

# The St. John Standard

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GENERALLY FAIR

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## The French Attack On Wide Front, Entering Trenches of the Enemy

### U. S. VESSELS OPEN FIRE ON ONE ANOTHER

Destroyer Hits Armed Merchant Ship in Returning Shot.

### ONE MAN KILLED AND THREE HURT

Holland Accepts Demands of Allies Regarding Dutch Vessels.

### COUNTRIES REACH A FINAL SETTLEMENT

German Government Holds Conference to Consider Matter.

Washington, Mar. 16.—Investigation by a naval court of inquiry ordered today revealed that last month one man was killed and three were wounded on an American destroyer accidentally fired upon by an armed merchant ship. It is reported that the merchant ship was one of the American Line steamers. Her guard fired on the destroyer, it is understood, thinking that the warship was a German submarine. There was a haze over the sea at the time.

#### The Dutch Seizure.

London, Mar. 16.—A conference was held at the Berlin foreign office yesterday at which the situation created by the contemplated taking over of Dutch shipping by the allies was discussed, according to Berlin advices sent by the Exchange Telegraph correspondent at Copenhagen. He quotes the Lokal Anzeiger as stating that measures to be taken in the event of Holland's acceptance of the allied terms were particularly discussed.

The reports from the Wilhelmshaven, issued last night, indicated there were no prospects of Holland accepting the allied terms. In this connection Germany's diplomatic representatives at the Hague are reported as declaring that Germany's Rhine tonnage would be placed as far as possible at the disposal of the Dutch and that as much coal as could be spared for Holland would be shipped to her from Germany.

#### Prohibits Sailings.

Copenhagen, Mar. 16.—A despatch to the Politiken from Amsterdam states that the Dutch government yesterday prohibited Dutch steamers from sailing for England.

#### Accepts Offer.

The Hague, Mar. 17.—After a cabinet council lasting into the night, the government cabled to London a message which, according to reliable information, probably will lead to a satisfactory conclusion of the shipping difficulty.

### GARTLEY MACGEE, ST. GEORGE, DEAD

Popular Hotel Proprietor Succumbs to Peritonitis in Calais Hospital.

Special to The Standard.  
St. Stephen, Mar. 17.—Gartley Macgee, one of the most prominent citizens of St. George, proprietor of the Carleton House, and with many friends all over the province, passed away at the Miner Hospital in Calais this morning at the age of 71 years. He was stricken with peritonitis and was taken to the hospital on Friday. A consultation of physicians decided that an operation was inadvisable and his death ensued this morning. His wife was with him at the hospital. The body will be forwarded to St. George on Tuesday for interment.

### French and Germans In Terrific Combat In Verdun Sector

Hessian and Waldeck Storming Troops Penetrate French Positions, Following Attack by French on Wide Front—Germans Compelled to Abandon Captured Positions Under the Violence of French Gunfire, Huns Losing Heavily.

French Troops Enter Enemy Trenches at Malancourt on Front of 1,400 Metres to Depth of 800 Metres—British Carry Out Successful Raid—German Artillery Heavily Shell Rear Defences of Canadians South of Lens.

Berlin, Mar. 17, via London.—The French attacked on a wide sector of the Verdun front yesterday, the war office announces. The attack is said to have been beaten off. The statement follows: "In Flanders there was increased artillery activity after midday. The fighting was more active southeast of Berry-Au-Bac and in connection with a successful German operation near Tahure.

"After preparation for ten hours, the French pressed forward on a wide front west of Avocourt, (Verdun front, west of the Meuse), but were defeated, partly by artillery fire and partly in hand-to-hand fighting. There was a sharp artillery duel on the east bank of the Meuse. Hessian and Waldeck storming troops near Samogneux and Saxons near Bevonvaux, (both points on the Verdun front east of the Meuse), penetrated enemy positions deeply. They brought back 200 French prisoners, including the staff of one battalion.

"Seventeen enemy airplanes and two balloons were shot down yesterday."

#### The French Statement.

Paris, Mar. 17.—The war office reports a series of strong German attacks in the direction of Samogneux, north of the Bois Des Caurieres and in the Bezonaux region. Large enemy detachments succeeded in penetrating the French line at various points, but under the violence of the French fire suffered heavy losses and were unable to hold the ground where they gained a footing.

Latest information shows that last night the French troops entered the enemy trenches at Malancourt on a front of 1,400 metres to a depth of 800 metres.

#### British Statement.

London, Mar. 16.—The official statement issued by the war office tonight says:

"We carried out a successful raid this morning northeast of La Vacquerie. Hostile artillery activity was shown southwest of Cambrai in the neighborhood of the Scarpe river, in the Lens district, on both sides of La Bassée Canal and in the Messines sector.

"East of Quent a hostile ammunition dump was set on fire by our artillery."

#### Sunday's Report.

London, Mar. 17.—Field Marshal Haig's report from the British headquarters in France says:

"During the night hostile raiding parties endeavoring to approach our lines in the neighborhood of Zonnebeka were driven off by our troops with rifle fire and bombs.

"The enemy artillery has shown activity today south of the Bapaume-Cambrai road and increased activity against our rear defences south of Lens. Considerable hostile artillery fire was also directed against a number of localities north of La Bassée Canal, south of Armentieres and in the Ypres sector."

#### Berlin Statement.

Berlin, Mar. 16, via London.—The British forces on the Franco-Belgian front were extremely active during the evening yesterday and also at night, notably in the region running south from Arras as far as St. Quentin, army headquarters announced today.

### MILITIA CALLED OUT AT BELFAST!

Belfast, March 17.—Severe rioting occurred last night in the Nationalist quarter of Belfast between a mob of Sinn Féiners and the police. Many casualties were sent to the hospitals, including a number of policemen.

The rioting lasted four hours and then military was called out this morning to take charge of the district.

### STEAMER DRIFTS HELPLESSLY OFF THE N. S. COAST

Halifax, Mar. 17.—A Russian steamer, probably a hundred miles off Scoterie Island, C. B., is drifting helplessly, having lost her propeller in the ice fields. The government steamer Lady Laurier left Louisburg today to go to the assistance of the Russian but found the ice so heavy she was compelled to return as the Lady Laurier is not built for heavy ice.

The Stanley went out tonight but found that in the westerly gale the steamer had drifted so far that it would not be prudent to go out with bunkers only partially filled. She returned to Louisburg for more coal and will probably get away again tomorrow morning.

The Imperial Oil Company's steamer Icolite reports she picked up an abandoned schooner off Cape Race and was towing it to port. A later message announced that the schooner leaked so badly it had been decided to abandon the tow. The name of the schooner is not given.

### TWO MONCTON HEROES ARE HOME AGAIN

Capt. Douglas Weldon, Former City Editor of The Times, and Capt. W. A. McKee of Anderson's Battery, Accredited Rousing Welcome.

### CONTROL SMALLPOX IN GLOUCESTER CO.

Situation Greatly Improved and Disease Practically Stamped Out—Publicity Has Good Effect.

Bathurst, March 17.—The smallpox situation, which for a time had a rather alarming aspect in Gloucester county, has now reached a stage where it can safely be said to be practically stamped out. A few houses in some of the back settlement are still under quarantine, but the persons afflicted with the disease have all recovered, and as soon as the prescribed time elapses the houses will be released.

Means of the spread of the disease last month was partially suppressed and many people were not aware of the seriousness of the situation until it was made public.

### DAYLIGHT SAVING MAY BE REALITY

United States Congress Agrees to it and Canadian Parliament Will Be Asked to Ratify Plan.

Ottawa, Mar. 16.—It is practically certain that Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, will introduce a daylight saving bill in parliament this session and it will become law if not too strenuously opposed by members from rural constituencies.

The adoption of daylight saving in the United States, it is believed, will materially increase the chances of the bill being received with favor by the new parliament.

Washington, Mar. 16.—Daylight saving now waits only President Wilson's approval. House amendments to the daylight saving bill requiring all time pieces to be advanced one hour beginning the last Sunday in March were accepted today by the Senate.

### WOMAN GUILTY

Atlanta, Ga., Mar. 16.—The jury in the case of Mrs. Margaret A. Hirsch, charged with attempted blackmail of Mayor Asa G. Candler, returned a verdict of guilty late today. The jury was out only twenty-six minutes.

### Teutonic Army Takes Important Russian Town of Nikolaiev

Notwithstanding Ratification of Treaty of Peace Germans Have Not Ceased Their Inroads Into Russia's Richest Territory in the South—Bolsheviks Warned of Further Hun Attack and Some Advise Preparations to Resist Invaders.

Removal of Capital to Moscow Approved and Petrograd Has Been Completely Evacuated—No Change in Japanese Situation, Although Japanese Press Favors Intervention in Siberia—Finland Cut Off.

With the ratification of the treaty of peace with Germany, the soviet congress in Moscow has dissolved. But the Germans have not yet ceased their inroads into Russia's richest territory in the south. Nikolaiev is the latest price that has been wrested from the Russians. Situated at the mouth of the Bug river, the capture of the town gives the Germans a water route of great value through the rich agricultural country from Volhynia to the Black Sea.

Up to the last some of the chief members of the soviet congress opposed the hard terms of the Germans but to no avail. Warning was sounded by several of them of a further German attack and of the necessity for amalgamating for resistance. Before adjournment the congress approved the removal of the capital from Petrograd to Moscow and late despatches say that Petrograd has now been completely evacuated.

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### GERMANY EXPECTED RUSSIA AND FRANCE TO STRIKE TOGETHER

Former Chancellor Admits Truth of French Foreign Minister's Statement as to Demand Regarding French Neutrality in 1914 and Makes Statement to Justify German Invasion of France—Tells of Proposition to Have Britain Guarantee French Neutrality.

Amsterdam, March 16.—In an interview published in the Neueste Nachrichten of Berlin, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg admits the truth of the statement made recently by Stephen Pichon, French foreign minister, regarding Germany's attitude toward France at the time of the outbreak of the war. M. Pichon said that on January 31, 1914, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, then German chancellor, instructed Baron Von Schoen, the German ambassador at Paris, to demand that France, if she desired to remain neutral in the war between Russia and Germany, should hand over to Germany a guarantee of neutrality for the fortresses of Toul and Verdun, to be occupied until after the war.

#### Russia Was Ready.

Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg says: "The Russian general mobilization furnished indisputable proof that those factors which wielded power in Russia over the head of the emperor desired war in all circumstances. My instructions to Baron Von Schoen on July 31, 1914, have been brought to light. But what have these instructions to do with Russian mobilization and the attitude of France? Russian regiments were on the march before these instructions were written and the French government had no knowledge whatever of these instructions when replying to our question as to whether in case of war with Russia it would remain neutral. The French government simply declared it would do what the interests of France demanded. It is well known that these instructions were never acted upon; consequently they had not the slightest influence of the actual course of events."

#### Had To Fight Both.

"No one could seriously doubt that we had not only to fight against the Russian mobilization, but also to fight France. The Russian-French alliance had sufficiently shown by the attitude adopted by both countries during recent decades that any war would be for us, a war on two fronts, and furthermore, our enemies' own publications regarding the events of July, 1914, also testify that Russia herself had made sure of France's assistance.

### MRS. C. A. CAMPBELL DIES AT MONCTON

Was Widow of Dr. C. F. H. Campbell an Officer in the United States Civil War.

Special to The Standard.  
Moncton, Mar. 17.—The death occurred this afternoon at the residence of her son-in-law, R. W. Simpson, assistant to C.G.R. Manager Hayes, of Mrs. Charlotte Augusta Campbell, widow of the late C. F. H. Campbell, M.D. Deceased lady was a native of Ireland, being the daughter of the late Thomas Nevin of Zion Hill, County Kilkenny. She was 88 years of age and had lived under the reign of five sovereigns. She remembered the coronation of Queen Victoria. The father of Mrs. Campbell was the first American consul appointed to the south of Ireland. The late Mrs. Campbell had travelled extensively and had lived in England, Ireland, United States and Canada, a greater part of the time in Canada. Her husband served in the Civil War and Mrs. Campbell received the largest pension granted a widow of an officer by the U. S. government. Deceased resided in Sackville before removing to Moncton thirty-five years ago.

### FIGHTING ON ALL FRONTS IN PROGRESS

Every Day Witnesses Increase in Activity in Most War Zones.

### A GREAT DRIVE IN ITALY PROBABLE

Austro-Germans Expected to Force Their Way to the Plains.

### GERMANS ATTEMPTING TO RUIN MONASTIR

Famous Town Under Fierce Bombardment—Strikes in Austria.

With the approach of spring each day witnesses an increase in the fighting activity. In every theatre, except Russia, the infantry and artillery are hard at work. From the North Sea to the Swiss frontier, no day passes without patrol encounters, which at times reach the intensity almost of battles and artillery duels of violence but little short of the great exchanges of shells which in the past year reached the high water mark of intensity.

Probably the most ambitious of all the attempts by the belligerents to pierce an opposing line, has been made by the French troops over a wide front in the Verdun sector. The attack was delivered after preparatory artillery fire lasting ten hours, according to the Berlin war office, by sea checked. That the fighting was of a sanguinary character is indicated by the treatment that the troops came in to hand to hand encounters. It is claimed by Berlin that at another point in this region the Germans penetrated French positions and captured two hundred prisoners, including the staff of one battalion.

At numerous points along the British front Field Marshal Haig's men are under heavy bombardments from the Germans. Particularly violent has been the pounding of the shells along the Bapaume-Cambrai road, in the Scarpe Valley and around Lens.

#### Drive in Italy Soon.

Indications are not wanting from the increased activity on the Austro-Italian front that the Austro-Germans from their northern line intend shortly another attempt to force their way out upon the plains and into open warfare with the Italians and the British and French troops sent thither to reinforce them. Several contingents forming reconnoitering parties have been put to flight by the Italians in the mountain region. The Italians themselves have successfully made small offensives in the region of Monte Asolone.

Likewise in Macedonia there has been a great increase in the military operations. Almost all of the front from Lake Ochrida eastward, the big guns of both sides are hammering away at the opposing positions. The Germans apparently are still intent on totally destroying the famous city of Monastir, and wiping out the remaining remnants of its civilian population. The town again has been placed under a fierce bombardment by heavy projectiles and gas shells. In this attack forty more of the non-combatant populace were killed.

#### More Labor Troubles.

Both Austria and Hungary again are experiencing a recurrence of labor troubles. Large strikes are in progress in Budapest and Vienna and threats of military intervention against the dissatisfied workmen have been made.

### CASUALTIES, 3,562

London, Thursday, Mar. 14.—The British casualties, reported for the week ending today, numbered 3,562. They were divided as follows: Killed or died of wounds, officers fifty-three, men 822. Wounded or missing, officers 148, men 2,529. In the first week of March the casualties numbered 3,545, the lowest of any week for several months.

### MAN RUN OVER

Bridgetown, N. S., March 16.—Guy Marshall, son of Alfred Marshall, of Arlington, a village on North Mountain, just east of Bridgetown, was run over by a train yesterday at the station here. His left leg has been amputated but he will probably survive. Marshall is 21 years of age.