

THE WEATHER.
Maritime—increasing east and southeast winds, with rain.

The St. John Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

OPERA HOUSE
TODAY—Afternoon—2.15 and 3.45.
Evening—7.15 and 8.45.
MADAME X

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RUSSIANS ABOUT TO STRIKE BLOW THAT WILL CRUSH TURKS IN EAST

Next Few Days Should Bring News Of Big Achievement By Russians

Believed Russian Announcement of Advance on Mosul Will Shortly be Followed by News that Bagdad Railway Has Already Been Cut by Czar's Army.

TURKS IN DESPERATE POSITION FRANTICALLY APPEAL TO BERLIN, BUT HELP ARRIVES TOO LATE—RUSSIANS PRESSING ON REAR OF THE OTTOMAN ARMY FROM TWO DIRECTIONS—BAGDAD, RUSSIAN GOAL, ALMOST CERTAIN CONQUEST.

London, May 16.—The Russian official statement, announcing that the advance on Mosul continues, probably veils important news. The Russian communications are generally a day or two late in announcing the actual attainments and it is considered not unlikely that the Bagdad railway, which runs along the left bank of the Tigris and has been for a couple of days within cavalry ride of the Russian advance, is already cut.

The Russian advance in its direction has been swift and silent towards an easy road which leads to Mosul, or ancient Nineveh, where the German Bagdad railway joined the Tigris.

Germany has hurriedly despatched forces, it is believed, to the Turkish centre at Erzincan, to try to stem the Russian advance, but apparently these efforts have come too late.

It is believed that this city, with its antiquated defenses, will not be able to long delay the Russian advance. The progress of these forces already has broken the backbone of the Turkish communications between Diarbakr and Mosul, and the Turkish armies covering these two points are now separated except for a circuitous road too far in the rear to be of much service.

Some 200 miles southward the other group of Russian forces, drawn upon the Persian-Turkish border before Khanikin, is prepared to strike through to Bagdad.

The combined pressure from these two directions upon the Turkish rear has placed the entire Turkish army in Mesopotamia, estimated at between six and seven divisions, in the greatest jeopardy. According to the latest despatches the Turks have been forced to relax to a great extent their resistance to the British expeditionary army and rush troops northward. Thus it is thought the successes which have been won by the Russians will soon have an effect on the fortunes of the British campaign.

STRIKING FROM TWO DIRECTIONS AT REAR OF TURKS' ARMY.
Petograd, May 16, via London, 4.25 p. m.—With the advance of Russian forces southward from the Urumiah region toward Mosul, in Assyria, on the Tigris, which resulted recently in the occupation of Rivandousa, the Russians are now bringing fresh pressure of the most powerful sort upon the rear of the Turkish armies in Mesopotamia.

The development of this new line of attack has greatly enhanced the chances of success of the Russian campaign in Mesopotamia, which holds forth the hope now entertained in Petograd of bringing not only Bagdad, the holy city of the Caliphs, but the entire historic country lying between the Tigris and the Euphrates under Russian dominion.

Of the two groups of Russian armies which are now threatening Mesopotamia overland, the one already mentioned has crossed the Mesopotamian border and is marching rapidly toward Mosul. The only serious obstacle between it and this goal is the ancient fortified city of Jezreh-Ibn-Qamar, on an island in the Tigris, 130 miles southwest of Diarbakr.

The Official Statement.

Petograd, via London, May 16 (8.25 p. m.)—The following official communication was issued today:

"In the region of Lake Doljo, north of Lake Miazol, Germans, in considerable strength, attacked toward eight o'clock in the evening and succeeded in partially capturing our advance trenches. We expelled the enemy by a counter-attack, and drove him back toward his own trenches.

"In the region north of Lake Miazol the enemy carried out a violent bombardment the entire night of the 14th. Enemy aeroplanes threw bombs on many places on our lines.

"In Galicia, in the region north of the Brase-Jenik road, and in the region of the Lower Stripa, the enemy attempted to approach our trenches, but was repulsed by our fire.

"In the Caucasus region, in the direction of Diarbakr, we repulsed with fire, an enemy attempt at an offensive.

"In the direction of Mosul our advance continues."

Austrian Success on Italian Front.

Berlin, May 16, via wireless to Sayville.—Italian first line positions in several sectors have been captured by the Austrians, after concentrated

YESTERDAY'S EVENTS IN THE WAR THEATRES TOLD IN SHORT METR.

Progress for the Austrians against the Italians in Southern Tyrol and on the Lower Isonzo, and a continuation of the Russian advance through Kurdistan toward Mosul, their objective being the Bagdad railway, are related in the latest official communications from Vienna and Petograd. In the other theatres there is much artillery fighting, but little activity by the infantry.

The Austrians in the region south and southeast of Trent in Southern Tyrol, and reported by Vienna to have captured Italian trenches at several points, taken prisoner 2,566 men, among them 67 officers, and captured seven guns and eleven machine guns. The entry of Austrians into Italian trenches east of Montefalco, near the Gulf of Trieste, and the capture here of additional officers and men, is also recorded by Vienna.

Petograd reports that the Russian force which recently drove out the Turks from the Rowandus region is keeping up its progress westward toward Mosul and the Tigris river region, and drawing nearer to the Bagdad railway. To the northwest, around Diarbakr, the Turks attempted an attack on the Russians, but were repulsed.

On the greater portion of the line in Belgium and France the artillery of both the Germans and the Entente Allies continues active, being especially vigorous in Belgium, in the regions of Dixmude and St. Georges, and in France, around the Avocourt wood, Hill 304 and Le Mort Homme, northwest of Verdun. The Germans have directed another infantry attack against the French positions west of Hill 304, for the possession of which there has been much sanguinary fighting, but the manoeuvre was again checked by the French curtain of fire.

The Germans in the lake region between Dvinsk and Vilna attacked and occupied advanced Russian trenches near Lake Dolja. The Russians, however, in a counter-attack expelled the invaders and drove them back to their former positions. In the Lower Stripa region of Galicia the Germans launched an attack against the Russian trenches, but were repulsed.

In spite of all the enemy's efforts. Three officers and 140 men were taken prisoner, and one machine gun and a quantity of war material were captured.

"One enemy airplane dropped bombs on Kostanjic and on several plainly indicated sanitation establishments without causing damage.

"Our artillery heavily shelled enemy dugouts near Piava, and in the Tolmino sector. During several infantry enterprises on this front one officer and 132 soldiers were made prisoners.

"Near Pondebba, there have been infantry engagements between our troops and Bersaglieri.

"Several Italian attacks on the Col. Di Lana and Treosol sector were repulsed."

A Turkish Lie Refuted.

London, May 16, 3.40 p. m.—A Turkish official statement, received here today says:

"An enemy monitor which attempted to enter a harbor northwest of the island of Kesten came under the surprise of our fire, burst into flames and foundered. Several explosions were heard.

Regarding this report the British Admiralty says:

"There is no truth in the statement that one of our monitors had exploded on board her caused by enemy artillery, or foundered."

BRIG-GEN. MARCHAND REPORTED KILLED.

London, May 16.—Brigadier-General Marchand, of Pashoda fame, has been killed in action, according to a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company, from Paris today.

UPRISING IN CHINA GROWS MORE SERIOUS

Armed Japs Among 40 Rebels Killed in Fighting at Tsinan-Fu in Province of Shantung.

Peking, May 16.—There was continuous fighting throughout Monday night in the foreign settlement at Tsinan-Fu, province of Shantung. Forty rebels were killed, including among them being a number of armed Japanese. The rebels have field guns.

There has been considerable disorder in the province of Shantung recently, where the rebels are reported to have captured a number of important towns between Tsing-Tau, at the head of Kiao-Chow Bay and Tsinan-Fu, the capital of the province of Shantung. From the former German base at Tsing-Tau the rebels operated along the Japanese controlled German railway, where the localist troops were declared to be the only ones as the Japanese troops prevented them from entering the railway zone after rebuffs. The Japanese, the report says, were not hindering the rebels from stripping big guns, arms and ammunition over the railway.

HARDING BACK TO FORMER POST IN FOREIGN OFFICE.

London, May 17.—According to a statement published here Baron Hardinge, former viceroy of India, will shortly succeed Sir Arthur Nicholson, under secretary of the foreign office, who is retiring on account of ill-health. Lord Hardinge would thus resume the post he occupied before becoming viceroy of India.

ATTACKING HILL 304 IS LIKE HAMMERING AT A STONE WALL

GERMANS LAUNCH FIERCE DRIVES BUT UNABLE TO MOVE FRENCH FROM POSITIONS—SPIRITED FIGHTING ON WHOLE FRENCH LINE AROUND VERDUN.

Paris, May 16.—The official communication, issued by the war office tonight reads:

"An enemy detachment which attempted to surprise one of our small posts in the region of the Butte Mesnil was repulsed by means of grenades.

"In the Argonne an artillery action of some intensity occurred in the sectors of Four De Paris, Les Courtes Chaussees and Vaquois.

"On the left bank of the Meuse the bombardment was quite spirited in the region of the Avocourt wood, Hill 304 and Le Mort Homme. An attack against our positions west of Hill 304 was stopped by our curtain of fire.

"East of the Meuse and in the Woivre there were small artillery duels, the cannonading was intermittent on the rest of the front."

"Belgian communication: The artillery action was particularly intense today. Concentrated fires were carried out by our heavy batteries against the German defensive organizations on the east bank of the Year, in the region of Dixmude. The sector south of St. Georges was subjected to reciprocal bombardments of great violence."

On British Front.

London, May 16 11.59 p. m.—The

LIBERAL PARTY EAST BECOMING A PATHETIC SPECTACLE

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, May 16.—"Under the leadership of the Carvells, Kyles, and Bilingualists the Liberal party of Canada is becoming a pathetic spectacle," says the Ottawa Journal editorially today. "On the bilingual issue Sir Wilfrid Laurier has entered a class which the Toronto Globe, the chief Liberal organ—and heaven knows a libel-bound enough one—designates a month ago as among 'Deadliest enemies' of Canada and the Empire. Hon. G. P. Graham, heretofore considered quite a respectable politician, has presented himself as the sort of politician who can trot down to Quebec to foment under false pretences. French-Canadian racial rancor against his own kin. Mr. Carvell, the haymaker of New Brunswick, finding that the allegations of grafting and profiteering which he fulminated in regards to shell and fuse contracts are being proved to be a filthy mess of partisan slander, takes refuge in attack upon Judge, Charles Davidson, who is conducting other investigations which have shown Liberal charges to be largely slanders; and we have no doubt Carroll and his kind will similarly attack Justices Duff and Sir William Meredith too before they are through.

Mr. Kyle, who in launching in the House of Commons his fuse charges led so colorfully and so insensitively that he momentarily scared nearly all of us half to death with apprehension of Canadian general degradation, has been shown to be only a political sample of the unclean bird whose name he bears. Liberalism in the West, the chief stronghold of Liberalism recently, is in honorable and outspoken revolt against the 'Deadliest enemies of the nation and the Empire.' The greatest orator and finest spirit of the Liberal party, Dr. Michael Clark, is heard in parliament condemning the tactics of the Carvells and Kyles; and we are much mistaken if there is not enough most of the Dominion, a rising flood of disgust and anger at the present dominating influences in the Liberal organization.

The exhibition which is being made by most of the leaders in parliament would be bad enough at any time; in the present time of Empire crises words cannot easily do it the justice its miserable style merits."

LAURIER WANTS TO QUIT BEFORE THE SHIP SINKS

Resignation as Leader of Liberal Party Has Been Informally Tendered—Party Caucus Yesterday to Discuss Successor Ends in Fiasco—Lemieux Favorite, Pugsley at Bottom of List with One Vote.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Ont., May 16.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier has informally tendered his resignation as leader of the Liberal party, and it is fully expected that the formal resignation will take place during the coming summer. With this in view an official caucus of Liberal members was held today to discuss the situation as regards the leadership of the party.

It ended in a fiasco with the party turmoil deepened rather than lessened. The western Liberals are still in a state of independence. It being recognized as hopeless for the Liberal party to go to the country with the slightest chance of success if Sir Wilfrid Laurier is to be the standard bearer, the sense of the caucus was taken as to his successor. The members present included a large proportion of Quebec representatives, and the result was that they combined on one man, while the English-speaking members were divided. Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux got the largest number of votes, and Hon. Frank Oliver came next, but a long way behind. E. M. MacDonald was third, Hon. Geo. P. Graham was fourth, A. K. MacLean was fifth, and Hon. William Pugsley got but a single vote.

It was intimated quite clearly that the western Liberals would not agree to support Mr. Lemieux, or any member from Quebec who voted for the bilingual resolution, and it was finally suggested that Mr. Graham should see N. W. Rowell, leader of the opposition in Ontario, and ask him to enter federal politics. It was pointed out by some, however, that Mr. Rowell had been an unequalled failure in Ontario politics, and that until he had shown some strength as a leader in provincial affairs he could hardly expect to get federal support for the leadership of the Liberal party at present.

A month ago when the bilingual question was discussed by the Liberals in caucus, Sir Wilfrid stated that as long as he was leader he expected the undivided support of the party. If the English-speaking Liberals did not support him, he would resign. He said they might look for another leader.

MUNITIONS BOARD WILL START PLANT BIG STRIKE ON BOSTON AND MAINE ROAD

To do Difficult Technical work in Loading Fuses, J. W. Flavelle Tells Duff-Meredith Commission.

1,400 Track Workers and Foremen Quit Work Last Night—Want More Pay and Start Half Holiday.

Ottawa, May 16.—A discussion as to the production of letters exchanged between Gen. Sir Sam Hughes and J. W. Flavelle, chairman of the imperial munitions board, and relating in part to the fuse contracts, was the most prominent feature of this afternoon's sitting of the fuse inquiry.

Mr. Flavelle, who was the witness, stated that there had been such correspondence, but he did not care to make it public, though he had no objection to placing the letters before the commission. E. F. B. Johnston, K. C., at once demanded their production, but Mr. I. F. Hellmuth, K. C., took the position that while anything relating to fuses was admissible, possible references to other matters in the same letters should not be examined.

After a lengthy discussion, the commission advised Mr. Flavelle to "exercise his best judgment" as to what bears on the inquiry when he gets together the correspondence referred to. The point as to whether the letters will be made public, or submitted only to the commission was apparently left open.

Another thing elicited from Mr. Flavelle was that from the start the American companies contracting for fuses have been behind in their deliveries and that the imperial munitions board itself is now establishing in Montreal a loading plant where the difficult technical work will be carried out. It is to be operated next month. Mr. Flavelle admitted that this purely Canadian industry had yet to demonstrate its workability.

Referring to the contract with the Edwards Valve Company for cart-ridge cases—a subject within the scope of the enquiry—Mr. Flavelle expressed the frank opinion that it never should have been made.

Examined on other lines, he said he had not heard any members of the shell committee laying claim to the profits from the contracts, and questioned as to what happened when the old committee was disbanded, asserted, "we just went in." It was at this point that the discussion ensued as to the production of what passed between Gen. Hughes and himself.

Boston, May 16.—Approximately 1,400 track workers and foremen employed on the lines of the Boston and Maine Railroad went out on strike tonight for a wage increase of 20 cents a day and a Saturday half holiday, according to officers of the International Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees.

The strike call was issued by A. E. Barker, of Detroit, international vice-president, who will direct the strike from this city.

Union leaders here asserted that 1,000 other workers, not affiliated with the brotherhood, would strike tomorrow, that the maintenance of way department of the road would be completely tied up, and at least 2,000 other workers would be thrown out of employment.

J. H. Hustin, president of the Boston and Maine system, said tonight that officers of the road had no knowledge of how many men had quit work, but that they feel certain that enough loyal trackmen and foremen remained to prevent such a tie-up as union men predicted. He added that no negotiations could be entered into with the International Brotherhood, because the road had a standing agreement with all its employes, irrespective of unions under which officials of the company and representatives of the men must discuss all differences.

RUMORED ATTEMPTS TO DYNAMITE LOCKS OF PANAMA CANAL

Panama, May 16.—The guns of one of the heavy batteries in Colon harbor were tested today, and it is announced the test was in every way satisfactory. A test still is to be made of the 14-inch guns.

The canal authorities are taking special precautions to safeguard the canal locks, owing to rumors that attempts might be made to dynamite them. The American steamer San Ramon, bound from San Francisco and Mazatlan, Mex., for New York, was subjected to a search prior to passing through the waterway. All the crew of the San Ramon were Americans, and there were no aliens aboard. The vessel carried a cargo of dye woods, she arrived at Cristobal today.

COLLIDE DURING FOG.

Queenstown, May 16.—The British steamer Kelvinbrae, outward bound, came into collision off Cork harbor during a fog today. The Kelvinbrae is still afloat, and is trying to reach harbor.