

#### Russians on Entering Erzerum Found but 16 out of 40,000 Armenians Alive.

London, March 8.—Unless the German ships seized by Portugal are released, the Portuguese minister to Germany will receive his passports Saturday at noon, says a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Zurich, which gives a report from Frankfurt as the basis for the statement.

The Munich Nachrichten, the despatch adds, says that no ultimatum has yet been presented to Portugal.

Close Ports of Shetland Islands.

Washington, March 8.—British Admiralty orders announced in State Department despatches today from Consul General Skinner at London, exclude all vessels except those calling for examination or belonging to the Allied powers, from entering any port or harbor or anchoring off any part of the Shetland Islands until further notice.

London, March 8.—Emperor William has received the commander of the German commerce raider Moewe, and personally presented him with the Order Pour Le Merite, according to a Reuters despatch from Amsterdam.

#### Turks Massacre at Erzerum.

London, March 8.—The Russian found only sixteen Armenians alive in Erzerum out of the usual Armenian population of 40,000, according to information received in Petrograd and forwarded by Reuters' correspondent in the Russian capital.

"The Turkish inhabitants of Erzerum," the correspondent adds, "stated that a few days before the capture of the fortress by the Russians all of the Armenians in the town were driven out by the police in a westerly direction, where the Kurds, who had been forwarded, massacred all of them."

#### Five More Victims of Air Raid.

London, March 8.—The war office announces that five of the persons who were previously reported as having been injured in the recent air raid have died. The total number of casualties in all the areas attacked by the airship follows:

Killed—9 men, 4 women and 5 children.

Injured—22 men, 22 women and 8 children.

### BALEOUR MAKES SIR SAM GOING SOUTH FOR BITTER REPLY TO CHURCHILL

#### Former First Lord of Admiralty Scored by Other Members of Commons for Provoking Controversy.

London, Mar. 8.—Bitterness marked the reply of A. J. Balfour, First Lord of the Admiralty, in the House of Commons today to Col. Winston Spencer Churchill's attack on the naval administration, which the first lord said was unfortunate, both in form and substance, and likely to arouse misgivings among the people.

While deprecating the controversy, Mr. Balfour declared: "I absolutely deny Col. Churchill's charges."

He then threw the blame on Col. Churchill for depicting the ranks of skilled shipwrights by allowing them to join the army during Churchill's tenure of office, thus hindering the shipbuilding plans, which, however, the government had succeeded in keeping abreast with the needs.

"If the fleets at the command of this country at this moment are insufficient to secure safety, then in the whole history of Great Britain they have never been sufficient," was one of the parting shots uttered by Mr. Balfour.

Col. Churchill retorted with a brief speech, repeating his doubts about the execution of the battleship and destroyer programme, and asserted that even Mr. Balfour had not given any assurance on this point. He admitted that there was no reason to suppose that the British margin of strength was not sufficient, but he thought the greatest credit should be made to build at the highest possible speed.

350,000 More Men For Navy.

Other members protested against such a contest in the House of Commons, and James M. Hoegs, Radical for East Edinburgh, criticized Col. Churchill for starting a controversy which could not be easily stopped.

A number of other departments of Admiralty activity, such as recruiting merchant shipping, arming of merchantmen, and air defense were subjected to discussion, but the committee of the house eventually approved a vote for 350,000 men for the navy and several "token" appropriations for navy expenditures, which had been introduced in this manner in order to avoid giving total amounts.

Mr. Balfour said that the speech made yesterday by Col. Winston Spencer Churchill, his predecessor in office, was unfortunate in form and substance. It was calculated, he said, to arouse doubts and misgivings about the fleet and the energy of the present Admiralty Board in dealing with national necessities.

Mr. Balfour denied there had been any breach of continuity between the present board and its predecessor. Regarding the shortage of labor, he said the government was doing all that was possible to alleviate it. If not completely remedied.

Referring to Col. Churchill's explanation that his mind had become clearer since he had been in the trenches, Mr. Balfour said that the colonel must have inherited the qualities of the great Duke of Marlborough, who was never cooler or more collected than when in action. He said he considered Col. Churchill's "apology" to Lord Fisher as little short of an insult to Sir Henry Jackson, Lord Fisher's successor as first sea lord.

In bitter tones Mr. Balfour complained that it was under the Churchill regime that skilled shipwrights were permitted to join the army. He asserted the delay in completing dreadnoughts was due to the fact that Mr. Churchill used guns and gun-mountings designed for capital ships to complete the equipment of monitors.

Says Churchill Bungled.

Mr. Balfour said he was not past-mistake about the strength of the fleet. It was more powerful than when Mr. Churchill left office and was being increased in strength constantly.

A contest between two persons who have occupied the same place in the cabinet, in Mr. Balfour's opinion, was neither decorous nor profitable; and to suggest to the public interest, act contrary to the public interest.

(Continued on page 2)

### Brief Holiday Before He Leaves For Front

Ottawa, March 8.—Major Gen. Sir Sam Hughes is leaving tomorrow for a brief holiday in the south, prior to leaving for England and France, where he will spend the next two or three months. For the past twenty months Gen. Hughes has worked on the average sixteen hours per day at high pressure, his only "holiday" having been on his two trips to England and the front last year, where his time was spent as energetically as usual.

Gen. Sir Sam believes that he has now everything in shape in Canada for the continued steady recruiting, mobilizing, and training of the troops who will go steadily forward to form the new divisions of the Canadian army at the front, as needed. He has given to parliament an account of his stewardship and has presented his estimates. There is an immense amount of work still remaining to be done in England, and in France in connection with the systematizing of the co-operation of Canada with the war office in mobilizing Canadian men and resources for the common cause. Gen. Hughes may possibly return to Canada before he leaves for the other side, but in any event, his departure for the front will take place in the near future. He will be absent probably two or three months and is going over in his ministerial capacity rather than to take active command of any of the Canadian forces at the front. At the same time, however, he will probably see considerable active service in France before he returns.

Gen. Hughes had hoped to be able to reply last night to Mr. Carvell's charges in regard to his relations with the shell committee, but the adjournment of the debate at midnight prevented his speaking. He will leave the reply in the hands of some other member of the government. He leaves tomorrow afternoon for Montreal where he will speak at a recruiting meeting under the auspices of the Business Men's League. From there he will proceed straight to New York, Gen. Hughes will be accompanied on his trip to New York and to the front by his staff officer, Captain John Bassett. During his absence Hon. A. E. Kemp will be acting Minister of Militia.

### WATER WAGON HAD TO TAKE A SHORT CUT

#### Banner in Ontario Prohibition Parade Almost Started a Free Fight.

Toronto, March 8.—That the referendum on prohibition to be submitted to the provincial voters of Ontario will depend on a bare majority vote, and that the government will do all in its power to enforce such a law if sanctioned, was the statement made this afternoon by Premier Hearst, endorsed by brief addresses by several of his ministers, in reply to a bulky petition presented by the committee of one hundred to assist in enforcing the law, as well as advocating it. The petition was an endorsement of the prohibition measure, which had already been decided on by the government.

The petition, presented by E. F. Clement, chairman of the committee of one hundred, "representing the people of Ontario," is signed by 82,562 persons, of whom 47,396 are women, and asks for the prohibition of the liquor traffic. However, the Hearst government had anticipated the petition by deciding to submit the question of prohibition to the people, so the committee congratulated Premier Hearst and prompted to do all possible to secure a favorable vote when the bill is submitted to be voted upon.

The procession, at the start, had some trouble. Returned soldiers in the conventional home took exception to an allegorical representation of Old Man Ontario on a water wagon. A placard bearing the inscription "We fought for you; would you deprive us of our liberty?" was affixed, and torn off by an angry delegate. The incident almost precipitated a free fight, and the water wagon subsequently took a short cut to the parliament buildings. Everything went well thereafter until the parade, with all its banners proudly spread, was passing the armories on University Avenue. Here were congregated a number of soldiers of the overseas forces. The men, instigated, it is said, by some civilians who are opposed to the prohibition measure, entered into argument with members of the passing show, and a small riot was the result. A half-mile long banner, a feature of the parade, was reduced to shreds, and in the mix-up several persons were injured, one man having to be taken to the hospital. Mounted police, forcing their horses into the embroglio, succeeded in restoring order. The military authorities will conduct an investigation.

### D.A.R. TRAIN OFF TRACK NEAR KENTVILLE, N.S.

#### Baggage and Mail Cars Overturned—No Person Injured but Traffic Tied Up.

Special to The Standard.

Halifax, N. S., March 8.—The morning express from Halifax on the Dominion Atlantic Railway met with a mishap two miles east of Kentville this morning. The engine and nearly all the cars left the rails. The mail car and baggage train were overturned by brief addresses by several of his ministers, in reply to a bulky petition presented by the committee of one hundred to assist in enforcing the law, as well as advocating it. The petition was an endorsement of the prohibition measure, which had already been decided on by the government.

The petition, presented by E. F. Clement, chairman of the committee of one hundred, "representing the people of Ontario," is signed by 82,562 persons, of whom 47,396 are women, and asks for the prohibition of the liquor traffic. However, the Hearst government had anticipated the petition by deciding to submit the question of prohibition to the people, so the committee congratulated Premier Hearst and prompted to do all possible to secure a favorable vote when the bill is submitted to be voted upon.

The procession, at the start, had some trouble. Returned soldiers in the conventional home took exception to an allegorical representation of Old Man Ontario on a water wagon. A placard bearing the inscription "We fought for you; would you deprive us of our liberty?" was affixed, and torn off by an angry delegate. The incident almost precipitated a free fight, and the water wagon subsequently took a short cut to the parliament buildings. Everything went well thereafter until the parade, with all its banners proudly spread, was passing the armories on University Avenue. Here were congregated a number of soldiers of the overseas forces. The men, instigated, it is said, by some civilians who are opposed to the prohibition measure, entered into argument with members of the passing show, and a small riot was the result. A half-mile long banner, a feature of the parade, was reduced to shreds, and in the mix-up several persons were injured, one man having to be taken to the hospital. Mounted police, forcing their horses into the embroglio, succeeded in restoring order. The military authorities will conduct an investigation.

### NONE BUT CANADIAN TIMBER IN PUBLIC WORKS OF DOMINION

Ottawa, March 8.—The Dominion government has decided to use Canadian timber only to the exclusion of imported timber for all public works. The fact that the administration has decided on this step and that the Canadian Pacific Railway also recently announced its intention of following a similar course, has been hailed in productive and conservation circles as a proceeding which will work great benefit to the Canadian lumber trade.

Southern pine, even in 1915, when Canada was at war, and when there was a great decrease in consumption of lumber, was imported to the extent of 95,000,000 feet, having a value of over \$3,000,000. In previous years, very much larger quantities were imported despite an adverse trade balance for Canada, and in the face of a supply in Canada of better timber at an equal or lower cost, grown and manufactured entirely in the Dominion.

The Dominion government has in past years used many million feet of southern pine in various public works, but henceforth Canadian timber will be used to the exclusion of the foreign article.