

# The St. John Standard

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WEATHER—FAIR.

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## BRITISH AND FRENCH ARE STILL RAPIDLY ADVANCING

### THE BRITISH DRIVE CONTINUES RAPIDLY

#### Ground Gained in North France by King George's Men Extends for Depth of from Two to Eight Miles and Forty More Villages Fall Into Their Hands.

#### Pursuit of Enemy Continues, Cavalry and Advanced Guards Driving Back Germans Rear Guards—Teutons Damage Roads and Bridges and Destroy Other Property in Their Retreat.

**BULLETIN—London, Mar. 19.**—The British advance is still being pushed rapidly, further large gains being recorded in the official report from British headquarters in France tonight.

"The pursuit of the enemy," says the report, "continued today, our cavalry and advanced guards driving back the enemy's rear guards."

"The ground gained extends for a depth of from two to eight miles and forty more villages have fallen into our hands."

"The enemy raised our trenches early this morning in the neighborhood of Loos and northwest of Ypres. A few of our men are missing."

"Our airplanes did much valuable work yesterday in co-operation with our infantry. Enemy troops were engaged successfully with machine guns, and bombs were dropped on a number of places behind the enemy lines. In the air fights one German machine was destroyed and one was driven down damaged. Two of our airplanes are missing."

Germans Hard P. sed.

London, Mar. 19.—"Throughout the night," telegraphs the Reuters correspondent at British headquarters in France, "our troops continued to press hard upon the heels of the retreating enemy."

"A considerable force of cavalry had been employed as reconnoitering patrols, and the enemy also had a screen of Uhlans covering his rear-guard. There is much brisk fighting, but the main German forces continue to decline an action with our colors."

Leaves Strong Positions.

"Whatever the enemy's tactical scheme may have been it now appears pretty certain that we forestalled him, and are hustling him to a degree which he had not anticipated. This is borne out by the promptitude with which he evacuated strong positions every time our advance gets into contact with him in strength."

"This morning was cloudy, with a strong wind, but still very dry, and therefore was all in favor of open fighting. Every movement of the enemy was being watched with cat-like vigilance, and all along the line we prepared to pounce on the scene of the distant fires which again lighted the darkness last night."

Great Salient Gone.

"Our patrols have crossed the Arras-Bapaume road and railway at many points between the two towns without encountering any resistance. In other words, the great salient has practically gone."

The correspondent, describing the vagaries of the German retreat, says:

"Sometimes the British find villages held by rear guard forces; sometimes the enemy has completely disappeared. For instance, after the occupation of Peronne, a patrol passed forward two miles to the northeast without getting into touch with the enemy. In another case a patrol crossed the Somme by a partly damaged bridge and hurried into a village a mile away, only to discover it empty."

"Perhaps the most striking feature of the situation is the fact that our patrols got astride the railway between Arras and Bapaume in various places between the two towns without encountering any resistance. While this does not prove that we possess undisputed use of these routes, it proves that the Germans are back behind them. They have greatly damaged both the railway and the roads, but the British can soon repair them and restore communication."

"It is an interesting fact that the British are now holding practically the line which Joffre chose for an attempt to make a stand during the great retreat, but was unable to hold under the great pressure of the Germans."

**German Statement.**

London, March 19.—A German official statement says:

"One of our naval airplanes on the afternoon of March 17 dropped bombs on the sea works at Dover."

"On the night of the 18th a portion of our naval forces again penetrated the Straits of Dover and the mouth of the Thames. The southern attacking group sank a hostile destroyer of the channel guard in a light close quarters. A second destroyer was seriously damaged. The northern attacking group, near North Foreland, torpedoed a merchant vessel of about 2,500 tons and sank two outpost ves-

### THE U.S. HAS PRACTICALLY ENTERED WAR

#### Wilson Expected to Make Position Clear in 48 Hours.

#### PREPARATIONS TO DEFEND U. S. SHIPS.

#### Generally Conceded Virtual State of War Exists.

Washington, Mar. 19.—President Wilson is expected within the next 48 hours to indicate definitely that he believes a virtual state of war exists between the United States and Germany.

News received from Plymouth that fifteen men, some of them Americans, had been drowned when the American merchantman Vigilance, was sunk without warning by a German submarine, added, if possible, to the already grave view of the situation held here as a result of the destruction of the Vigilance, the Itabola and the City of Memphis.

Session of Congress.

Whether the president will hasten the extra session of congress, already called for April 16, or will take additional steps to protect American commerce without this move, was not disclosed tonight. No official pretense to know his plans, and the general view was that he was still considering the question in his usual deliberate way.

A cabinet meeting will be held tomorrow afternoon, and at that time the situation arising out of the new acts of aggression on the part of Germany is expected to be thoroughly canvassed.

In addition to a conference with Secretary of Navy Daniels the president saw Secretaries Lansing and McAdoo, and Wm. Deussen, chairman of the federal shipping board, and there was every indication that he was mapping out comprehensive plans for the protection of America's interests in any eventuality. It is generally conceded that already a virtual state of war exists with Germany, in spite of the technical armistice neutrality status of the United States.

Submarine Menace.

Preparation for aggressive action by the navy against the German submarine menace began today at the direction of the president.

President Wilson authorized the expenditure of the \$15,000,000 emergency fund provided by congress to speed up naval construction and pay for the special additional war craft, and the suspension of the eight-hour labor law in plants engaged on navy work.

Immediately afterward Secretary Daniels ordered the New York navy yard to begin building sixty submarine chasers of the 110 foot type, to be completed in from sixty to eighty days.

**HUNS TRY TO ESCAPE**

Philadelphia, Mar. 19.—Under cover of darkness seven sailors of the German commerce raiders Kronprinz Wilhelm and Prinz Eitel Friedrich, interned at the Philadelphia navy yard, made an attempt to escape tonight. All seven were captured by marines and police, after shots were fired at the fugitives.

**SMALLPOX OUTBREAK IN NORTH GERMANY**

London, Mar. 19.—Reports reaching London from Scandinavia and Holland say that smallpox is increasingly prevalent in Germany, with an unusual percentage of fatalities owing to the decreased power of resistance

### ARMY OF FRANCE BOLDLY SWEEPS ON

#### French Occupy Many Villages and Small Towns in Their Advance on Retiring Germans--Army of Republic Advances Beyond Ham on Somme and Chauny on the Oise.

### GEN. MAUDE MAKES STILL MORE GAINS

#### British Take Village of Bapriz and Part of Important Town of Bakubah.

London, Mar. 19.—The following official communication was issued this evening regarding the British troops in Mesopotamia:

"During Saturday night General Maude's troops effected a crossing of the Diala river, and occupied the village of Bapriz and a part of the town of Bakubah, on the left bank of the river. The enemy retired hastily toward Khankeban."

"Bakubah is a prosperous town, spread over a considerable extent of the river bank, and is a good supply center. The inhabitants are friendly and ready to trade."

"Bakubah lies about twenty-five miles northeast of Bagdad on the Diala."

### GEN. STOKELBURG SLAIN BY MEN IN PETROGRAD

#### Distinguished Himself by Keeping Cow for Milk in Jap War when Soldiers were Starving.

Petrograd, via London, March 19.—One of the few men of prominence who were killed during the revolution was General Stokelburg. General Stokelburg won notoriety in the Japanese war by transporting a cow to the front on a special train to supply himself and family with milk at a time when his army was starving. His house was entered by soldiers who were sent to arrest him. The general asked for leave to retire to his private apartment, from where he opened fire with a machine gun. He was later overpowered and killed.

### SUBMARINE KILLS EIGHT RELIEF MEN

London, March 19.—A boat containing the first, second and third mates and five seamen of the Dutch steamer Soleine, chartered by the Belgian relief commission, has been shelled by a submarine, and all the occupants killed according to a Reuters despatch from Stavanger.

### TEAR DOWN KAISER'S PICTURE IN WASHINGTON

Washington, March 19.—Patriotic students in Central High School here today tore down from the walls of a class room a picture of Emperor William of Germany, and hung in its place a photograph of President Wilson, decorated with two American

### ENEMY DEVASTATES COUNTRY AS HE FALLS BACK—NUMEROUS VILLAGES FIRED BY RETREATING HUNS—FRUIT TREES DESTROYED AND FIELDS OVERTURNED BY MINES—INHABITANTS LEFT WITHOUT FOOD OR SHELTER.

Paris, Mar. 19.—The French troops have occupied about twenty additional villages and small towns in their advance on the retreating Germans. They have gone beyond Ham, on the Somme river, and Chauny on the Oise, which brings them appreciably nearer to the St. Quentin-Leon lines.

The official statement of the war office tonight announcing these gains reads:

"In the course of the day our troops have gone beyond Ham, on the Somme river, and Chauny on the Oise. We hold a great number of localities between these two towns."

### RUSSIA WILL FIGHT WAR TO FINISH

#### Provincial Government at Petrograd Issues Important Manifesto to People of the Country.

London, Mar. 19.—A manifesto has been issued by the Russian provisional government to the nation, according to Reuters' Petrograd correspondent. In part the manifesto follows:

"Citizens: The great work has been accomplished. By a powerful stroke the Russian people have overthrown the old regime. A new Russia is born after long years of struggle."

"The heroic efforts of the army crushed under the cruel weight of internal disorganization; the appeals of the national representatives, who were united in view of the national danger, were powerless to lead the Emperor and his government into the path of union with the people. Thus, when Russia, by the illegal and disastrous acts of her governors, was faced with the greatest disasters the people had to take the power into their own hands."

**Provisional Government.**

"With unanimous revolutionary spirit the people, fully realizing the seriousness of the moment and the firm will of the Duma, established a provisional government, which considers that it is its sacred duty to realize the national ideal and lead the country into the bright path of free civil organization. The government believes that the lofty spirit of patriotism which the people have shown in the struggle against the old regime will also animate our gallant soldiers on the battlefields."

"On its side, the government will do its utmost to provide the army with everything necessary to bring the war to a victorious conclusion."

### TO MOBILIZE 48 REGIMENTS

#### The 62nd of St. John Included in New Plan of Military Organization.

Ottawa, Mar. 19.—Instructions were issued today for the mobilization of forty-eight city battalions under the new plan of militia re-organization. The eastern city corps are: London division—7th Fusiliers; London; 21st, Windsor; 22nd, Woodstock; 25th, St. Thomas. Toronto division—2nd Queen's Own, 10th Grenadiers, 48th, 109th, 110th Toronto; 13th, Hamilton; 19th St. Catharines; 35th, Brantford; 91st, Hamilton; 51st, S. S. Marie. Kingston-Ottawa division—14th, Kingston; 15th, Belleville; 41st, Brockville; 43rd and Governor-General's Foot Guards, Ottawa; 57th, Peterboro.

### U. S. TO BUILD SIXTY CHASERS OF U-BOATS

Washington, March 19.—Construction immediately at New York navy yard of sixty submarine chasers, deliveries to begin in from sixty to eighty days, was ordered late today by Secretary Daniels. The boats will cost \$30,000 each. Forty can be laid down in the next few days.

The emperor's likeness disappeared before officers of the school cadet corps had opportunity to present to Miss Marie Siber, teacher of German, a resolution protesting against the presence of a "murderer's picture" and demanding its removal.

### NATIONAL EMERGENCY IN THE U. S.

#### President Wilson Authorizes Navy Department to Spend \$115,000,000 to Speed up Naval Construction.

Washington, Mar. 19.—President Wilson late today authorized the navy department to spend \$115,000,000 to speed up naval construction and to buy small auxiliary craft.

Congress, at its last session, authorized the president to sanction the expenditure and authorized an issue of bonds to raise the money. The president's decision is one of the steps considered to meet the submarine menace.

The president's act was the first official recognition of a "national emergency." He also will authorize the suspension of the eight-hour laws on naval construction, and authorize payment of time and a half for overtime, as provided by act of congress.

### AMERICAN FUGITIVE IN MONCTON

#### Charles E. Thomas is Wanted in Massachusetts on a Charge of Taking Money from Bank—Has Prison Record.

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, March 14.—Charles E. Thomas, of Boston, is under arrest here pending his extradition. The arrest was made in Hillsboro by Chief of Police Rideout, of this city, who received word from Chief Crowley, of Boston that Thomas is wanted in Needham on a charge of taking money from a bank.

The Boston police records show that the man was convicted there in 1913 for forgery and grand larceny and served a term in prison. His wife accompanied him on his trip to Hillsboro.

He is an interesting fact that the British are now holding practically the line which Joffre chose for an attempt to make a stand during the great retreat, but was unable to hold under the great pressure of the Germans."

### THE ENEMY BOMBARDS RAMSGATE

#### Germans Sink British Torpedo Boat Destroyer and Damage Another—British Merchantman Sunk.

London, March 19, 5:35 p. m.—"Enemy destroyers shelled the undefended watering place of Ramsgate on Saturday night. They retired hurriedly before our local forces and escaped in the darkness. It was not possible to ascertain the damage inflicted on them."

"At almost the same time enemy destroyers engaged one of our destroyers on patrol to the eastward of the Straits of Dover, sinking her with a torpedo. She returned the fire, using torpedoes and guns. The result is not known. There were eight survivors from the crew. All the officers were drowned."

"A second British destroyer was torpedoed, but not seriously damaged, whilst picking up the survivors from the first. A British merchantman in the northern part of the Downs was sunk by a torpedo during Saturday night."

### EIGHT MEN FROM NEW BRUNSWICK IN CASUALTIES

Ottawa, March 19, 9:15 p. m. list—Infantry.

Presumed to have died—

E. W. Saunders, 41 Hillyard street, St. John, N. B.

A. C. Fisher, Newton Mills, N. S.

J. M. McLeod, Summerside, P. E. I.

Wounded—

J. K. Long, 256 Gullford street, West St. John, N. B.

James Madden, New Waterford, N. S.

M. L. Beck, Hunters' Home, N. B.

E. W. Bluffe, Collins, N. B.

C. P. Dodge, Spa Springs, N. S.

Henry Breaux, Gratton, N. B.

D. A. McGilchay, Harcourt, N. B.

Lt. H. J. Flemming, Woodstock, N. B.

C. B. Youngs, L'Anse-au-Loup, N. S.

A. G. Lent, Weymouth, N. S.

Wm. Kelly, 722 Robie street, Halifax, N. S.

J. H. MacKenzie, Bonaventure, N. S.

W. A. Blanchard, Bathurst, N. B.

Missing, believed prisoner—

R. H. Green, Lantz siding, N. S.

C. J. Twamley, 51 West street, Halifax, N. S.

### SMALLPOX OUTBREAK IN NORTH GERMANY

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