

THE WEATHER.  
Maritime - Fresh to strong  
northwest to west winds during  
the day; fair and cold.

# The St. John Standard,

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OPERA HOUSE  
MATINEE TODAY  
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TONIGHT-PICTURES

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## GERMANS' THIRD EFFORT SPENT, ONLY SIGN OF ACTIVITY AT VERDUN COMES FROM ARTILLERY

### FRENCH GUNS BLOW UP ENEMY AMMUNITION DEPOTS

Big Guns of Both Sides Hammer Each Other's Positions While Infantry Draws Breath After Recent Furious Fighting.

Another Turkish Town, Sixty Miles from Erzerum Falls Before Russian Onslaught—Austria Calls on all Males 18 Years and Fit for Military Service.

Again the intensity of the fighting around Verdun has dwindled perceptibly. Only the artillery arms of the opposing sides are active. No infantry attacks or counter-attacks are being engaged in.

Around Le Mort Homme, where furious battles have recently been fought, comparative quiet reigns. Even the bombardments here are only intermittent. There has also been a slackening in the fire of the big guns in the Woëvre region to the south-east of Verdun.

Northeast of the fortress, however, around Douaumont and Damoupy, the Germans are hurling shells against the French positions, but the French are vigorously countering. North of Verdun, near the right bank of the Meuse, important German ammunition depots have been blown up by the French guns at Champ Neuville. Only one infantry action has taken place along the entire line from Belgium to the Vosges. This was to the north of the Aisne, where a German attack against a small French outpost southwest of the Bois Des Buttes was repulsed.

Constantinople reports that the British in Mesopotamia are in general retired from the Felfah region, with the Turks vigorously in pursuit. The hard fighting between the Italians and Austrians continues at various points, especially in the Isonzo region, but no important changes in positions have resulted. Little fighting of importance is taking place on the Russian front.

Petrograd reports the capture by the Russians of the town of Mamakhan from the Turks. The town is some sixty miles west of Erzerum, on the Euphrates river.

Paris, Mar. 17.—Only intermittent bombardments have taken place today in the region about Verdun, according to the French official communication issued tonight. No infantry attacks have occurred.

The official statement says: "To the north of the Aisne a German attack, directed at our small posts to the southeast of the Bois Des Buttes, was repulsed, after fighting with grenades. Spirited actions by our artillery in the region of Ville Aux Bois and on the Craonne plateau have taken place.

"In the Argonne our batteries continue to shell the German lines of communication behind the front.

"In the region to the north of Verdun no infantry actions took place during the day. The bombardment is intermittent to the west of the Meuse and in the Woëvre. It is more intense on the right bank of the Meuse.

"In the region of Douaumont and Damoupy our artillery has countered vigorously the fire of the German batteries, and destroyed important depots of ammunition at Champ Neuville.

"There have been no events on the remainder of the front, except the customary cannonades.

The Belgian communication says: "The usual reciprocal bombardments have been in progress."

Austria Calls Boys of 18. Vienna, March 15, via London, May 17, (Delayed).—An Imperial decree, published today, calls into service all those aged eighteen who are fit for military duty. They will be added to the Landstrum category. The decree applies to Austria and Hungary.

### NO ACTION UNTIL CANADA IS CONSULTED

Should Commercial Treaty be Considered After Allied Conference to be Held in Paris, Bonar Law Says.

Ottawa, Mar. 17.—According to a cablegram received from Right Hon. A. Bonar Law, secretary of state for the colonies, the British government will take no action regarding a commercial treaty with the Allies, should such be contemplated after the conference to be held in Paris, without first consulting the Dominion. Hon. Senator Lougheed read the following message, in reply to a query by Hon. Senator Bostock, in the senate this afternoon:

"From the colonial secretary to the governor-general: "London, Mar. 15, 1916. "An economic conference of the Allies is to be held in Paris on the invitation of the government of France. The representatives of this country, and I presume of other allied countries, will attend, so far as arrangements after the war are concerned, for the purpose of discussion only, and the government will not be committed in any way in regard to trade after the war. If, as the result of the conference, any action should be contemplated no steps will be taken without full consultation with the Dominion."

Ottawa, March 17, (via leased wire)—The special House committee on soldiers' pensions has elected Hon. J. D. Hazen chairman. A meeting will be held next Thursday morning, when representatives of the MHRH Department of the pensions board, and gentlemen from Toronto and other places, who have been giving attention to the matter, will be heard.

The committee is prepared to hear any one who has studied the question and has any views to advance.

ONTARIO SHERIFFS WANT ELECTRIC CHAIR INSTEAD OF HANGING

Toronto, March 17.—Once more the sheriffs of Ontario have registered their objections to the hanging of men for capital crimes. This morning they met at the parliament buildings and passed their annual resolution in favor of the electrocution of murderers, arguing that one electric chair would do for the province and should

### TURKS READY TO SWING TO ALLIES' SIDE

Turkish Paper at Saloniki Claims Nation Willing to Turn Against Bulgaria if Allies Agree.

London, Mar. 18.—There are again persistent reports that Turkey is preparing to abandon the Central Powers and sue for peace, according to an Athens despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company. The Turkish newspaper Moudjahede, of Saloniki, says Turkey is preparing to announce to the Entente Allies, through the American embassy at Constantinople, her willingness to co-operate with the Entente against Bulgaria.

"It is reported," the despatch adds, "that a discussion of Turkish terms for a separate peace featured last week's meeting of the grand council at the palace of Dolmabahcha, in Constantinople, which was attended by all the ministers and several senators. It is also stated that a deputation of Turkish notables from the Bivas district have been imprisoned for appearing at Constantinople and urging peace."

### ALL NATIONS MUST FEEL WAR'S EFFECTS

Will be Drawn into the Vortex, Whether Belligerents or Not, Premier of Australia Declares.

London, March 17, 11.45 p. m.—William S. Hughes, premier of Australia, tonight addressed a St. Patrick's Day gathering of 200 members of the Philanthropic Club, including many prominent Americans. Viscount Bryce presided at the meeting. Premier Hughes said:

"This is not the time to judge America's attitude in this war. We are very grateful to America for what she has done for us. Australia has long looked with friendship to America, and wishes an opportunity to improve that friendship. Their interests and ours will run hand in hand in the future in the Pacific Ocean.

The destiny of the world will be affected by the war, Premier Hughes declared. All nations, he said, whether belligerents or not, will be drawn into the war's vortex, and every nation and every man will be affected, whether they will it or not.

The Australian premier gave an eloquent description of the exploits of the Australians in the fighting on the Gallipoli peninsula. He declared Australia would not have been able to take the part she had taken but for the preparations made during the past few years, and that compulsory service for the defense of the country is the only military system possible for a free democracy. Australians, Premier Hughes concluded, were the last people who would submit to anything they did not want, and they have that system because they want it.

THREE BRITISH AIRMEN KILLED IN TRIAL FLIGHTS

London, March 18, 1.34 a. m.—Three British airmen, Lieutenants Johnstone and Laidlaw, were killed yesterday in accidents while on experimental flights. Lieutenants Johnstone and Beaumont were killed on the east coast of Scotland, and Lieut. Laidlaw at the Hendon aerodrome.

### Here Is Your Opportunity.

The 140th New Brunswick Battalion at West St. John requires a band—a real full-sized military brass band, with complete equipment of instruments. The Battalion will furnish the musicians if New Brunswick provides the rest. The Standard proposes to undertake in co-operation with the Brunswick Chapter, Daughters of the Empire, to raise the funds for these instruments. The task of this paper will be confined to giving publicity to this undertaking.

A full set of instruments will cost in the vicinity of three thousand dollars. Every battalion needs a band. A military parade without music is like an egg without salt, while on the other hand the stirring strains of a well-trained band are a great incentive to recruiting.

This proposal should find an immediate response in St. John, Kings, Albert, Queens, Sunbury, York, Carleton, Victoria and Charlotte counties in particular, and the request is hereby made that contributions be sent by those who feel inclined to help. Cheques may be made payable either to The Standard or to Mrs. J. B. Travers, Regent of Brunswick Chapter, Daughters of the Empire. See if we can raise this money in a week.

### BULGARIAN PEOPLE GROWING RESTLESS, MILITARY REVOLT IS SAID TO BE IMMINENT

New York Mar. 17.—A news agency despatch from London today says: A special despatch from Rome today asserted that a military revolt is imminent in Bulgaria. The populace is growing restless, the despatch said.

Bombs Under Royal Palace. London, Mar. 17.—A number of bombs have been discovered under the Bulgarian royal palace at Sofia, according to wireless despatches from Rome today. Several arrests are reported to have been made.

Ottoman Males Over 15 Cannot Leave Turkey. London, Mar. 18.—Turkey is combing the country in an effort to gather up every available man for army service, according to Constantinople advices, forwarded by the Athens correspondent of Reuters Telegram Company. A decree has been issued prohibiting the departure from Turkey of any Ottoman male subjects over the age of fifteen. Another decree cancels the exemption of all those who paid the so-called military exemption tax of 43 pounds, and all such will be called to the colors immediately.

### U.S. SHIPPED 678,646 HORSES AND MULES TO ALLIED ARMIES IN 18 MOS.

Washington, March 17.—The United States shipped 678,646 horses and mules, worth \$131,914,000, to Europe for the Allied armies in the last year and a half, according to export figures assembled today in the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce.

During the whole of 1915 only a few more than 30,000 horses and mules went to Europe from the United States, but three months after hostilities began they were going at the rate of 30,000 a month. The steady flow reached its height last October, when 56,000 were shipped.

Despite a diminished supply, the price of farm animals has dropped considerably within the last few months. The average price January 1, 1916, was \$101.60, compared with \$103.15 a year ago, and \$109.14 in 1914. The average price of animals supplied to the Allies was upwards of \$200.

Ordinarily the rate of increase in horses and mules is about one per cent. a year, but last year the European demand caused the supply to diminish by about 35,000 animals. The department of agriculture, on Jan. 1, estimated the number of farm animals in the United States at 25,000,000. A census bureau estimate puts the number in cities 3,500,000.

### SWEEPING REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF LUXURIES

British Order-in-Council to be Passed Soon Prohibits Import of Scores of Articles Not Absolutely Necessary—Autos for Private Use, Musical Instruments and Fancy Goods and Toilet Articles Among Things to Come Under the Ban.

London, March 17, 6 p. m.—A far-reaching order-in-council, which will totally prohibit importation into the United Kingdom of a large number of articles which come under the general heading of luxuries, will be issued by the British government at an early date.

Among the things which will be placed under the ban will be automobiles for private use, musical instruments, cutlery of all kinds, hardware, yarns, chinaware, fancy goods and soaps. The order will apply equally to all countries, including the British dominions and colonies.

The forecast of the coming order-in-council was given to the Associated Press today in an interview by Walter Runciman, president of the Board of Trade. Mr. Runciman admitted that articles in addition to those named would be placed on the list of prohibited imports, but in advance of the issuance of the order he declined to say what they are. He agreed that the effect on exports from the United States, but pointed out that it applied to all countries alike, and declared it was absolutely necessary to limit the shipment of bulky luxuries in order to provide room on ships for necessities.

"But please remember," said Mr. Runciman, "that the issuance of this order is forced on the country—not as a matter of policy, but entirely because of a shortage in tonnage. We want exports from the United States; we want our wheat, cotton and meat, and we need other things which we cannot get if the space-board vessels is taken up with luxuries."

"Everything possible is being done to relieve the shortage in ships. Every ship flying the British flag is how controlled by the government. Immense numbers of them have been requisitioned; others are subject to direction by way of licenses. No vessel is permitted to embark on any voyage without a license. Whether it would be necessary to requisition more vessels I cannot say; but for my own part I hope this will not be done."

Mr. Runciman said the importation of some fresh fruits probably would be prohibited. Turning to the general industrial situation in the British Isles, Mr. Runciman said there had never been greater activity in the larger industries, that wages were higher than ever before, and that the percentage of unemployment had never been so small in the history of the country.

Little Unemployment. "In all the larger industries," Mr. Runciman continued, "there has never been greater activity, but the bulk of the output, of course, is for war purposes. The only trades relatively quiet are the building, linen and some of the luxury-producing trades, but even in these there is little unemployment, the working people either have secured other employment or gone into the army. The amount of short time is comparatively small. The proportion of unemployment in the trades unions at the present time is about one-half of one per cent. In normal times it is about five per cent., and in time of peace it has scarcely ever fallen below two per cent. The same condition prevails in the non-union trades.

"Those who have joined the army have been replaced by young people, men beyond the military age, and large numbers of women. Longer hours are being worked in nearly all the trades, and it is estimated that this overtime represents an increase of 4 1/2 per cent. in the number of persons employed. A few firms have had to shut down, but among the active firms only seven per cent. of their machinery was idle during December. This is a better record than for peace times. About 4 1/2 per cent. of the 7 per cent. of idleness was due at that time to a shortage of labor caused by recruiting.

"Because of the heavy demand for labor and the higher cost of living, wages have increased since the outbreak of the war, and nearly all classes of workers are receiving more money. About 5,500,000 people have received wage increases, and the increase has been roughly a million pounds a week. Besides this, many of the people have been transferred to the better paying munitions industries. Labor, on the whole, in spite

of one or two notable exceptions, has been reasonable in its demands since the war began. One influence which contributed to this has been the limitation of profits in industries employed in the manufacture and transportation of munitions.

"An example of the rise in wages may be seen in the case of the seamen. Before the war they got about four pounds, ten shillings a month, and their keep. Now they receive between eight pounds and eight pounds ten shillings per month. Employes in certain torpedo works received an average of two pounds eleven shillings a week before the war. This has been increased to four pounds eight shillings.

Women Prove Skilful at Men's Jobs. "There have been similar increases in other occupations. The greatest increase has been in the piece-rate remuneration. Exceptional men in the engineering trades, working overtime, have earned from five to ten pounds and over per week. One tool-maker in Coventry, by great efforts, made more than sixteen pounds in a week.

"Women who have taken the places of men in various trades are doing amazingly good work. It is estimated that the number of women who have substituted for men in the metal trades is seventy-seven thousand, in the leather trades fourteen thousand, and in the miscellaneous trades 274,000. Besides these, many are in the government employ, an increasingly large body are in commercial houses and a great number are employed in the direction of labor and in agricultural work. More women are needed badly on the farms. Two hundred thousand could be used in the south of England alone.

"Women are performing every kind of work which is not too heavy for their strength. In one firm they are making electric motors; in another they are doing all the work in manufacturing two-inch howitzers, including the testing of them. And they are doing many other kinds of work requiring the employment of machinery and calling for great skill."

Questioned whether the Board of Trade had laid plans to find employment for the great number of men who will be released from the army after the war, Mr. Runciman said this vital question already was under consideration, and steps were being taken to meet the situation. That there would be some unemployment he did not doubt, but he believed that a satisfactory solution of the situation would be found.

"On the return of peace," said Mr. Runciman, "the men will leave the army gradually. There will be a disappearance of overtime work and a reduction in the number of hours of work, which will call for the employment of more people. A great number of the men will go back to coal mining, and there will be a considerable demand for labor in the export trade. The whole question hinges largely on the restoration of our export trade, and tonnage to cope with it."

Mr. Runciman said that under the proposed scheme there would be restitution of their old places to men who had served at the front. Labor, he said, would find itself in much the same position at the end of the war as obtained before the conflict began. No attempt would be made to take advantage of those who had temporarily waived their rights in order to fight for their country.

American Trade Will be Hard Hit. Washington, March 17.—Issuance of new orders-in-council, restricting imports into the United Kingdom, has been anticipated here for some time, but the belief has been that they would apply only to natural countries and not to Canada or other British dominions or possessions.

American trade will be seriously affected by the action, but it is realized that since there is to be no discrimination there will be no ground for protest by the United States. The subject has been discussed and considered at the State Department for weeks as a result of unmistakable intimations that the step was impending.

While the urgent need of Great Britain for ships to carry necessities is (Continued on page 2.)