

The St. John Standard

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THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 15, 1918.

FAIR AND WARM

PRICE TWO CENTS.

German Army Loses Considerable Important Ground, Including Ribecourt

ST. JOHN STREET RAILWAY MEN TO GO OUT ON STRIKE TODAY; MAY AFFECT GAS AND LIGHTS

N. B. Power Company and Employes Fail to Reach Agreement and Not a Car Will Leave the Barns This Morning—Power, Gas and Electric Light Plants May Also Be Unable to Operate.

COMPANY PREPARES TO FYLE APPEAL WITH DOMINION DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Offer To Pay Increase To Men From August 1st and Hold Back Money From April 1st To August 1st Until Increased Rates Are Secured Not Accepted By Union and Company Will Not Attempt To Run Railway Service—Officials Declare They Are Willing To Pay All Men Ask But That At Present It Is Physical Impossibility As Their Coffers Are Empty—Possible Liquidation Hinted At.

Not a wheel will turn on the St. John street railway this morning, the New Brunswick Power Company and its street railway employes having failed to reach a settlement of their differences. Unless a compromise is effected this condition is likely to continue indefinitely, for H. M. Hopper of the Power Company stated last evening that the company would make no effort to move cars and not a car would leave the barns this morning. There will be no attempt at strike breaking. Whether the power and gas plants will be affected is as yet unknown, but those using power, who can provide substitutes are advised to do so, while candles and oil lamps will be in demand.

On the major point of a wage increase the company and men agree, the dispute arising as to the date from which that increase shall start, the men asking that it date from April 1st and the company offering the increase from August 1st to go into effect at once, and to pay the difference between the old rate and the new for the period from April 1st to August 1st in not less than thirty days or more than sixty days after the receipt by the company of the decision of the Special Commission which is now investigating the company's application for increased rates.

In other words the company's position is that as soon as the Commission permits them to increase street railway fares the men will get all the Conciliation Board awarded them. If the Commission does not increase the rates the company will go into liquidation, this statement being made to The Standard last evening by Mr. Hopper.

Yesterday was a day of consultations of the street railway directors in their offices and members of the Street Railway Men's Union in their hall on Main street. During the afternoon the company made to the men a final proposal as contained in the following letter:

St. John, N. B., August 14th, 1918. Mr. D. Farris, Esq., President Division 663 of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America, St. John, N. B.

Dear Sir:—With reference to the question of wage arbitration between our employes and this company, we beg to advise you that we will abide by the findings of the majority report of the Board of Arbitration. This will mean that employes will get the increase of 30% agreed upon starting from the first day of August instant, and that this Company will pay the difference between the new salary and the old from the first day of April, 1918, up to the first of August instant, not earlier than thirty days and not later than sixty days after the receipt by us of the decision of the Special Commission now dealing with the question of our rates. Our reasons for asking this slight extension of time on the part of us is that this Company has now borrowed from the banks \$75,000.00

which was required in order to meet running expenses. It will be necessary for us before the last day of this month to further increase our borrowings by \$45,000.00 in order to meet the interest upon our bonds which is due at that date.

In this connection we would point out to you that no provision has been made, nor will we be able to pay the interest upon our First and Second Preferred Stock also due September first. The financial position of the Company is as above stated, and this Company does not possess any cash reserve, any surplus cash, any reserve fund or surplus of any kind, which could be used to meet the present emergency.

We feel satisfied that all the employes will appreciate the seriousness of this situation, not alone from the standpoint of the Company, but from the standpoint of the city of St. John which depends upon us for its transportation, lighting, and in a measure heating and power supply. We beg to assure you in all friendliness and fairness that the above is an accurate statement of conditions which are not due to the acts of either of this Company or its employes.

Yours truly, (Signed) L. E. BOWEN, President. (Continued on page 3)

SOVIET GOV'T AT WAR WITH G.T. BRITAIN

France Also in Bad With Fanatics, But the U. S. Excepted.

THREE HAVE EXACTLY THE SAME AGREEMENT

Washington Considers the Russian Situation As Very Serious.

Amsterdam, Aug. 14.—The Bolshevik government of Russia, as late as August 4th, considered itself still at peace with the United States, although at war with Great Britain and France, according to a note delivered on that date by Foreign Minister Tchitcherin. The note, in part, says: "Without a declaration of war and without the existence of a state of war hostilities are opened against us, and our national property is pillaged. Toward us no justice is observed, and no law acknowledged by those who sent these invading troops against us, for we are the first in the world to establish a government for the oppressed poor. Barred robbery is held permissible against us.

Hypocritical Role.

"These people, who did not declare war against us, act like barbarians toward us, but we who represent the oppressed poor, are no barbarians like these invaders. Our retaliation against those who shoot the members of our family which is refused by the latter's official departments to our Soviet members. "It is in pursuance of this that we intern the nationals invading powers in concentration camps. We regard these nationals as civilian prisoners. We apply these precautionary measures only against the members of the property classes who are our opponents.

The Soviets.

"As you stated to us that your nation does not propose to destroy the Soviets, we ask you now if you cannot tell us plainly what Great Britain wants with us. Is Great Britain's aim to destroy the Soviets, the councils of the poor and the peasants?"

Washington Puzzled.

Washington, Aug. 14.—The anomalous stand of the Bolsheviks in declaring a state of war with Great Britain and France because of the landing of troops on the Murman coast and not including the United States in this declaration, although this country has acted in unison with the forces of the Allies, is not understood here. Officials regard the situation as serious.

MONCTON GIRL WEDS

Special to The Standard. Moncton, Aug. 14.—The daughter of Miss Stella Fay McFarlane, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert McFarlane, to Eugene Price of Bangor, Mass., was solemnized noon today at the bride's home. The ceremony was performed by Rev. W. H. Barratough, pastor of the Central Methodist church. The bride was attended by Miss Rita McFarlane, while the groom was supported by Earle McFarlane. The young couple left this afternoon for their future home in Lynn, Mass.

RIBECOURT CAPTURED

Paris, Aug. 14.—The town of Ribecourt, on the road leading to Noyon, and six and a quarter miles southwest of that town has been captured by the French, according to the official statement issued tonight.

"During the day our troops continuing their progress between the Mats and the Oise, took Ribecourt.

"East of Helvet our infantry elements, having discovered preparations for a German counter-attack succeeded in taking as prisoners seven officers, of whom two were battalion commanders and a certain number of soldiers.

"In the region of Roys and Lassigny the artillery fire has been very spirited."

BIG WIND STORM AT FREDERICTON

Building Unroofed, Fence Blown Down and Gardens and Trees Damaged.

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, Aug. 14.—This city was visited by a heavy wind and rain storm just before six o'clock this evening and gardens and trees were damaged. The wind was blowing with such velocity that the roof of the B. Smith building at the southern end of the highway bridge was lifted clear off and carried a distance of about 50 feet. A large plate glass window in the same building was also blown out.

MRS. SARAH FLANAGAN DIES IN MONTREAL

Was Former Resident of Richibucto and Had Relatives in Moncton.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, Aug. 14.—News of the death of Mrs. Sarah Flanagan, widow of the late Martin Flanagan, and eldest daughter of the late James Hamilton, of Moncton, was received today by her brother, H. F. Hamilton of this city. The deceased lady resided many years in Richibucto, removing from there to take up her residence with her sons in Montreal, where her death took place quite unexpectedly, after a short illness.

RIVER GLADE JOY RIDERS ON TRIAL

Special to The Standard. Moncton, Aug. 14.—Two River Glade young men who figured in the serious auto accident near Dorchester recently were arraigned before Police Magistrate Stoves here this afternoon on a double charge of having liquor in their possession contrary to the Prohibition Act and also of exceeding the speed limit in Dorchester. Several witnesses were examined and the case was stood over a few days to get out of town witnesses.

U. S. CONSUL QUITS

Washington, Aug. 14.—Consul General Paolo di Smedici has turned over his duties to Swedish consulate there, destroyed his code book and asked for leave to conduct for himself and other members of the office to return to the United States.

ENEMY EVACUATES POSITIONS OVER FRONT OF FIVE MILES

MURDERER WAS VERY LIKELY IN ST. JOHN

Reward Offered For Man Who Enlisted in Canadian Engineers.

FALL RIVER, MASS., MYSTERY SOLVED

Disembodied Body Is That of Girl Bride of William Brown.

The Massachusetts State police have sent out broadcast a request to arrest William Brown, who is believed to have been in St. John and Windsor, N. B., during the present year, and who is wanted on a charge of murdering his girl wife, a bride of a few days, in the city of Fall River. The body was cut up by the murderer and was found in sections in the Taunton River, July 11, creating a mystery which was not solved for a month. The dead woman has just been positively identified by her brother, Louis Donovan, son of Patrick Donovan of Fall River. Brown has been missing since about the time of the woman's disappearance.

is a Weaver.

The missing man was born in Bolton, Lancashire, 42 years ago and went to the Fall River and Taunton mills as a weaver. He had a wife, Emma Brown, who was a miller's daughter in Readville, Hyde Park, Boston, and is divorced. On June 29 last Brown married Miss Annie Donovan, the nineteen year old daughter of Patrick Donovan of Fall River. They took rooms in a house in that city. She disappeared soon after the wedding, as did Brown.

The murderer is believed to have been committed in the house and the body there dismembered and then thrown into the river.

Reward Offered. The Massachusetts state police offer a reward of \$100 for information leading to Brown's arrest.

His description follows: Age, 42; height, 5 ft. 8 in.; weight, 150 pounds; light complexion and light brown hair, gold upper right tooth, two bullet wounds in left thigh and walks slightly lame, tattooed around his neck, and words "W. Brown" on left forearm above wrist. He is a mechanical draftsman, expert weaver and tattoo artist.

HAIG'S STATEMENT

London, Aug. 14.—The Germans have evacuated their forward positions at Beaumont Hamel, Serre, Puisieux-Au-Mont and Bucquoy, lying in the region north of Albert, according to Field Marshal Haig's communication issued tonight.

"Following upon his recent withdrawal in the Houteville sector, the enemy has evacuated his forward positions at Beaumont Hamel, Serre, Puisieux-Au-Mont and Bucquoy. Our patrols are pushing forward in touch with the enemy and have gained ground about those villages. A few prisoners have been taken by us."

North and South of the Somme the Germans Have Lost Further Ground Including the Towns of Ribecourt and Lassigny — Noyon Expected To Fall Into Hands of Allies Within Few Days.

Giving Up of Front Line Trenches on Five Mile Front North of Albert May Mean That German High Command Foresees Ultimate Success of British and American Operations Along the Somme and Is Readjusting Positions.

(Undated War Summary By The Associated Press). North and south of the Somme the Germans have lost further important ground. In the former region they have evacuated their positions over a five mile front to the British north of Albert, while in the latter they have been beaten back in the hill and wooded districts just north of the Oise river by the French.

German front line trenches at Beaumont Hamel, Serre, Puisieux-Au-Mont and Bucquoy have been found untenable by the enemy in the face of the recent activity by the British all along the line from Albert to Arras, while the French have persevered in their violent attacks against the Germans on the sector which dominates the lower Picardy plain and the Oise Valley and have encroached further south, having captured the important town of Ribecourt.

Unofficial reports have announced the capture of Lassigny by the French and of all the German positions between the western outskirts of Bray-Sur-Somme and Etinehem by the Australians. There is, however, no official confirmation of them. (Continued on page 2)

LIGHTNING KILLS 2 AT SUNNY BRAE

A. Sterling Murray and Charles E. Jameson of the Sumner Company, Moncton, Lose Lives When Bolt Hits Barn—Two Girls and Third Man in Building Not Hurt — Coverdale Barn Burned.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, Aug. 14.—Two men instantly killed near Sunny Brae, three miles from Moncton, and a barn burned at Coverdale, Albert county, two miles from the city, in the opposite direction, was the work of a most severe electric storm which passed over this section between seven and eight o'clock this evening.

The victims of the lightning, both at Sunny Brae, were A. Sterling Murray, assistant bookkeeper for the Sumner Co., and Charles E. Jameson, tinsmith with the same firm. Both men were engaged in hay making on Murray's farm, and when the storm came up took shelter in the barn together with Murray's father and his two sisters.

Barn doors were open front and back, providing an air current through the building. Girls Not Injured. Sterling Murray and Jameson were standing together in the front door with Murray's father standing near them, and his sisters in the back part of the barn. The bolt passed through the barn killing the younger Murray

and Jameson instantly, but none of the others even felt the shock, and no damage was done to the building. Both men collapsed without the faintest cry and were dead when Murray's father reached them.

Sterling Murray was the son of Adam S. Murray, and besides his father, brothers and sisters is survived by an infant child, his wife having died about a year and a half ago. He was 37 years of age and had been assistant bookkeeper for the Sumner Co. some years, working his farm as a side line. Strikes Coverdale. Jameson, the other victim of the tragedy, resided in Sunny Brae, and had been working on Murray's farm of late. He was unmarried. The tragic occurrence was one of the most remarkable freaks of lightning ever happening in this section. Lightning also struck and burned the barn of Robert Black, at Coverdale, just across the river from Moncton. Besides the barn Mr. Black lost twenty-five tons of hay, seventy-five bushels of oats, and three calves. Mr. Black had \$1,000 insurance, but loss will be five or six hundred more than this. No damage was done by the storm in Moncton city, but the electric display was very severe.