

The St. John Standard

VOL. X, NO. 28.

SIXTEEN PAGES

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 27, 1918.

FAIR AND MILD

PRICE TWO CENTS.

FRENCH HURL BACK GERMAN ENEMY ADVANCES IN NORTH

THE LEGISLATURE IS PROROGUED

His Honor Lieutenant Governor Pugsley Delivers Closing Speech to the House After a Busy Day—Abundant Ground for Hope, Declares Lieutenant Governor that Cause of Allies will Triumph ere Long and then an Enduring and Satisfactory Peace Will Result.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 26.—The Legislature was prorogued at 7.30 o'clock this evening by Lieutenant Governor Pugsley. His Honor entered the legislative chamber, accompanied by Lieut. Col. W. J. Osborne, A.D.C., and R. S. Barker, private secretary, and after assenting to the bills passed during the session read the following address from the throne: Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—

At the close of a somewhat lengthy and strenuous session it affords me much pleasure to express my appreciation of the careful consideration which you have given to the various matters which I have from time to time submitted to you, as well as to other important legislation which has engaged your attention. While you have passed measures for the purpose of enabling the people of New Brunswick to continue their generous assistance to patriotic work and to stimulate increased food production rendered so vital by the war you have not overlooked the need for improving conditions throughout the province. In this connection I might refer to the highways act, intended to provide good roads, an act to provide for compensation to workmen for injuries sustained and diseases contracted in the course of their employment, and the act relating to the public health, measures which are likely to produce most beneficial results.

(Continued on page 2)

AFTER YOUNG MEN WHO DEFIED LAW

Officers Fred Lucas of St. John, Debo of Moncton, and Chief Gunn of Shediac Go to Cocagne After St. Pierre Boys who Flourished Gun at Officer McLeod.

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, April 26.—Dominion police officers Fred Lucas, St. John; DeBo, of Moncton; Chief William Gunn, of Shediac, left today for Cocagne to round up three slackers named St. Pierre, son of Thomas St. Pierre. The boys drew gun on Sgt. McLeod, who went after them in March last and escaped. Since the St. Pierres escaped arrest by Sgt. McLeod no effort has been made to get them on account of the smallpox quarantine in Kent.

It is expected the officers who went after the St. Pierres today will get their men without trouble, notwithstanding the young men have boasted they will shoot before being taken. Up to midnight nothing had been heard from the officers, who went to Cocagne via Shediac.

The St. Pierre family is not French Acadian. Thomas St. Pierre's father was a native of France. His mother was English-speaking. The young men's mother is also English-speaking, and formerly Miss C. Flynn, a St. John woman.

FRENCH OFFICIAL WAR STATEMENT.

Paris, April 26.—Counter-attacks against the German lines from Villers-Bretonneux to the south of the Luce were launched this morning by our troops, who succeeded, despite the fierce resistance of the enemy who had brought up important forces, in retaking a large part of the ground which had been lost in that region, says the official statement issued by the war office tonight. The statement reads:

"Our troops counter-attacked the German lines this morning from Villers-Bretonneux to south of the Luce river and have succeeded despite the fierce resistance of the enemy, who had brought up important forces, in retaking a large part of the ground which was lost yesterday. We have retaken the position at the monument south of Villers-Bretonneux, penetrated into the wood of Hangard-En-Santerre and conquered a part of the western portion of that village.

"The battle has been going on all day and is continuing with exceptional violence. The Germans have tried to arrest our advance at any price and have suffered great losses which were inflicted by our artillery. The German resistance was most notable north of the wood of Hangard-En-Santerre where the enemy seven times launched their assault battalions against our lines, without forcing our valiant troops to give ground.

"The combat was no less fierce in the village of Hangard which has changed hands twice during the day. South of the Luce river we have retaken positions which we have held in spite of all the efforts of the enemy. There have been intermittent bombardments on the right bank of the Luce river and at Hartmanns-Weilerkopf."

LUDENDORFF ENDEAVORING TO HAMMER HIS WAY TO STRONG CHANNEL CITIES

Situation in Flanders More serious for British who Lose Mount Kemmel, Kemmel Village, Dranoutre, Vierstratt and Hailles Villages—Marshal Haig's Army in Nasty Salient in Front of Ypres—French Army Expels Germans from one Section of Hangard-En-Santerre and Terrific Fighting Continues.

New York, April 26.—(Special Cable to the New York Tribune and The St. John Standard)—By Arthur Draper—

London, April 26.—Ludendorff has decided to try and hammer his way to the Channel ports instead of driving a wedge between the Allied armies covering Amiens. That is the chief intention shown from the terrific fighting of the last two days.

With an army greatly superior numerically, General Von Arnim, inventor of the pill box defenses and commander of the forces facing Haig last fall in the Ypres campaign, has made a considerable advance toward the Channel ports. From Kemmel to Hailles, a mile and a half southeast of Dickenbusch.

At this writing Mount Kemmel is held by the enemy but the situation is changing so rapidly that the Anglo-French forces may recapture it before this dispatch is read.

The seriousness of the situation lies in the fact, first, that the British now hold a nasty salient in front of Ypres; second, that the Germans have cleared practically all of Messines Ridge and are out on the plains to the West, where opportunities for defensive fighting are few.

Having ridden and tramped over this country a few months back, I can appreciate the difficulties of the British and French forces so long as the enemy has a footing on Kemmel Hill, which dominates the west slopes from Scederhens and Mount Rouge to the Northwest.

Second Phase.

The second phase of the battle opened Wednesday night when the enemy rained gas shells on the lines and the back area from Dranoutre northeast to Hailles, a distance of about eight miles.

Then came a terrific deluge of high explosive shells and before daybreak Thursday German infantry, including at least two mountain divisions, came over in waves.

Southwest of Kemmel the French were heavily engaged immediately. Simultaneously several other divisions swept down the west slopes from Wytchachte in an effort to encircle

Kemmel from the north. The wet ground retained the gas fumes and even the allied artillerymen were forced to fight wearing their masks, and, incidentally a notable fact is that the Germans are using gas shells in increasing numbers in every major attack.

On the northern portion of the battlefield the British were forced to retreat before what Haig calls greatly superior forces.

Takes Vierstratt.

At this hour the enemy was slightly westward of the road running from Ypres to Kemmel, having captured Vierstratt, From Kemmel to Hailles is approximately 100,000 yards. Along this line the enemy is bringing tremendous pressure in an attempt to get in back of Ypres and force a British withdrawal. From the nearest point of German line to Dunkirk is about twenty-four miles. A further advance in this area means an inevitable readjustment of the whole northern line.

North of Pethune the German artillery is extremely active. Turning from the Flanders to the Somme front, one finds a highly encouraging contrast. After the first rush towards Amiens which wrested Hangard from the French and Villers Bretonneux from the British the enemy was checked sharply and the Australians by a clever encircling movement, regained the village.

Last night the Germans began to hurl gas shells over this area as if contemplating a resumption of hostilities. This week end is apparently filled with many anxious moments, as the development in the Ypres sector may have far reaching consequences.

Immediately north of Castel, the Germans have penetrated the village of Hailles and are in possession of Hill 82, south of the village. The French have counter-attacked on this front and regained ground.

At no other point has the enemy advanced, although bitter fighting has been going on in many sectors in both the Somme and Armentieres battle areas.

Holland--Hun Situation Becomes More Acute

Believe the Netherlands Strongly in Favor of Resisting the German Demands—Dutch Place Embargo on Shipments to United States.

By Arthur S. Draper.

(Special Cable to the New York Tribune and St. John Standard.)

London, April 26.—The Dutch situation has grown more acute. It is believed Holland is strongly resisting the German demands. The return to The Hague of the Dutch minister at Berlin is considered highly significant, but the unlikelihood of Germany's desiring another enemy at the present juncture argues against her continued insistence. Nothing is known here concerning a statement attributed to the German minister at The Hague that the differences were practically settled, but this is thought not probable if Germany has withdrawn her demands involving a breach of Holland's neutrality.

The recent dispute between England and Holland regarding cement, which a commission of inquiry decided in

Holland's favor, was one of fact, and similarly Holland's position in the sand, gravel and ore question depends on whether these are for military or civil use.

Serious Step.

The Hague, April 26.—The commander-in-chief of the land and sea forces in Holland has provisionally stopped all leaves of absence.

Dutch Embargo.

Washington, April 26.—Official notification of an embargo, effective April 22, placed by Holland on United States imports, was received today and caused much perturbation. Officials declined to indicate the probable reasons but in some quarters it was suggested the measure was in retaliation for the American requisitioning of Dutch ships. Elsewhere it was thought to have been prompted by the critical situation in which Holland finds herself with Germany.

NORTHCLIFFE RESIGNS HIS TWO PLACES

London Times Owner Will Continue, However, Until Another Appointed

PRESTIGE OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT SHAKEN

Some Believe Three Months Will See End of Lloyd-George Regime.

By Arthur S. Draper. (Special Cable to the New York Tribune and St. John Standard.)

London, April 26.—Lord Northcliffe tendered his resignation as chairman of the London headquarters of the British mission to the United States and director of propaganda in enemy countries on account of poor health, but was prevailed upon by Premier Lloyd-George and other cabinet members to keep on with his work until a suitable successor could be found.

Lord Northcliffe told me today he intended to continue until the government found someone to relieve him. He emphasized the fact that he was not a member of the government and had declined to join it because he wanted his papers to be free to criticize when they considered it necessary.

His health has been bad for several weeks and he has not yet recovered. At such a time political changes make little stir and speculation as to the strength or weakness of the Lloyd-George government is over-shadowed by developments of the battlefield.

The real leaders of the country at the moment are the generals, upon whom rests the fate of the people and the politicians. In quieter times Ireland and Home Rule would have held the country's interest, but now they form only a secondary problem.

Opinion is divided as to whether the government can get Home Rule through both the Commons and the House of Lords. Lloyd-George has stated that if he failed the government would resign. Some observers believe the life of the government will not exceed three months at the most while others think Lloyd-George will pull through this as he has through so many other crises. His powerful press following no longer exists and the many resignations have hurt the government's prestige greatly.

Weir Succeeds Rothermere. London, April 26.—Sir William Weir has been appointed minister of air forces in succession to Lord Rothermere, brother of Lord Northcliffe, who resigned yesterday. Official announcement of Sir William's appointment was made this evening.

NO CIRCUSES FOR THE PEOPLE OF MONCTON

King's College Forward Movement Fund Reaches \$2,000 in St. George's Parish, Moncton.

Moncton, April 27.—A canvass here in the interest of King's College Forward Movement has so far resulted in \$2,000, being subscribed by St. George's congregation.

The city council at a meeting tonight put a ban on travelling shows such as the Wonderland Show, which toured the provinces last year. No licensed will be issued to small or big shows of any kind this year.

MR. DYKEMAN HONORED.

A veteran's jewel was presented to V. W. Dykeman, a former St. John resident, at a festive meeting of Prince Albert Lodge, I. O. O. F., last evening. Rev. G. M. Campbell was the principal speaker.

FOSTERITE GOV'T FRAUDS FOUND IN GLOUCESTER CO.

Hon. Peter J. Veniot Promises to Investigate Allegations Made by Hon. B. F. Smith—Padded Pay Rolls and Pay Rolls Containing Names of Small Children Figured in Road Work in Minister's County—Mr. Veniot Claims Utter Ignorance of this Form of Graft.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 26.—An indication of the careless methods pursued by government road officials in Gloucester was afforded at the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee this afternoon. Hon. B. Frank Smith has been paying considerable attention to Gloucester roads and this afternoon supplied Hon. Mr. Veniot with information of which the minister claimed to be in ignorance, and as a result of which he promised to hold an investigation under oath as soon as possible.

The particular road concerned is known as Shippegan Barrens and from information in Mr. Smith's possession it appears that work on this highway has been a veritable harvest for members of the Fosterite party in Gloucester County. Padded pay-rolls have been a common feature; eight year old children have figured in the pay sheets as adult teamsters while near relatives of one of the members for Gloucester have feasted liberally at the public trough. Some men were even lucky enough to be able to draw money as government employes for time

when, as a matter of fact, they were either engaged in their own farm work or were away from the island on fishing trips. A few incidents will suffice to show how some people of Shippegan have profited at the public expense.

Easy Money.

Under the ordinary road grant for the month of July last Gervais M. Herbert appears as supervisor for fifteen days at \$3 per day, and also for twenty-three days for his horse at \$3 per day. This makes thirty-eight days that Herbert was paid for out of ordinary road money for the month of July. But even this does not exhaust his versatility. For the same month he drew as supervisor on permanent roads, pay for fourteen days at \$3 per day, also fourteen days for his horse and driver at \$3. It is possible that Mr. Herbert worked himself twenty-nine days in the month of July, but to do so he must have labored on Sundays. What is more difficult to understand is how he managed to draw pay for thirty-seven days work for his horse when he owns but one.

(Continued on page 2)

MONCTON OFFICIAL EXPIRES SUDDENLY

Henry Herbert Colpitts, Driving along Street when Stricken with Hemorrhage of the Brain.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, April 26.—Death came with startling suddenness to Henry Herbert Colpitts, inspector for city board of health, this afternoon while driving down to the corner of Robinson street in pursuance of his official duties, the board of health official suddenly collapsed and in a few seconds was dead. Death was pronounced due to hemorrhage of the brain. Mr. Colpitts was one of the oldest and best known citizens of Moncton. He was 72 years old and

was born in Albert county, but lived the greater part of his life in Moncton. He formerly carried on a shoe making business, but for some years past has been inspector for local board of health. He is survived by his wife and three sons, and two daughters.

GEORGE BUCHANAN ACCIDENTALLY KILLED

According to Maurice H. Tutts, manager of the Pejebeot of Salmon river, George Buchanan, aged thirty years, was accidentally killed while log sacking on the Quoddy River. While engaged in this work a piece of ice about the size of a bucket toppled over from the bank above striking the unfortunate man on the head and knocking him unconscious. He passed away shortly afterwards. The accident occurred about 11.30 yesterday morning. Besides a wife and three children the deceased leaves a father to mourn.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF MARSHAL HAIG

London, April 26.—The Germans have captured Kemmel mountain and village and also are in possession of Dranoutre, according to the official communication sent by Field Marshal Haig from headquarters in France tonight. The communication says that north of the Lys river the battle is continuing fiercely along the whole front from the neighborhood of Dranoutre to the Ypres-Comines Canal. The text of the Field Marshal's report reads:

"North of the Lys river the battle is continuing fiercely on the whole front from the neighborhood of Dranoutre to the Ypres-Comines Canal. The enemy has gained possession of Dranoutre, Kemmel Village and Mont Kemmel.

"The enemy's attack yesterday was made in great strength by nine German divisions. This morning the French and British troops counter-attacked and succeeded at first in making some progress, capturing a number of prisoners. Later in the day the enemy renewed his attacks, directing his assaults with particular insistence against the positions from Loivre to Le Clytte and astride the Ypres-Comines Canal. In the neighborhood of La Clytte and Scherenberg all the enemy's attacks have been held, but after severe fighting in the course of which a series of determined attacks were repulsed with heavy losses to his troops, he succeeded in pressing our line back in the direction of Loivre. On both sides of the Ypres-Comines Canal the enemy also made some progress.

"Early this morning the French and British troops attacked the enemy positions south of the Somme in the neighborhood of Hangard and Hangard Wood and have carried their line forward at certain points by heavy fighting.

"On the remainder of the British front the situation remains unchanged."