THE WEATHER.
Maritime—Moderate to fresh winds, generally fair and mild.

The St. John Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

OPERA HOUSE
TODAY MATINEE 2.15 TONIGHT 8.15
ROSSLEY MUSICAL CO.
"BABES IN THE WOOD"

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ARTILLERY DUELLING ONLY SIGN OF ACTIVITY ON VERDUN BATTLEFRONT

GOVERNMENT HAS REMOVED SECY. BLAIR

Action Follows Report of Commissioner Teed on Charges Against Public Works Official.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 13—The government of New Brunswick in session here tonight passed an order in council removing Harry M. Blair, secretary of the Public Works Department, from the provincial service. This action is the result of the finding of Commissioner M. G. Teed, who was appointed to conduct an enquiry into certain charges preferred against Mr. Blair. The charges were contained in an affidavit made by E. C. Colby, formerly of Concrete Constructions Ltd. One charge, that Mr. Blair had profited by the sale of gasolene to the Concrete Construction Company, was not sustained, nor was the charge that Mr. Blair had been paid by the contractor for the Normal School annex certain amounts from the profits of that work. The commissioner did find, however, that Blair had accepted from Mr. Colby a block of stock of the Concrete Constructions Company to the value of $10,000 and that this stock was given at a time when the company had a contract with the province for sand blasting and painting the steel bridges of the province. Mr. Blair claimed in defence that he was to be engaged as manager of Concrete Constructions in charge of their eastern business and that the stock was given him in connection with that arrangement. The commissioner, in his finding, reports that Mr. Blair was guilty of corruptly receiving stock of the Concrete Construction Company, Limited, he being secretary of the Department of Public Works at the time.

It is understood that Premier Clarke had an interview with Mr. Blair this morning and asked for his resignation. It is also alleged that the resignation was not forthcoming and tonight the government passed an order in council removing him.

COMING DEBATE ON BI-LINGUAL QUESTION LIVE TOPIC AT OTTAWA

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Ont., April 13—The coming debate in parliament of the Ontario bi-lingual controversy has cast a sinister shadow before it. For the moment interest in the return of General Sir Sam Hughes has been dwarfed by the depth of feeling which prevails over the proposed language resolution and today little else was discussed in the corridors of the house. There are those who go so far as to say that the country is on the eve of a general election, with racial supremacy and provincial rights as issues. They point out that if the English-speaking Liberals follow the trail blazed by Hon. George P. Graham in Montreal and support the bi-lingualists, and the French Conservatives put race and province before party and country, the government's control in the Commons would be seriously endangered, with but one possible result.

It is understood that the subject will be introduced to the house by Mr. Ernest Lapointe, Kamouraska, one of the most able and eloquent of the Liberal members. Both Mr. Lapointe and Sir Wilfrid Laurier made suggestive inquiries of the government in the house yesterday, and today the Liberal members have been conferring in groups on the subject.

It is asserted by some who are in a position to know the facts, that several of the English-speaking Liberals are strongly opposed to the opposition interfering with the question at all. In this connection the names of Michael Clarke, J. A. McMillan, and A. K. McLean are mentioned. Dr. Clark is the well-known radical from Red Deer, whose political principles would revolt at the idea of interference with provincial rights. Mr. McMillan represents the old county of Glengarry, and his Scotch constituents, Protestant and Catholic, would be likely to view with something more than passive displeasure, his allying himself with the bi-lingualists. A. K. MacLean is a Liberal, whose experience with the knowledge of the splendid manner in which the school question is handled in Nova Scotia, would probably incline him in favor of letting Ontario settle her own difficulties without federal interference.

What the attitude of the Quebec supporters of the government will be is very problematical and infuses a great element of uncertainty into the situation. It is hinted that a number or desertions is threatened, but that they will be confined to the private members, Messrs. Casgrain, Patenaude and Blondin standing by the government. "The government cannot count on the support of a single French Canadian outside of the cabinet," said an English-speaking Conservative member tonight. And as for the Liberals from Quebec, they will vote solidly for the resolution.

What the resolution to be introduced will set forth is still a mystery. It is believed as impossible that it will go so far as to demand federal disallowance of regulation 17, as it is thought that the traditional provincial rights policy of the Liberals could not possibly submit itself to such a right-about-face proposition. But the Conservatives take the position that the very fact that a resolution should be introduced at all is a violation of the principle of provincial autonomy and should be resisted to the end. "Never did the outlook for harmony and union between the races look darker," was the way one prominent parliamentarian summed up the situation tonight.

BOMBS SHIPPED EVEN TO SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS

Evidence so Far Obtained in Plot to Destroy Ships Carrying Munitions to Allies Indicates Conspiracy with Far-reaching Ramifications—Three More Arrests but Believed Ring Leaders are Still at Large.

New York, April 13—Three more arrests were made tonight in connection with the alleged conspiracy to destroy ships carrying war munitions to the Entente Allies by placing "fire bombs" in their cargoes. Warrants, it was announced, are out for two others, thus involving nine persons altogether.

The arrests tonight closely followed the arraignment before United States Commissioner Houghton of the four men taken in custody last night. The three additional prisoners are Carl Schmidt, chief engineer of the steamer Friedrich Der Grosse, of the North German Lloyd line, and Frederick Praedie, and Carl Paradis, assistants to Schmidt. The authorities still are looking for Charles Karbade, also an assistant engineer aboard the big German vessel interned here, and Walter T. Scheele, president of the New Jersey Agricultural and Chemical Company of Hoboken, where the bombs are alleged to have been made.

Assistant District Attorney Roger B. Wood, in charge of the prosecution, declares that the evidence thus far obtained indicates a conspiracy with far-reaching ramifications, including not only the shipment of bombs to all ports of the country, but to South America. He said the men, under arrest, and those for whom warrants are out probably were not the ringleaders in the plot.

The four prisoners arraigned today waived the formal reading of the complaint, made by Detective Sergeant Geo. D. Barnitz, who asserted that to divulge the sources of his information at this time would be against public policy. Captain Otto Wolpert, superintendent of the Atlas line piers of the Hamburg-American Steamship Company, and Captain Enno Bode, superintendent of the Hamburg-American line piers in Hoboken, N. J., each was held in $25,000 bail, while Ernest Becker, an electrician on the steamer Friedrich Der Grosse, and Captain Charles Von Kleist, superintendent of the New Jersey Agricultural and Chemical Company, each was held in $5,000 bail.

Bode and Wolpert were released on bonds. The others, however, were unable to obtain bail, and were paroled, in the custody of Captain William Moffley, in charge of the local bureau of the department of justice. A further examination was set for April 27.

LOSSES WERE MUCH BELOW 3000, SAYS BRITISH LEADER

Gen. Sir Percy Lake Denies Turkish Report About British Losses at Sannayyat, April 9.

London, April 13.—Lieut. Gen. Sir Percy Lake, commander of the British forces in Mesopotamia, states in a report received here today that the number of British troops killed or wounded in the attack on the Turks at Sannayyat, April 9, was much below the figure, 3,000, given in the Turkish official statement of April 11.

Replying on behalf of the foreign office to a question asked in the House of Lords concerning the Turkish report that some 3,000 British dead had been collected in front of the Turkish trenches after the attack on the ninth, Baron Sandhurst, Lord Chamberlain, said:

"General Lake reports that our total casualties were much below this figure. He satisfied himself by a personal inspection. An inquiry among the wounded themselves showed that the medical arrangements generally had been satisfactory. He also reports that the weather was very bad, and that on the twelfth there was a hurricane, accompanied by torrents of rain. The floods on both banks of the Tigris were increasing."

SAFE ARRIVAL OF CANADIAN TROOPS IS ANNOUNCED

Three Troop Ships with 8,597 Men, Including the 64th and Siege Battery.

Ottawa, April 13.—The safe arrival in England of three Canadian troop ships, with a total of 8,597 officers and men of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces aboard is officially announced through the chief press censor's office.

The Adriatic, which sailed from Canada on March 31, had on board the following troops: 64th Battalion, 38 officers and 1,088 men; 73rd Battalion, 36 officers and 1,033 men; No. 8 Field Ambulance, 10 officers and 181 men; draft heavy artillery, 1 officer and 50 men—total 2,437 of all ranks.

The Baltic, which sailed on March 23 had on board the following troops: 56th Battalion (Calgary), 40 officers and 1,073 men; 62nd Battalion, (Vancouver), 36 officers and 1,050 men; No. 6 Laval University General Hospital, 38 officers, 45 nurses and 196 men; Canadian O. T. C. candidates for regular commissions, 45; naval ratings, 3 officers and 89 men; civilian doctors, for army, 3; details, 3 officers and 2 men. Total—2,623 of all ranks.

The Empress of Britain which sailed on March 29 had on board the following troops: 53rd Battalion, 35 officers and 1,062 men; 74th Battalion, 34 officers and 1,046 men; 75th Battalion, 36 officers and 1,114 men; draft field heavy artillery, 1 officer and 61 men; medical corps reinforcements, 4 officers and 144 men. Total—3,537 of all ranks.

U. S. MEAT PACKERS REACH TERMS WITH BRITISH GOV'T

London, April 13—Chandler P. Anderson, formerly counsellor for the State Department at Washington and now the representative of the Chicago Meat Packers in the prize court cases, involving cargoes valued at between $15,000,000 and $20,000,000, stated tonight that a settlement with the British government had been agreed upon, and that the money would be paid over tomorrow.

ONTARIO TO RECRUIT A LABOR BATTALION.

Toronto, April 13.—Labor is to have a battalion all its own. Authorization of a labor battalion came from Ottawa today, and the unit is to be raised by the whole of Ontario.

INDUSTRIAL FARMS INSTEAD OF COUNTY JAILS

Effect of New Legislation Introduced by Minister of Justice.

POWERS OF PAROLE BOARD EXTENDED.

Atlantic Mail Service Not Yet Renewed Owing to Uncertainty About Steamers Which Will be Available.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, April 13.—The promise which Hon. C. J. Doherty, minister of justice, gave to the Commons recently that he had under consideration reforms in prison regulations, was implemented by him today when he introduced a bill to make the prisons and penitentiaries' act applicable to industrial farms. It provides for the transfer of prisoners to industrial farms and for the extension of the powers of the parole board.

As the minister observed in the course of the discussion today, there is much more to be done in the way of reform, and he is still considering a general scheme in the interests of the prisoners and convicts who pass through the prisons and penitentiaries of the Dominion.

Prison life is being gradually reformed under the Conservative regime of the Province of Ontario and the Dominion. The central prison of Ontario, which was situated in a populous district of Toronto has been removed to Guelph, where a prison farm has been established. It is a splendid institution and authorities say that it is a model of its kind, but prisoners who come under the criminal code could not be taken to that farm. Henceforth under Mr. Doherty's amendment these may be taken to Guelph or any other industrial farm and they will be given a chance to begin life anew. The effect of the new legislation will be to encourage the establishment of industrial farms instead of county jails, for prisoners may now be committed to these farms instead. York county has a splendid industrial farm.

Ottawa, April 13.—That the Easter adjournment of parliament will be from Wednesday next to the following Tuesday was confirmed by Sir Robert Borden in the House this afternoon.

Hon. C. J. Doherty moved the second reading of his bill to amend the prisons and reformatories act. This brings industrial farms under the provisions of the prisons and reformatories act and provision is also made for the transfer of prisoners from the jails to the industrial farms. Another provision gives wider powers to the parole board established in Ontario to deal with the determination or suspension of indeterminate sentences.

Hon. Wm. Pugsley suggested the extension of the act to give the Minister of Justice or his officials discretionary powers with regard to those sentenced to penitentiaries.

Mr. Doherty thought an amendment of this character would not be relevant to the subject matter of the bill. As regards the confining of youthful offenders with other criminals he said the only remedy would be the establishment of separate institutions. He hoped before long that such an expenditure could be justifiably made. Even as the law now stood, youthful prisoners were protected as far as possible.

The bill was put through the committee stage and passed.

The House thereupon went into committee of supply on the estimates of the Minister of Trade and Commerce for subvention for steamship services.

Mail Contract Not Yet Renewed.

On the trade and commerce estimates Sir George Foster showed that he was a bilingualist in the best sense Mr. Boulay made a plea in French for a better service to some of the small places in the Gulf of St. Lawrence by the subsidized steamers. Sir George showed that he possessed a facile gift of expression in French as well as in English. He replied to Mr. Boulay in the latter's mother tongue. Then for the benefit of the English speaking members he translated his remarks into English.

The contract for the Atlantic mail service, for which an annual subsidy of $1,000,000 is voted, has not been renewed for this year, announced Sir George. Owing to the scarcity of steamers on the Atlantic through war conditions, Sir George said he did not know yet just what service could be given this year. He was afraid conditions would not improve as long as the war lasted.

J. G. Turriff noted that the steamship lines which were now receiving subsidies were charging from 35 to 42 cents per bushel on trans-Atlantic wheat, instead of the usual five cents or six cents. Under the circumstances Mr. Turriff could not see why any subsidy at all should be paid.

Sir George replied that the same idea had occurred to him.

Hon. Dr. Pugsley again urged that the government should take prompt steps to give substantial aid to shipbuilding, and he protested that no effective steps had been taken by the government towards solving the growingly acute question of Atlantic transportation.

Sir George asked the member for St. John to please give some practical suggestions as well as criticisms. Dr. Pugsley said that when the estimates came up again for final consideration he would be plased to help out with specific recommendations.

Sir George said that the reason that so much Canadian grain went by American ports was the congestion of traffic at St. John and Halifax and the fact that vessels which had been directed to go there had had to be diverted because it was impossible to load them. Out of seven vessels that were sent to St. John three or four had to be sent elsewhere. The same was true of Halifax.

NIGHT ATTACKS ON BRITISH BUT ATTEMPTS FAILURES

Infantry Quiet on Verdun Front While German Artillery Shells Hill 304 and Le Mort Homme-Cumieres Line — Desultory Fighting on Eastern Front—Five More Submarine Victims.

With an abatement in the terrific battle that has been in progress for nearly two months before Verdun, and a state of comparative quietude reigning in all the other war theatres, diplomatic relations growing out of the war are prominently to the fore in the news of the day.

The submarine controversy between the United States and Germany, heightened by the disaster that befell the cross-channel steamer Sussex and Germany's denial that one of her submarines was responsible for it, has the American government busy gathering data for "information" to Germany concerning the Sussex and attacks on various merchantmen since the torpedoing of the Lusitania, which it is asserted will bring to a focus the entire matter of submarines.

Great Britain has replied to the American protest against the clause in her Trading with the Enemy Act, which prevents trading with any business firm that has affiliations with, or is controlled by, subjects of enemy countries. The note asserts that the act is being enforced to restrict activity and trade of person under British jurisdiction, and that care will be taken to avoid injury to neutral commerce.

The cases of the Chicago meat packers against Great Britain for the holding up of cargoes, valued at many millions of dollars, destined for neutral ports, have been amicably settled by representatives of the meat packers and the British government. Great Britain will pay for the seized cargoes.

Before Verdun the infantry has remained inactive and only in the sectors to the northwest, embracing Hill 304, and the front from Le Mort Homme to Cumieres, has there been heavy work by the artillery. Berlin reports that unfavorable weather is hindering infantry operations.

The Germans in the Lake Narooz and Ikskull bridgehead positions on the Russian front have made attempts to advance against the Russians, after preparatory bombardments. In each instance, according to Petrograd, they were repulsed. Near Baranovichi the Russian infantry essayed an attack on the Germans, but was driven back.

On the Austro-Italian line the usual bombardments and infantry attacks at various points continue. In Asiatic Turkey the Turks have delivered powerful counter-attacks in the Caucasus region against important positions recently captured from them by the Russians. Their attempts failed, according to Petrograd.

British Turn Back Night Attacks.

London, April 13.—The British official statement on the campaign in the western zone issued tonight reads:

"The enemy made a raid Tuesday night on our trenches near La Boisselle after a heavy bombardment, in which we used a large proportion of lachrymatory shells. He was driven out. We lost a few men taken prisoners.

"Last night the enemy made three attacks on our trenches northeast of Carney. These attacks reached our trenches, but were driven back, the enemy leaving some dead in the trenches. A few men belonging to a party working on our front wire are missing.

"There was some shelling about Souchez and Carency, between Loos and Hohenzollern, and about St. Eloi we retaliated against the enemy positions. This morning the enemy exploded a small mine in Hohenzollern; no damage was done.

"There was trench mortar activity in this section and about Arras today."

Hill 304 Shelled By Germans.

Paris, April 13—The official communication issued by the war office tonight reads as follows:

"Between the Oise and the Aisne our artillery displayed activity against enemy organizations at Moulin-Sous-Toutvent and Nampcel.

"To the west of the Meuse the bombardment of Hill 304 and our front from Le Mort Homme to Cumieres continues.

"To the east of the Meuse, and in the Woevre, the artillery was less active, and no infantry action occurred during the course of the day.

"One of our long range guns shelled the station at Noveant-Sur-Moselle and on the Corny bridge, north of Pont-A-Mousson. A fire broke out in that section.

"The day was calm on the rest of the front."

The Belgian official communication reads:

"There was slight artillery activity at the various points of the front, except in the direction of Dixmude and Reninghe, where the bombardment was more spirited."

Five Submarine Victims.

Five additional vessels have met with disaster as a result of mines or submarines. The British steamers Robert Adamson and Angus and the British bark Inverlyon have been sunk by submarines, while a Danish vessel named Dorthea has been sunk by a mine and the Dutch steamer Colombia damaged by a mine.

A semi-official despatch from Berlin calculates the French losses up to the present in the fighting around Verdun at 150,000 officers and men. The British losses in the fighting with the Turks at Sannayyat, April 9, are declared officially to have been much below 3,000 — the figure given in the official Turkish statement announcing the defeat of the British column.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGAIN RECOMMENDS CHURCH UNION.

Toronto, April 13.—After two days discussion the Union Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada today passed a resolution again recommending church union. The resolution received the support of sixty per cent. of the committee. The resolution, after citing the results of the recent voting and the urgent need of converting non-Christian immigrants, is as follows:

"The committee on church union with the Methodist and Congregational churches of Canada recommend to the General Assembly that at the meeting in Winnipeg in June, 1916, a resolution be passed definitely committing the church to union with the Methodist and Congregational churches of Canada, on the basis approved by the General Assembly of 1915, and by a large majority of the Presbyteries under the Barrier Act, provided that the other churches mentioned agree to the same.

"That the date for the consummation of union be not fixed at present.

"That within the period of one year after the close of the war any congregation which gave a majority vote against union be permitted to take a vote of the communicants as to whether they will enter the United Church or not, the majority of those voting to decide."

GERMANS ARE CONDEMNED BY OWN STATEMENT

No Ship but Sussex Damaged that Day in Exactly Same Manner.

London, April 13—Asked to give an official view on Germany's note to the American government concerning the Sussex, the foreign office today made the following statement to the Associated Press, based on information obtained from Admiralty officials:

"There is no resemblance between the Arabic class and the Sussex. The Germans are condemned by their own statement, which says that a submarine attacked a ship at 3.55 p.m., the exact time at which the Sussex was attacked.

"The submarine commander also reports that the forepart of the ship was blown off. No ship but the Sussex has suffered damage in any way resembling this. That the sketch of the vessel made by the commander of the submarine does not resemble the picture of the Sussex, said to have been taken from an English newspaper, will hardly cause surprise."

JAPAN TROUBLED OVER CHINESE SITUATION

Intervention by Japs or Other Foreign Power Unlikely, However —Withdrawal of Yuan Shi Kai Favored.

Tokio, April 13—The revolution in China is causing some disquietude in Japan, where the opinion is held that it will be difficult for Yuan Ski Kai to retain the presidency. In well informed circles, both Japanese and foreign, military intervention by Japan is regarded as extremely improbable, unless the lives and interests of Japanese subjects should be imperilled. Should intervention become necessary, Japan presumably would act on the behalf of her allies, on account of the fact that they are occupied by the war.

Reports that the Entente has given Japan a free hand in China are discredited. Officials reaffirm the determination of the government not to interfere in Chinese affairs.

The opinion expressed in some quarters, but not officially, is in favor of the withdrawal of Yuan Shi Kai and the substitution of a stable government, which would be more favorably disposed toward co-operation with Japan in the future development of the far east.

MR. ROBIDOUX BACK IN HIS SEAT IN PARLAIMENT.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, April 13.—F. J. Robidoux, M. P. for Kent, who has been ill for a week, was in the House today, almost completely recovered.

STEAMER ON WHICH SIR SAM RETURNING DUE THIS MORNING.

New York, April 13.—The steamer St. Paul, Liverpool for New York, signalled late today. Distance not given. She is expected to dock about 8.30 a.m. Friday. Gen. Sir Sam Hughes, Canadian Minister of Militia, is a passenger.

CHARLOTTETOWN FAIR SEPT. 26-29.

Charlottetown, April 13.—The annual meeting of the Charlottetown Driving Park and Exhibition Association was held last night. A dividend of $370 was declared. The dates of the exhibition this year were fixed for Sept. 26 and 29th. It was decided to hold races on the King's birthday.