

# The St. John Standard

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THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 21, 1918.

FAIR AND MILD.

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## Great Britain and United States Seize Million Tons of Shipping

### MOSCOW SAID TO BE IN DANGER OF HUN ATTACK

Germans Continue Advance in Russia and Approach Petrograd—Britain and United States Seize Million Tons of Dutch Shipping—United States Secretary of War Baker Has Narrow Escape.

Germans Will Probably Begin Heightened Campaign of Frightfulness with Their U-Boats to Strike at Britain and the United States—Little Fighting on Western Front or in Italy.

The United States and her associates in the war have come in to approximately 1,000,000 tons of much-needed shipping with which to aid in prosecuting the war against the Teutonic allies.

Having been unsuccessful in perfecting arrangements with the Netherlands government for the taking over of Dutch vessels lying in American and allied ports, the United States and Great Britain have ordered all such vessels seized in accordance with international law, and put into service for the benefit of the Allies.

Holland, in the face of German threats and intimidations, long had hesitated voluntarily to relinquish the desired mercantile marine and nothing remained but for the United States and Great Britain to act within their sovereign rights and seize the ships, full compensation for the use or destruction of which is to be given.

### ADMINISTRATION UNDER PRESENT GOV'T EXPENSIVE

Farmers Robbed in Seed Oats Deal—Government Obligated to Pay as High as \$1.38 a Bushel for Oats When Others Were Able to Purchase for Much Less—How Fosterites Bungled Fertilizer Purchase—Seed Wheat Price Fair.

Special To The Standard. Fredericton, Mar. 20.—The most interesting feature of this afternoon's session to the legislature came in the answers of enquiries asked by members of the opposition. Some of the replies produced information to show that the Foster government is not living up to its promises of economical administration but that on the contrary it has more officials than the former government, that its salary lists are in excess of other years and that the purchase of supplies for the various departments is not conducted with an eye to the public interest but that retail prices are being paid for goods bought in wholesale quantities and that generally the affairs of the province are being administered in a haphazard lackadaisical manner altogether foreign from what the people have a right to expect from a government that took to itself the title of a "business administration" and from which wonderful reforms were promised.

Aside from the time occupied in giving replies to questions asked the afternoon and evening was spent in consideration of Highway Bill and good progress was made. This measure is not as contentious as was expected. Most of its commendable features are copied direct from the former act.

A reply to a question of Hon. J. A. Murray this afternoon developed the information that it is costing almost twice as much to run the department of agriculture under the present administration as it did in former days. Mr. Murray asked what persons are under salary in the department when they were appointed and their salary. What is the total salary list of the department and how many temporary employees were engaged from April 1st 1917 to March 1st 1918 and what was the total amount paid to each employee?

It was shown that the total salary list of the department is \$34,356 as compared with \$19,550 in 1914 when a similar question was asked of the present opposition leader.

### FINAL ARTICLES WILL BE SIGNED

Jess Willard and Fred Fulton Battle for World's Championship July 4—The Place Where Fight Will Be Staged Not Named Yet.

Chicago, Mar. 20.—Final articles of agreement for the world's championship fight between Jess Willard and Fred Fulton, July 4, will be signed here next Tuesday, according to an announcement made today after a conference between the representatives of Willard and Fulton at which the details of the fight were discussed.

### D. F. PORTER IS SENTENCED TO JAIL 11 MOS.

Found Guilty on Two Accounts of Indictment for Shooting St. John Men at Long Island.

Special to The Standard. Hampton, Mar. 20.—The Circuit Court here today found D. F. Porter guilty on the second and third counts of the indictment against him and has been sentenced to eleven months in the county jail.

The opening of this morning's session of the court was delayed for some time on account of the tardiness of one of the jurymen. Judge, sheriff, court officials, witnesses and the other eleven jurors were in their respective places but of course everybody had to wait. The delay was only about fifteen minutes but under such circumstances the time seems long and there were signs of impatience until the jury came in smilingly and took their places. When, however, a similar delay occurred at the opening of the afternoon session on account of the late arrival of the same juror His Honor took occasion to reprimand the latecomer.

St. John Men Testifies. Wellington L. Hamm, of St. John, gave the first evidence for the defence. He testified to having some dealings with the accused and also of having with his family camped on his, Porter's, land for some time during the summer of last year. They had found Porter obliging, kind and gentlemanly, an ideal host and a good neighbor.

John Edwards, who now lives in Carleton, but who formerly lived on Long Island, stated that he had known Porter for the last sixteen years and never knew anything out of the way with him, or even heard him use any bad language. He, Edwards, had knowledge of mischievous persons from the city doing a lot of damage along the shore of the island and had suffered in this way himself, even having had things taken from his house.

Edward Foley, another neighbor of Porter, gave evidence of having known him for some fifteen years and had found him a kind and good neighbor.

Mr. B. D. Oliver of Brookville, and Edward Marley, an orderly at the hospital were on the stand but no important evidence was given by either of them.

At twelve thirty o'clock court adjourned until two.

Afternoon Session. The accused took the stand on his own behalf and gave statements of having suffered annoyance by trespassers whom he did not know and could not get at in a legal way. He stated that parties made a practice of coming out on Sunday during the winter and that he found it necessary to patrol his land with a gun in order to keep them off, but stated that he had no intention of shooting any one unless in self-defence and that the shot which wounded Ward and Cook was entirely accidental.

After cross-examination by Mr. Pearson Porter addressed the jury at some length. He was allowed considerable latitude by the court to which no objection was made by the Crown counsel and gave an account of his life history, closing with a somewhat dramatic appeal to the jury.

Mr. Pearson for the Crown occupied about twenty minutes in his address which was moderate in tone. The judge instructed the jury very carefully upon the law points, explaining the three counts in the indictment, and that they could find the prisoner guilty upon all three or upon the less serious. His charge was quite strongly against the prisoner. The jury retired shortly after five o'clock, and after being out about an hour they returned with a verdict of guilty in the second and third counts, the more serious of which is unlawfully inflicting grievous bodily harm, but not guilty of doing so with intent. At eight o'clock the prisoner was again brought into court and placed in the dock and his honor imposed a sentence of eleven months in the King's County jail in addition to the time he has already been imprisoned. Court then adjourned.

### FRANCHISE BILL TODAY IN THE LEGISLATURE

Hon. Mr. Murray Held It Over Upon Request of the Premier.

ITS FATE IS VERY MUCH IN DOUBT

Messrs. Dugal and Michaud Carry Their Point With the Government.

UNNECESSARY FOR THEM TO RESIGN

Government Has Not Acted in Carleton County Case.

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, March 20.—Contrary to expectation the motion of the leader of the opposition to extend the provincial franchise to women was not introduced this afternoon. Mr. Murray was ready to go ahead, but the leader of the government requested a postponement until tomorrow, and this was granted. Consequently it will be before the House tomorrow afternoon. There is considerable curiosity as to its fate. It is known that members on the government side of the House are opposed to it, and that there is also a difference of opinion in the opposition rank. The present motion merely pledges the House to the principle of the measure, but the debate on it is likely to be interesting.

The government has no record as to the applicants or the position of chief game wardens. This was the pith of the reply given this afternoon to the question asked by Mr. Tilley, who wanted to know who the applicants were, and on whose recommendation the appointee was selected.

Threat to Resign. It is said that Messrs. Dugal and Michaud of Madawaska demanded that their candidate get the position, and that if their demand was not complied with they might resign their seats. The appointment was made and made as they desired.

The restoration of the Perry Point bridge has not yet received consideration from the government. Prior to the last election the former government decided to go ahead with this important public work, and a contract for the undertaking was awarded.

The Fosterites cancelled the contract and Mr. Dickson, of Kings, bearing in mind the inconvenience to which his constituents have been put by reason of the fact that the bridge has not been rebuilt, asked today as to the government's intentions in the matter.

The information he received was that nothing had been done as yet, but that the matter would be taken into consideration.

Carleton Vacancy. The same delightful inactivity characterized the government with regard to the vacant seat in Carleton county as the result of the death of Mr. G. L. White.

Mr. Sutton asked today whether the government would issue the writ for the Carleton election before the next session of the legislature and received the illuminating answer that the matter would be considered in due time. The reply was greeted with opposition laughter.

In reply to an inquiry as to the cost of the Hall Sanitary Survey, Hon. Dr. Roberts said the cost of that undertaking to date was \$223, of which Mr. Hall received \$62.80.

The government took no steps to ascertain whether Mr. Hall was a British subject.

### GOT THE CAT

Reno, Nev., Mar. 20.—Elmer White, who boasted that he helped to celebrate the sinking of the Tuscania at Gardnerville, Nevada, several weeks ago, was lashed to a stake and whipped with an iron cat-of-nine-tails at Yerington, Nevada, last night by a citizens' committee. He was then coated with tar and feathers and ordered out of town.

### A TOTAL OF SIX MILLION TONS OF SHIPPING SUNK

### ST. JOHN MEN AT HALIFAX

Those Who Arrived on Big Liner Will Come Here Tomorrow.

Halifax, Mar. 20.—One of the biggest steamships on the Atlantic arrived this afternoon with 1,967 officers and men returning to Canada. In this number are included 109 men of the first contingent, who have been overseas since the commencement of the war and who are home on three months furlough.

The steamer did not dock this evening and will not come to the pier till tomorrow morning. Those not Nova Scotians will be sent to St. John and Quebec to be sorted out and forwarded to their homes. Since Sunday nine special military trains have been forwarded from Halifax and nine from St. John, 18 in all.

The men for New Brunswick will be sent to St. John on Friday.

### SHIPPING LOSSES SLIGHTLY LESS IN LAST WEEK

Total of Seventeen British Merchantmen Sunk—Of Number Eleven Were of 1,600 Tons or Over.

London, March 20.—The Admiralty reports the loss by mine or submarine of seventeen British merchantmen last week. Of these eleven were 1,600 tons or over and six under that tonnage. Two fishing vessels were lost and eleven merchantmen were unsuccessfully attacked.

The losses of British merchantmen in the last week are slightly under the losses of three preceding weeks when during each of these periods eighteen vessels were sunk by mine or submarine.

### SOLDIERS' TRIBUTE TO NOBLE WOMAN

Brigadier General Evan M. Johnson Posts Copy of Inspiring Letter.

Camp Upton, L.I., Mar. 18.—Brigadier-General Evan M. Johnson turned from the stern realities of training of an army division long enough to pay a soldier's tribute to the patriotic devotion of Mrs. M. E. Jenkins of Holladay, Tenn., whose son, Regimental Sergeant-Major William B. Jenkins of the 304th Field Artillery, died in the camp's base hospital recently. He ordered a letter that Major J. D. Whitham, commander of the base hospital, had received from her to be posted on every bulletin board in the camp.

"It will serve as a model of patriotism to the mothers of America, exemplifying as it does recognition of the national necessity which transcends all personal and private interests," said the division commander.

Mrs. Jenkins' letter follows: "Allow me, as one who has lived until now I am an old woman, to express to you my thanks and appreciation for your many courtesies to me as mother of Sergeant-Major William B. Jenkins. I had hoped my boy would get his chance in France, but it was not to be; so I am as submissive to his death as if he had died in the trenches in Europe. Please accept my thanks for all your kindness and to any of his comrades that were with him in his sickness. With a sad heart I dictate these lines, but with a quickening pulse and an accelerated being I look forward to the day when victory shall come to the brave boys who are giving their lives for our beloved land. I shall ever love a soldier boy. May God's blessing be on you."—Boston Post.

Sir Eric Campbell Geddes Makes Important Statement in House of Commons—Tells Amount of Shipping Losses and Announces Appointment of Lord Pirrie as Controller-General of Merchandise Shipping—Great Britain Losses 260,000 Tons Monthly.

During Last Quarter of 1917 She Has Built 140,000 Tons Monthly—Forty-Seven Shipyards With 209 Berths Engaged in Turning Out Vessels—Output for Last Quarter of 1917, Was 420,000 Tons as Against 213,000 in the Same Time Year Before.

London, Mar. 20.—One of the most important statements made to the country recently was the speech delivered in the house today by Sir Eric Campbell Geddes, First Lord of the Admiralty. He appealed the demand which has become general recently that the country should be told the exact amount of the shipping losses and he also announced the appointment of Great Britain's foremost builder, Lord Pirrie, as controller-general of merchant shipbuilding.

Lord Pirrie will not be a member of the Board of the Admiralty, but he will have direct access to the premier and the war cabinet. His appointment, it is indicated, will be received with the greatest satisfaction.

Sir Eric's speech was a simple statement of facts, with no oratorical sentences, but he was listened to more attentively than the most eloquent orators in the government.

### CONSIDERATION OF HON. MR. VENIOT'S ROAD BILL OVER

Most of the Sections Adopted as They Stand—Object to Additional Tax of One-Tenth of One Per Cent. on Cities, Towns and Municipalities—Rule of the Road.

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, March 20.—When the legislature adjourned tonight consideration of the sections of Hon. Mr. Veniot's road bill had been finished. Most of the sections were adopted as they stood, others, including the one providing for a change in the regulations of the road were stood over for further consideration, but when the committee rose and reported progress the bill had been well disposed of.

After the consideration of the sections contained in the original measure had been concluded Mr. Veniot said it had been suggested to him by prominent citizens of the province that an additional section be incorporated in the bill to provide for a tax of one-tenth of one per cent. on cities, towns and municipalities in the roads coming into those cities.

Objection To Proposal. There was some objection to this proposal. Dr. McGrath opposed it on the ground that it would prove burdensome. Mr. Potts contended that the government had taken from the City of St. John about everything it could take and he was decidedly opposed to such a tax.

Hon. B. F. Smith (Carleton) said he would hesitate a long while before he would attempt to pass any such legislation. The great majority of the residents of the cities and towns did not use the roads with automobiles, and such a tax would be an injustice to them. The real purpose of the suggestion was to get back at automobile owners, but it would be an injustice to those who did not own autos.

Hon. C. W. Robinson said some cities in the province were willing to spend money to improve the roads leading into the cities. He suggested that a permissive, rather than an obligatory clause be inserted in the bill giving permission to any city that desired to do so to contribute to the upkeep of the roads.

Mr. Veniot said the suggestion was not original with him, but he had been asked to bring it before the House and did so. The matter was laid over for further consideration.

Rule of the Road. Mr. Veniot being asked in regard to the section of the act changing the rule of the road, said he did not purpose to wait until Nova Scotia had been heard from before changing that rule.

Just before adjournment Hon. J. A. Murray asked the Provincial Secretary when the public accounts would be printed, and when the House might expect the budget.

Hon. Robt. Murray, Provincial Secretary, said the accounts were being printed by McMillan in St. John, and they had been delayed. He expected, however, that they would be off the members' desks next week. This means that the budget will not be reached until well after Easter.

The opposition leader also asked the leader of the government as to whether it was intended to extend the time for receiving private bills. The time expires on Friday, and bills not in hand by that date should pay double fee unless it was agreed to extend the time.

Mr. Foster replied that he was not disposed to impose an undue tax on private legislation and would extend the time to a reasonable length.

The House adjourned at 10.30 p. m.