The St. John Standard

VOL. IX., NO. 32 | TWELVE PAGES. | TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 1, 1917. | WEATHER—FAIR | PRICE TWO CENTS

ARMY OF BRITAIN HURLS BACK HUN ATTACKS; FRENCH AND CANADIANS GAIN MORE GROUND

15 PRUSSIAN AEROPLANES CONQUERED

British Flyers in After Supper Battle Perform Thrilling Feats.

ONE BRITISH AVIATOR LANDS AMONG CANADIANS

Teuton Machines Set on Fire and Observation Balloon Destroyed by Intrepid Airmen.

By Cable to The Associated Press

With The British Armies in France, Via London, Friday.—The German airmen had one of the greatest surprises of their lives late yesterday. The day had been heavily overcast until nearly six o'clock in the evening, when the clouds suddenly thinned and the sun broke through. A few German machines had been sighted well back of their lines during the obscured period, but when the sun shone out several enemy squadrons, which had been housed all day, came out to stretch their wings in the slanting afternoon's rays.

British Pounce on Huns

They had scarcely taken the air when the British machines pounced upon them, and in the after-tea-time fighting which ensued several German machines were seen to crash and eight others to be driven down completely out of control. They are believed to have been destroyed.

Between six and eight o'clock the air was filled with wonderful incidents of daring. There were running fights and general melee. One distinguished young Britisher, who but recently returned to the air after several months of rest deliberately "sat over an enemy aerodrome" and watched six enemy machines leave the ground and begin to climb toward him. He was sitting at 13,000 feet and calmly remained there until the leader of the challenging planes had attained about 6,000 feet.

Stranger in the Flock

In the meantime he had noticed that one of the hostile "birds" was a stranger. It had a long tail and a very short nose. The Englishman, however, did not stop to worry about it. He dived at the highest of the climbers and gave him two bursts from his machine gun. Down went the German in a crash just outside a bit of woodland.

While this little action was going on five other Germans had formed between the British plane and his home line. Firing as he went, the Englishman tried to break through the formation, but failed. Then he turned away, as if about to attempt an escape toward the south.

All the Germans started in pursuit. One of them soon outdistanced the others and was approaching the Englishman when the latter whirled about and fired into the German at point blank range and saw his machine burst into flame.

Next in line was the long tailed, short nosed stranger.

"I drove him down, too," was the pilot's report, "but after falling a great distance he flattened out and was apparently all right."

Riddled With Bullets

A young khaki clad pilot was carried far from his own aerodrome, but managed to cross the British line safely just before nightfall. His machine was riddled with bullets, but he was unhurt. Asked to tell about his adventures, he merely shrugged his shoulders and said:—

"Just had a bit of luck, thats all."

Not content with felling fifteen hostile machines during their brief flying interval yesterday, the British airmen also downed one observation balloon and sallied forth under the stars last night in a great bombarding expedition, during which they upset three German trains bringing troops toward the front. Two of the trains were completely derailed and the engine of the third appeared to explode.

One of the British pilots during the raid temporarily lost his bearings. He was fired at from the ground, some of the projectiles being in the nature of greenish colored rockets. In the glare of these he happily saw a supply depot just beneath him, where upon he let go one of his bombs and obtained a direct hit, the depot disappearing in a great flame. All the British machines returned safely, despite the darkness of the night.

Expert Prussians There

The German evidently have brought more of their best pilots opposite the British front to meet the determined aerial offensive which has been in progress since early in April. Most of the machines met nowadays are handled in a manner far above the

(Continued on page 2)

BRITISH REPULSE DESPERATE GERMANS ALONG THE SCARPE AND FRENCH TAKE TRENCHES

Teutons Attack New Positions Held by King George's Men Between Monchy-Les-Preuxand the Scarpe River.

BRITISH AIRMEN DO IMMENSE AMOUNT OF DAMAGE TO ENEMY

French Make Poweful Attack in the Champagne Region and Capture Several Fortified Lines of Trenches.

London, April 30—The British official communication issued this evening says:

"An attack made by the enemy during the day upon our new positions between Monchy-Les-Preux and the Scarpe river was completely repused. The hostile artillery has been active on both banks of the Scarpe.

"There was great activity in the air yesterday and during the night bombs were dropped with effect on a number of points behind the enemy's lines, causing several fires and in one case a large explosion. Three enemy trains were also hit by our bombs.

"The enemy fought hard to protect the points attacked. In the course of the fighting ten German aeroplanes were brought down and ten others driven down out of control. Fifteen of our machines are missing."

French Capture Trench

Paris, April 30—In a powerful attack today in the Champagne region the French troops captured several fortified lines of trenches in the neighborhood of Mont Carnillet, to a depth of five hundred to a thousand metres, according to the war office report issued tonight. The text of the statement reads:

"Quite violent artillery actions took place between St. uentin and the Oise, and on the Chemin-Des-Dames. There was grenade fighting the sector of Hurtbise Farm.

"In Champagne, after spirited artillery preparation, our infantry at 12.40 o'clock delivered an attack against the German lines on both sides of Mont Garnillet. To the west we captured several fortified lines of trenches from that ground as far as South of Beine to a depth varying from 500 to 1,000 metres. To the east we pushed our lines forward on the north slopes, northeast of Mont Haut, as far as the approaches to the road between Naurey and Moronvilliers.

Violent Artillery Duel

"Violent artillery fighting continues in that region. In the Bois Le Pretre we carried out efficacious fires on the German organizations.

"On April 29 our pilots brought down four German aeroplanes; six other enemy machines, seriously hit, descended within their lines, where they were forced to make a landing.

"Our bombing aeroplanes dropped projectiles on the aviation fields at Colmar, Habsheim and Frescati (a suburb of Metz). In addition to the railway stations at Ars, Noveant, Amagne-Lucquy and Betheniville. The Faverger bridge and enemy bivouacs were likewise successfully bombarded.

Bulgars Repulsed

"Eastern theatre: April 29: On the night of April 28-29 a Bulgarian counter attack against the positions recently captured by the British troops was completely repulsed. There were artillery actions along the whole front, especially in the British sector.

"Belgian communication: At various points along the Belgian front the day was marked by artillery duels. In the region of Steenstrate and Het Sas lively grenade fighting took place. Threw as considerable aerial activity. A Belgian aviator after an engagement above Leke brought down a German biplane inside the enemy lines."

PROPORTIONAL VOTING TOPIC IN THE HOUSE

Mr. Turiff Favors Swiss Plan of Elections of Constituencies —Lengthy Debate.

Ottawa, April 30—Mr. Turriff in introducing his resolution on proportionate representation explained to the house the system that would be followed. Under the plan most favored from five to seven constituencies would be grouped and the group would vote as a whole for their representatives. Each voter would cast his vote for first, second, third, fourth or fifth choice according to the number to be elected.

"Proportional voting would not, in my judgment have any effect upon the relative standing of the parties," said Mr. Turriff. The liberal party might lose a few seats and the conservative party might lose a few because there would be certain other groups throughout the country who would be able to elect a certain number of members to the house. The labor men, the Socialists, the Nationalists or the farmers would probably under proportional representation be able to elect a certain number of members."

Less Personal Strife

It would bring out a better class of candidates since with large districts there would not be the personal strife that enters into contests under the present system. It would undoubtedly result in reducing bribery and corruption since with larger districts it would be more difficult to influence elections by swinging votes.

It had ben argued that the new system would operate to wipe out large majorities which were essential to good government. Mr. Turriff disagreed with this view and pointed out that even under the present electoral system it was possible for governments to carry on business with a majority of only two or three.

Mr. Turriff stated that he was not asking the government to adopt legislation this session. He thought, however, that the government might well consent to the appointment of a special committee to give the whole subject consideration.

Sir Thomas White in replying dealing with the matter in an academic way without attempting to state positive views for or against the proposition, it was one with which general public had not greatly concerned itself, one with which the public was not generally familiar, but the fact could not bt disguised that it had attracted a great deal of attention and had been given a great deal of thought by men interested in the subject of constitutional and electoral reform. It had been adopted in Belgium, Finland, Switzerland and Japan. The fact that it had been adopted in those countries, however, did not necessarily means that it would work well in Canada.

Hon. Mr. Graham

Hon. G. P. Graham said that the present parliamentary system was supposed to be on the basis of representation by population, and yet such was not the case. For instance after the next election Grenville, with 17,000 population would have one member, while Leeds and Brockville with 35,000 population would have the same representation.

W. A. Buchanan, Lethbridge, believed that proportional representation would give more equitable representation and better representatives.

G. W. Kyte, Richmond, gave credit to Earl Grey, former governor-general of Canada for introducing the subject of proportional representation into this country.

CLARK WARNS HIS LIBERAL COLLEAGUES

Member for Red Deer is Opposed to General Election Now.

TERRIBLE RESPONSIBILITY WOULD REST ON PARTY

Liberal Member for Halifax, Mr. MacLean, Rebuked by Dr. Clark—Split in Ranks.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Ont., April 30—Solemn warning to his Liberal colleagues that if they forced the country into a general election at the present time a terrible responsibility would attach to their action was voiced in parliament tonight by Dr. Michael Clark, the noted radical and free trader from Red Deer.

Dr. Clark's speech, which profoundly affected the house, came at the close of a sharp debate upon a motion by A. K. MacLean of Halifax, calling upon the government to appoint no more senators until after the war. After rebuking the member for Halifax for stating that the government held office "by the grace of the opposition," Dr. Clark said that he regretted threats to national unity from outbreaks of partisanship, and he went on eloquently to plead with both parties to drop politics and set their hearts upon the winning of the war.

The member for Pictou, Mr. E. M. MacDonald, had charged the government with contemplating an election in 1915. I am not going to revert to what happened in 1915, said Dr. Clark.

Vast Issues of 1917.

I am thinking too much of the vast issues of 1917. All I know is that there was no election in 1915, and being so, I am willing to believe that none was contemplated. And this I further know, that since 1915 the government has kept before it the objects upon which all Canadians should agree at the present time.

Wheeling around and facing his Liberal colleagues, Dr. Clark concluded with a sincerity that rang through every word, "If an election comes, tremendous blame will be attached to the party which shall be responsible for plunging this country into the throes of conflict at a time when our sons are falling by the thousands and when it will have the effect of injuring harmony and national unity."

Conservative cheers greeted Dr. Clark's ringing challenge to the patriotism of his own party, but his colleagues sat in silence. Not often had the member for Red Deer so deeply stirred the best impulses of the house.

Mr. McLean's motion was lost on division.

In the corridors of the house after adjournment it was freely conceded that the speech marked a definite break between the Red Deer Liberal and the Quebec and maritime wing of the party that is clamoring for an election.

CANADIAN TROOPS CAPTURE TRENCHES NEAR ARLEUX; ARE CLOSE TO FRESNOY

The Boys From Dominion Iron Out Another Crease on Line Between Them and Von Hindenburg's Big Army.

GERMAN GUNFIRE INCREASING IN VOLUME ALL ALONG LINE

Details of Saturday's Struggle on Canadian Front Indicate Sanguinary Nature of Fighting—Two Western Regiments Show their Mettle.

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, April 30—(By Stewart Lyon, Special Correspondent of the Canadian Press) — Another crease in the front was ironed out today. Enemy trench elements were captured to the north and east of Arleux, bringing our troops in this sector close upon to the wire defences before the village of Fresnoy.

The German gunfire is increasing in volume as the menace to their positions becomes more serious.

Canadians Use Bayonet.

Further details now available of Saturday's struggle on the Canadian front for the village of Arleux indicate the most sanguinary nature of the fighting, especially in the case of two western Canadian battalions which, seriously engaged by machine gun fire evened up the score with the bayonet.

The enemy appears to be incurably treacherous. An instance of this character, has been officially reported by the colonel of one of the battalions which took part in the capture of Arleux. It is that a group of the enemy who threw down their arms and threw up their hands when the first wave of our assaulting troops came along. Afterward the enemy party picked up their rifles and began shooting our men in the back. Ahead of the second wave of Canadians came a scout, who saw the "dirty trick," as he describes it himself, from a shelter. He sniped ten of the treacherous group and then going forward, bayonetted the remaining two.

Treacherous Group.

Sharing honor for cool bravery with this avenger of treachery is a soldier who had been crippled by having to wear boots which did not fit him. He limped forward with his battalion to its first objective. There, as if waiting for him, he found a pair of new gosche boots. Siting down in the battlefield, with shells exploding in every direction and machine gun bullets flying around him, the soldier tried on the German boots, found them to be a good fit and went on, rejoicing, to the final objective.

The spirit of the Canadian troops in all the recent advances has been admirable, our officers declare. The officers praise the men unstintedly for the way in which they go forward unwaveringly under fire. One of the battalions has a football which was kicked forward by the men of the unit, through shell holes and across shell and mine craters, to the summit of Vimy Ridge on the first day of that battle. The contrast between this spirit in our troops and that of the enemy is very marked. Prisoners no longer talk of the certainty of German victory. Some taken recently say that continued losses for a few months at the rate suffered recently on the western front will destroy completely the morale of the German troops.

WAR CONFERENCES ON AT WASHINGTON.

Washington, April 30—Preliminary exchanges of views having been completed, members of France's war mission and representatives of the United States began detailed conferences to solev the infinite number of difficult problems related to American co-operation in the war. All day long conferences were in progress. The most important was one at the White House between President Wilson and Rene Viviani, head of the mission. No information regarding the nature of the talk was made public.

RELIEF FOR RELATIVES OF DROWNED DREDGEMEN.

Ottawa, April 30.—Mr. Geo. W. Kyte of Richmond has given notice of a resolution in the Commons favoring action by the government towards meeting the claims of the wives, families and dependents of the men who lost their lives through the sinking of the government dredge Cape Breton off Shad Rock, N. S., last January.

CANADIAN CASUALTIES NOW 12,359

Another Long List of Boys from Maritime Provinces who Fought Gloriously for King and Empire.

Otawa, April 30.—Including the list issued tonight, the total number of casualties reported by the militia department, since Easter Monday, the day the Canadians captured Vimy Ridge has reached 12,359.

Infantry.

Reported Missing—
J. M. McKay, Summerside, P. E. I.
Died of Wounds—
A. Spencer, Caledonia Mines.
S. R. McConnell, Blackville, N. B.
S. Linder, Glassville, N. B.
Shell Shock—
J. W. McMahon, Wolfville, N. S.
Wounded—
S. B. E. Northrup, St. John.
J. Walsh, New Aberdeen, N. S.
G. Reilly, Springhill, N. S.
H. Wheaton, Moncton, N. B.
R. B. McKay, Moncton, N. B.
C. Archibald, Windsor, N. S.
G. Laterneau, Campbellton, N. B.
A. K. Heman, Dartmouth, N. S.
J. W. Heckbert, Bedeque, P. E. I.
Corporal G. M. McLaughlin, St. John
F. Walker, St. John.
F. W. Lewis, Chatham, N. B.
A. Forbes, James River, N. S.
F. N. Keddy, Waterville, N. S.
E. S. Nickerson, Sable Island.
Lieut. R. M. Barbour, Fredericton, N. B.
G. Russell, Canso, N. S.

Mounted Rifles.

Previously Reported Missing, now Not Missing.
A. R. Hayward, Coldstream, N. B.

Artillery

Wounded—
Bomb. F. J. Bateman, Bathurst, N.B.
Driver A. H. Innes, Halifax.
Gunner J. Brewer, Burtt's Corner, N. B.
Died of Wounds—
Gunner H. A. MacGillivray, New Glasgow, N. S.

Mounted Services.

Presumed to have Died—
W. L. Ford, Whitneyville, N. B.
J. S. Clayton, St. John, N. B.

Service.

Killed—
G. N. C. Douglas, Head of Hillsborough, P. E. I.

Infantry.

Killed in Action—
C. W. Cooke, St. John, N. B.
A. J. Goldie, St. John, N. B.

(Continued on page 2)

MAY DAY MAY MEAN TROUBLE FOR TEUTONS

Strikes May Occur in Germany and Austria Today, a European Holiday.

OCCASION TO BE OBSERVED IN THE UNITED STATES.

Many Strikes in Republic Averted by Advances in Wages of Thousands.

New York, April 30.—May Day this year may prove an occasion of great significance, especially in European countries where serious strikes are threatened. In this country a number of important labor troubles are pending, but are possible of adjustment. Many strikes have been averted in the United States by advances in wages to about half a million persons within the past week or so, principally in the coal mining and textile trades.

European Situation.

From Sweden, Germany, and other European countries have come repeated rumors of threatened strikes and measures of violence. Recent despatches voice a deep and widespread apprehension that the customary celebrations on the part of Socialists and workers will assume proportions of grave consequence.

The same impression seems prevalent among Socialists in this country. The war and the economic conditions arising therefrom have created a general situation of unrest and dissatisfaction that, many believe, needs only such an occasion as May Day to bring to a head. Evidence of this belief can be found in the fact that parades and processions, usually an important part of May Day demonstrations will be dispensed with in many parts of the country, because they are regarded as too likely lead to disorders. In most instances, the demonstrations of Socialists and labor organizations will be confined to mass meetings indoors, although there will be a few outdoor gatherings in this city.

Expert Opinion.

Among those who expect May Day to prove of more than usual significance this year is Moris Hillquit, a lawyer with offices at 30 Church street and a Socialist of international repute.

"While Socialists in this country," Mr. Hillquit said today, "cannot keep in close touch with the situation in Europe, because of the uncertainty and delay in the transmission of mail and cable despatches, from advices received, I should not be at all surprised if the demonstrations on May Day should prove this year to be of more than usual significance. The first of May, in Europe, is a holiday of peculiar interest. It is the only really international holiday. Prior to the outbreak of the war, it was used to show the international solidarity of socialism and labor. In 1915 and 1916, of course, there was not much of a celebration.

Russian Revolution.

"This year, however, the Russian revolution and the agitation in Germany and Austria may lead to demonstrations of immediate importance as bearing upon the war situation. In Russia there is some talk of making May 1 an official holiday, and rumors of elaborate preparations for a May Day celebration in Germany have also reached this country. If they really assume large dimensions, coming on top of the rise of the people in Russia and in the situation of general unrest and dissatisfaction in Germany and Austria, they are more than likely to lead to serious risings against the government. This applies, I might say, particularly to Austria.

"Of course it is difficult to foresee just what will develop," he continued. "The fact that May Day celebrations usually take the form of parades and processions, that mobs of people move about from place to place, makes them explosive under certain conditions. All mobs are apt to get out of hand.

"As for May Day in this country, such celebrations as we may have will be peace demonstrations, if not in form, in substance, at least. I have found that the bulk of the workers and practically all Socialists, with very few exceptions, are still by no means in favor of war, and they are decidedly opposed to conscription."