

General Inactivity Prevails Along All Battle Fronts Except on the Russian Border Lines

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THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 9, 1917.

MOSTLY FAIR

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IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN MURDER CASE EXPECTED

HOSTILITIES VIRTUALLY AT STANDSTILL EXCEPT ON THE RUSSIAN FRONT

Bombardments at Some Points Attain Fairly Violent Proportions and Here and There Slight Infantry Manoeuvres Occur in Flanders.

CANADIANS CONTINUE TO PRESS GERMAN FORCES HARD NEAR LENS

British Aviators Bombard Enemy Encampments South of Veles—Enemy Surprise Attacks on the Serbian Front and in the Cerna Bend Fail.

Aside from the Russian theatre the hostilities on the other fronts are virtually at a standstill. Bombardments at some points are attaining fairly violent proportions, and here and there small infantry manoeuvres have occurred. On the front in Flanders, but as yet the operations have not taken on the aspect of a contemplated resumption of the big allied drive which had weather of last week brought to an abrupt ending.

The Canadians operating against the Germans have again made threats of a successful nature in the environment of the already impassable coal center which apparently can not long withstand capitulation. By the use of certain dross the Germans are endeavoring to keep back further encroachments into their terrain here, but even with the fire against them, the intrepid Canadians continue almost daily to extend their range and now are firmly entrenched on the south and west outskirts of the town.

The aspirations of the German Crown Prince to win territory against General Petain's forces on the southern front in France have not as yet been achieved. In the Champagne region the French have penetrated Ger-

man lines at three places and on the famous Avocourt wood, Hill 304, sector of the Verdun front, have put down with losses an attempt at an attack.

French Statement.

Paris, Aug. 8.—The official statement issued by the war office tonight reads:

"The artillery activity was rather violent in the region of Pantheon and Laroye Farm, as well as on the right bank of the Meuse, in the region of the Courriers Wood and in the Douaumont sector.

Belgian communication: During the night the enemy artillery shelled actively part of our communications, firing with the least intensity on our organizations in the first line. The morning was calm, except for some shelling before Diamant. In the afternoon the firing was of little importance.

"Army of the east, Aug. 7: The artillery activity was moderate on the whole of the front. On the Serbian front and in the Cerna bend the enemy attempted two surprise attacks which failed.

British aviators bombarded enemy encampments south of Veles."

HOT HEADS ADVOCATE BLOODSHED

Anti-British Radicals in Montreal Further Disgrace Themselves.

Special to The Standard.

Montreal, Aug. 8.—That anyone who submitted to be enrolled in the army under the conscription law was a traitor to his race, a coward, and deserved that every honest citizen who met him in khaki in the streets should spit in his face, was the stand taken at an anti-conscriptionist meeting at Park Lafontaine tonight. For violent language it was the greatest exhibition ever witnessed at any anti-conscriptionist meeting in Montreal since the agitation started. Hated of England was frankly given as one of the reasons against the bill. The Liberals, including Mayor Melin, came in for condemnation because of their plan to treat Laurier, the latter being denounced with a heartiness equal to the vilest of words which were poured on the heads of Borden and others.

Physical Resistance Urged.

Physical resistance to the enforcement of the conscription law, and the need of being united to fight against it, were the main points. One speaker declared that it was better to sprinkle the blood of the French-Canadians on the soil of Quebec than to reduce the plains of Flanders and England.

To make matters still more interesting there were several Liberals who objected to Laurier being denounced, though the majority agreed with the speakers. The police at one point tried to take a hand and one young man who had been engaged in a fight with his neighbors because he preferred Laurier to Bourassa, and interrupted a speaker to say so, got hurt slightly. He complained afterwards that a policeman had kicked him.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the constitutionalists, a body of which Ellis Lalumiere is head, he being the young man who declared at a meeting a short time ago that he had 500 men drilling in anticipation of conscription.

Got Bad Start.

The proceedings started off badly, owing to the fact that the door to the band stand was locked, and it had been counted on as the platform. The police officers stated that they could do nothing, and the crowd began to murmur, some yelling that it was the fault of Mayor Melin, following out his proclamation of today. An attempt was made to build a platform with benches, but they fell down, and finally the speakers climbed up the sides of the block, and secured control of the stand.

Fernand Villeneuve started the ball rolling, and plunged at once into "hot" talk. It was not four that was responsible for the opposition to conscription, said he, and that fact would be shown in trenches in Montreal if necessary.

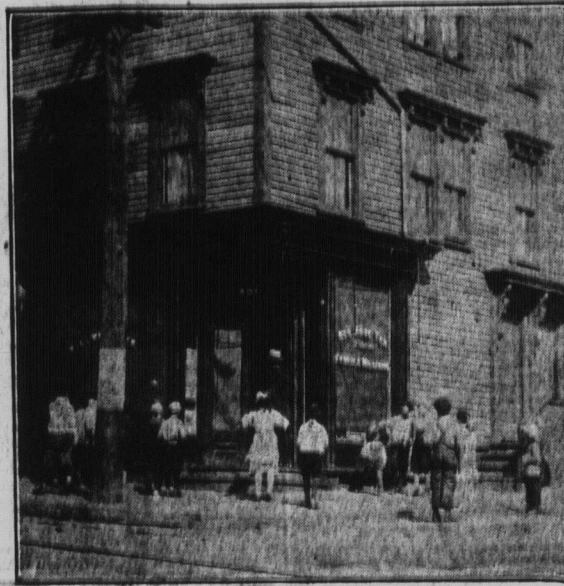
"I announce that a meeting will be held as soon as we hear that the governor-general has signed the bill," he declared amidst applause. "There are many anti-conscriptionist speakers who are making political capital of this matter, seeking to gain their own ends by following out the path traced by Havel and others. These Liberals are criticizing us, and would not let us speak at Villeneuve last night. The victory is not gained by the anti-conscriptionists, but the fight will continue. The day will come, and it is not far off, when we will gain liberty. Perhaps some of us will have suffered, but the day will come, and it is not far off, when we will gain liberty. Do not fear. Remember that the bloodshed will be the seed from which a glorious liberty will come in the future."

Murderer of Harry L. Williams, North End Provision Dealer, Still at Large This Morning

Unknown Man Observed Running from Scene of Murder After Eleven o'clock on Tuesday Night by Men Working on Lansdowne Avenue.

CHIEF OF POLICE SIMPSON SILENT

Concerning Clues—Detectives Running Down All Possible Clues—Motive for Crime Still Mystery—Inquest on Friday.



THE SCENE OF THE TRAGEDY.

Harry L. Williams was murdered. The young grocer who was discovered lying dead in a pool of blood in his store at 399 Main street just before midnight Wednesday did not take his own life. The circumstances surrounding his tragic death are not consistent with the theory of suicide. There is no doubt whatever that Williams was murdered. He was the victim of a foul, pre-meditated act of a cowardly assassin who is still at large. Moreover the person who shot the deceased grocer handled an automatic revolver, and was expert in its use.

The death of the North End grocer which has awakened the people of St. John to a realization of the horror of the crime still continues to baffle the police, but developments are hourly expected which will throw some light as to the perpetrator of the fiendish act.

The one who committed the murder stood near the front door of Mr. Williams' store. Revolver in hand, the assassin shot down his victim and then fled from the scene of the tragedy. The position of the deceased when found, the location of the bullet from the automatic revolver, also point strongly to the view that the murderer was not far from his victim. Moreover, while familiar with the use of the automatic, the assassin was not deeply concerned as to covering up his tracks. The whole aim and object was to take the life of the young grocer as the murderer was not at all particular to look for the shell which was automatically discharged from its weapon. The shell was located by the police in the interior of the store.

Interviewed by The Standard at midnight, Commissioner of Safety H. R. McLellan, and Chief of Police David W. Simpson, were non-committal with respect to the murder. They assured The Standard that the police had worked indefatigably on the case since the finding of the body of the deceased, but were not prepared to make any statement regarding the clues which the detectives are working on in the matter. With the vigilance that the police are taking in the case important developments, however, are looked for shortly.

Naturally the question arises what was the motive for the deliberate taking of the young man's life. Robbery or revenge are the common motives of a murderer. The view that robbery was the motive has been thoroughly exploited and is not deemed reasonable under the circumstances. Was it revenge? And if so, who is the man or woman whose vengeance against Harry L. Williams would lead to the destruction of his life?

The body of the young man was moved from his store yesterday morning to the undertaking rooms of George Chamberlain, permission having been granted by the coroner, Dr. F. L. Kenney. Yesterday afternoon the coroner's jury, composed of A. E. McIntyre, (foreman), E. L. Robertson, William Crosby, Charles Gurney, W. F. Springer and T. W. Thompson, viewed the remains, and then proceeded to the store of the deceased and made a thorough inspection of the surroundings there. The jury was then dismissed until Friday evening at 5 o'clock, when it is likely that they will hear evidence in an endeavor to ascertain how the deceased met his death.

Last evening a post mortem examination on the body of the deceased was conducted by Dr. F. T. Dunlop. The results of the examination were not made known, but Dr. Dunlop will be summoned as a witness and will give evidence before Coroner Kenney's court of his findings.

Coroner Kenney did not care to discuss the case last evening. "It was a murder all right. There was no weapon there for the deceased to kill himself with," was the coroner's only comment.

Men working at Taylor & White's building on Lansdowne street in the vicinity of 300 yards of the scene of the murder, report seeing a man running from the direction of the store. The police are working on this clue.

(Continued on page 3)

MILITARY SERVICE BILL WILL BECOME OPERATIVE SOMETIME NEXT WEEK

Senate Gives Conscription Measure Third Reading and Finally Passed It Last Night—Bill Now Goes Back to the House of Commons.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL WILL ATTACH HIS SIGNATURE NEXT WEEK

Government Will Decide When Selection of Men Will Begin—First Move Will Probably Be Establishment of Local Tribunals to Consider Exemptions.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Aug. 8.—The Military Service bill received third reading and was finally passed this evening, after nine amendments to it had been defeated, the bill was carried on division and no vote was taken. An amendment to interpret the word "eligibility" as defined by each particular denomination was defeated by a vote of 34 to 24—a Government majority of ten. This amendment was moved by Senator Beaudin, one of the Government members. All other amendments were lost on division.

INCREASE IN SUBMARINE SINKINGS

Twenty-One British Vessels of More Than 1,600 Tons Sunk Last Week.

London, Aug. 8.—There was a slight increase in the loss of British merchant vessels by submarines or mines during the last week, according to the official summary issued tonight. Twenty-one British vessels of more than 1,600 tons and two vessels of less than 1,000 tons were sunk last week. Thirteen ships were attacked unsuccessfully. No fishing boats were lost.

The number of vessels over 1,600 tons sunk last week is an increase of three over the number sunk in the previous week, when eighteen were lost through submarines or mines; there is a decrease of one in the vessels of less than 1,600 tons, three having been lost the previous week. The total for the present report twenty-three, is an increase of two over the previous report, and is one less than the number reported lost for the week ending July 22, which was the highest since the week ending June 24 when twenty-eight were lost.

CANADIAN NORTHERN DISCUSSED

(Canadian Press).

Ottawa, Aug. 8.—Mr. F. B. Carvell in the Commons today asked if it was possible to give the house a statement of the details of taxation under the business profits tax.

Mr. Thomas White replied that he had given this matter a good deal of consideration and while he did not desire that the administration of the act should be exempt from public criticism.

signed Next Week.

The bill will in all probability reach the Lower House this week and next week will be signed by the governor-general. Immediately this formality is effected compulsory service will be in force, and when the raising of men will start will be a matter for the government to decide. The first move will probably be to establish the local tribunals to consider exemptions. The first men to be called out will be the quartermen and privates without children between the ages of 20 and 35, that is men from 24 years of age to men of 31.

Also as soon as the bill is signed by the governor-general and therefore becomes law, criticism of conscription will be a punishable offence.

When he had come to the conclusion that if a member of parliament desired detailed information he ought to move for such information in the house and in moving should give the grounds upon which he desired that information. Then each motion could be dealt with on its merits. It was important to firms in Canada that details of their private business should not be made public to their competitors. He had called for information as to the practice in Great Britain and had been informed that under no circumstances would details be made public.

Mr. Carvell enquired if a member could use the information given him, for if not it would be of no use.

Mr. Thomas White replied that he could use the information supplied to him as a member of parliament, consistently with his responsibilities as a member.

Hon. Arthur Meighen.

Hon. Arthur Meighen reading from a resolution regarding the C. N. R. which Mr. Carvell had supported in 1914, and which called for valuation by arbitration, said that the member for Wingham took both sides of every question, and if the government had decided upon expropriation, he would have opposed that just as strenuously as he was now opposing arbitration.

Mr. F. B. Carvell, who followed, stated that he did not believe in public ownership of any kind.