The St. John Standard

VOL. XI., NO. 159. | TEN PAGES. | ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 1, 1919. | FAIR AND COOL | THREE CENTS

D'ANNUNZIO DETERMINED TO HOLD FIUME UNTIL IT IS WHOLLY ANNEXED TO ITALY

Enthusiasm of the People of Fiume is for Annexation and With Them it is Either "Fiume or Death."

JUSTICE AND RIGHT IS PEOPLE'S CRY

Soldiers Display An Intense Admiration for Their Commander Considered Greatest in the World.

Fiume, Sunday, Sept. 28, (By the A. P.)—Gabriele D'Annunzio, the present leader of the Italian forces in Fiume, received the correspondent of the Associated Press this afternoon and gave him a statement expressing his unalterable determination to hold Fiume until it is annexed to Italy.

"We are glad to see you in Fiume," he told the correspondent. "We are here to stay until we are through with our task of having Fiume annexed to Italy. We will not leave under any consideration until our object is accomplished.

"You see the enthusiasm of the people of Fiume to be annexed. You see that the people of Fiume are Italians. We are most firm in our determination to continue until our aim is fulfilled. Our motto remains today as since the beginning of this enterprise, 'Fiume or death.' We are willing to sacrifice all in our effort to gain what we believe to be just and right."

D'Annunzio appeared tired and worn but, and his face showed evidences of fever. During the day he had suffered from an attack of neuralgia and had been confined to bed until late in the afternoon. The last few days have imposed the severest strain upon the poet. He has been rising at 6.30 in the morning to commence the work of answering letters and drafting promises.

This has been his task in addition to attending to staff work in connection with the forces under his command.

One of his secretaries told the correspondent that D'Annunzio had received five hundred persons Friday and that at the close of every day he was exhausted.

At the interview D'Annunzio wore the uniform of a lieutenant colonel, with five rows of ribbons, including those of sixteen medals for valor.

The staff of the poet consists mainly of young men. There are no officers in Fiume above the rank of lieutenant-colonel. Out of nineteen officers on the staff of D'Annunzio, seven won the Italian gold medal for valor, of which only twentyfive were bestowed during the war.

The soldiers displayed a most intense admiration for D'Annunzio. One of them said to the correspondent: "He is the greatest man in the world. We are willing to follow him to the death."

The chief of D'Annunzio's orderlies said that the poet was a hard worker and was able to do more than any four officers. He was up early engaged in writing and other works which his assistants were unable to do. He had a number of assistants but they were only boys compared with him.

Demonstrations occur practically every evening in Fiume. Sometimes it is the Alpine Mountaineers, sometimes the Arditi or Bersaglieri who get up a parade and march through town, singing and cheering the D'Annunzio colors. The D'Annunzio troops are quartered in the schools of the city.

Ridicule Assertions.

Paris, Sept. 30.—The Jugo-Slav press bureau in Paris says it is authorized to declare that, contrary to the assertions of Gabriele D'Annunzio, the Jugo-Slav government never intended to enter Fiume by force and never made military preparations to that end.

It adds that D'Annunzio's assertions are the merest excuse for consumption abroad.

Inflamed Conditions In Adriatic Causing Supreme Council Concern

Paris, Sept. 30.—The inflamed conditions in the Adriatic region and the dissolution of the Italian parliament for the holding of a general election on November 16, as Rome despatches have announced, is giving the Supreme Council much concern, in view of the possibility of all the Balkans becoming involved in the turmoil.

In peace conference circles the approaching Italian elections are regarded as a struggle between the war and peace parties, or rather between the forces on the military side and those of socialistic and pacific tendencies, while it appears that D'Annunzio and Fiume will be chiefly an issue. The feeling is growing in Paris that D'Annunzio has acknowledged that his aspirations include far more than Fiume. The Italian situation is daily becoming more of an international question, the view being expressed here that the agitation might flame into war any day if, for instance, a Jugo-Slavs should happen to be massed by Italian troops.

DOMINION SECRETARY G. W. V. A. REFUTES CHARGES THAT OFFICERS HAVE BETRAYED THE MEMBERS

G. W. V. A. Has at Least Three Schemes to Submit to the Committee of Inquiry for Raising Money to Aid Returned Soldiers—Officials Have Not Yet Discussed the $2,000 Bonus With the Gov't—Impartial Enquiry to be Conducted Regarding Further Aid for Returned Men

Ottawa, Ont., Sept. 30.—A statement was issued today by C. Grant MacNeil, Dominion Secretary of the G. W. V. A., refuting charges made by Harry Flynn, President of the Toronto Returned Soldiers' Gratuity League, who is in Ottawa, to the effect that the officials of the G. W. V. A. had betrayed the wishes of the rank and file and also covering some interesting points regarding the G. W. V. A. position on the $2,000 bonus scheme. Mr. MacNeil incidentally states that the G. W. V. A. has at least three schemes to submit to the committee of inquiry for raising money to aid the returned soldiers.

"Personally," said Mr. MacNeil, "I am acting under the instructions of the executive of the G. W. V. A., and as a servant of the organization I must abide by my instructions. But never at any time have I expressed myself against the $2,000 bonus plan simply because I have no instructions to that effect.

"The officials of the G. W. V. A. have not yet discussed the $2,000 bonus with the government, for the reason that they are not authorized to do so until an impartial inquiry has been conducted into the question of further aid in the re-establishment of the returned men, and the country's ability to pay it.

"We realize the stupendous nature of the demand, and also that the need must be actually established by facts and not by wild and extravagant statements. Furthermore, officials of this organization are not making any attempt to suppress the views of the general membership on the bonus plan. As a matter of fact, at least three proposals will be submitted to the committee, all of which excell in comprehensive detail the crude scheme first evolved in Calgary.

"There has been no betrayal of the wishes of the general membership. The instructions of the Vancouver convention have been carried out to the letter and an analysis of the activities since then will establish this point. We realize that the question cannot be disposed of by mere demands. They must be backed up by concrete evidence. The Association exists to provide the returned soldiers with a medium through which to express their legislative needs, and we do not intend to abandon our policy to advance the interests of those we represent by reasonable methods. In this respect we are supported by the Dominion executives of the Army and Navy Veterans and the Imperial Veterans of Canada."

DEPREDATIONS BY GYPSY BANDS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Hypnotise Trader and Lift One Hundred Dollars from His Purse.

Liverpool, N. S., Sept. 30.—Queens County had its share of the depredations of itinerant gypsy bands today. This afternoon, a band of them passing through Brooklyn, N. S., called at the store of Colin McLeod, and before they proceeded on their way they had succeeded in taking with them $100 of Mr. McLeod's money. McLeod, who came here immediately after the occurrence, declares that he was hypnotized by the gypsy. They asked him to take out his purse and they would "bless" his money for him. He complied, and after the gypsies had left the store and moved on out of the village, Mr. McLeod discovered that, while the purse still remained in his hand, $100 of the money it contained was gone. He swore out a warrant in Liverpool, and armed with this, Constable Pat McAuliffe headed off the gypsies with an automobile and at the point of a revolver forced them to give up the $100 and an additional amount of $40 to cover expenses.

JAPS WORKING FOR PACIFIC CABLE

Delegation Sailed from New York for Europe to Arrange for the Purchase of Materials for Laying Cable.

New York, Sept. 30.—Kakichi Uchida, former Japanese vice-minister of communications, sailed for Europe on the steamship Caronia today to arrange for the purchase of materials for the laying of a new Pacific cable. Mr. Uchida represents the newly organized Japan-America cable company capitalized at $25,000,000, and he said that if permission to land the cable is received from the United States and prompt delivery of the cable made it should be in operation between Yokohama and San Francisco early next summer.

JOHN MITCHELL LEFT ESTATE OF QUARTER MILLION

His Holdings Were Mostly in Stocks and Bonds According to Petition for Administration Filed Yesterday.

White Plains, N. Y., Sept. 30.—John Mitchell, former president of the United Mine Workers of America, left an estate of $250,000, mostly in stocks and bonds, according to a petition for letters of administration filed in the court of West Chester County today. In a will written in his own hand shortly before his death, but believed to be invalided, because it lacked witnesses, the labor leader bequeathed all but $10,000 of his estate to his wife and children. The $10,000 was to be divided among other relatives and close friends.

TROOPS ON DUTY IN MAIN DEPOTS OF LONDON

District Underground Railway Started An Eight Minute Schedule Yesterday.

London, Sept. 30.—The district underground railway started an eight minute schedule today between Hammersmith and Mansion House station.

Troops were on duty in all the main London depots today. The waiting rooms have been transformed into temporary quarters for the soldiers. The men of the Severn Tunnel branch of the National Union of Railwaymen have given the government forty-eight hours' notice to withdraw the military guard guarding the tunnel. Unless the troops are withdrawn the pump men are to be called out.

BRITISH TROOPS OCCUPY ODESSA

Vienna, Sept. 30.—Troops from the British fleet in the Black Sea have been landed in Odessa and have occupied the city, according to advices received in Budapest.

ACTIONS FILED AGAINST PROV. LOAN ASSN.

Fraud Alleged in the Purchasing of the Assets of the Company by the Dom. Permanent Loan Assn.

Toronto, Sept. 30.—Alleging that the directors of the Provincial Building and Loan Association in 1902 accepted a bribe of $30,000 to approve of the purchase of the assets of the company by the now defunct Dominion Permanent Loan Corporation, and that this fact was not ascertained till G. T. Clarkson began his probe of the Dominion Permanent books, Kathleen A. Hancock has entered action on behalf of shareholders of the Provincial Building and Loan to recover the sum of $30,000, with interest at five per cent. for seventeen years. Mr. Clarkson is a co-plaintiff in the action, suing as liquidator of the Dominion Permanent Loan Corporation. The action is against E. C. Davies, J. S. Deacon, John Dunn, Thomas Crawford and the executors of Rev. W. Galbraith.

UNIONISTS OF LIBERAL RANKS HOLD CAUCUS

Have Decided to Continue Their Allegiance to the Government to Work Out After War Conditions.

EXPECT PLATFORM OF PROGRESSIVENESS

Expected That Policies to be Announced by Prime Minister Thursday Will Meet With Approval of All.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Sept. 30.—Beyond the statement that Liberal-Unionists have decided to continue their allegiance to the Government, and have expressed the hope that a progressive platform will be adopted which will keep the various elements together, little news has emanated from the caucus held in the east block today. At the conclusion of the gathering members refused to be interviewed, and maintained complete reticence. The official statement was laconic in the extreme concluding as follows:

"The consensus of opinion was that as the members were elected to support Ninon Government, it was their intention to continue to do so and the hope was strongly expressed that the government would be able at an early date, to evolve a progressive policy satisfactory to the country to meet the after war conditions."

There were present at the caucus Union Liberal ministers in the persons of Hon. Messrs. Rowell, Calder, Mewburn, MacLean and Sifton, together with cross benchers in the persons of Dr. Clark, Red Deer; Johnston, Last Mountain, and others. In addition there was a fairly full representation of the Liberal Unionist, rank and file.

It has been rumored that Conservative Unionists would also hold a separate caucus, but this is not considered likely. Sir Robert Borden had a turn for the better today, and if his condition improves it is proposed to hold a general caucus on Thursday. Conservative Unionists declare that they are satisfied to wait for that, and to express their views in the presence of all the elements of the government following.

It will be evident from the brief statement given out today that the continued support of Liberal Unionists is more or less contingent upon the policy which the government adopts. Numbered among those Liberals, however, are men who, before entering parliament, had little personal conviction of any kind, and who were more or less compromise candidates. There are some, also, who cannot be called low tariff advocates. To these two classes the matter of policy is of but little consideration. They will stick in any case. But there are others, probably 25 in number, to whom the matter of policy is of very real import, and those insist that the creed and policies of the new party be clearly defined before they give it their allegiance.

This definition is not likely to be long delayed. In all probability it will be given by the Prime Minister at Thursday's caucus. There is little doubt here tonight that it will be of a character that will meet with the support of the overwhelming majority of Liberal Unionists, and that consequently the great political experiment, born of the war, will be continued for the solution of the problems of peace.

Most Successful Results Attend British Gov't's Handling of Strike

London, Sept. 30—The following statement was issued by the government today:

"Railway services are improving. Schedules prepared by the companies yesterday were exceeded. Minor acts of sabotage were reported yesterday. In one case during the night red danger lights of certain signals were altered to green. Fortunately no loss of lives occurred. Necessary steps have been taken.

"The distribution of food continues successfully, thanks largely to the admirable spirit and efficient work of volunteers. Offers of voluntary service has been overwhelming. They are being collected as rapidly as possible and calls for service will be issued increasingly from day to day.

"Railway horses and live stock abandoned by the strikers are being cared for."

Agriculture And Allied Interests Under Consideration

Special Bills Before Parliament Gave Agricultural Representatives An Opportunity to be Heard.

Ottawa, Sept. 30.—Agriculture and Allied interests were to the fore in the Commons today. Sir George Foster's resolution on which are based bills to continue in force for a time after the declaration of peace, the Wheat Board and the Board of Grain Supervisors, and the bill respecting the salaries of the members of the Board of Commerce afforded agricultural representatives an opportunity to put forward their views.

In connection with Sir George's resolution, the minister dealt with the fixing of the price of Canadian wheat, emphasizing the point that while the Canadian farmers will receive anything above the fixed price of $2.15 received, the United States farmers will receive the fixed price only. He held out the hope that there would be considerable market overseas for the Canadian product.

The discussion developed into a criticism of Canadian millers rather than the measure under discussion. Donald Sutherland and others claiming that the millers, by supplying farmers with adulterated cattle feed, are doing untold damage to agriculture in Canada.

When the Board of Commerce bill came up for second reading the attacks on Mr. W. F. O'Connor, the assistant chairman, broke out anew.

Mr. Donald Sutherland declared that if the board continues to make rulings such as it has made, the movement from the country to urban circles will be aggravated. Referring to Mr. O'Connor's statement that his hands were tied, Mr. Sutherland offered the observation that "He was not toongue tied."

Labor Represented On The Dominion Board of Commerce

Mr. Murdock, An Outstanding Figure in Canadian Labor Circles, Becomes Member of the Board.

Ottawa, Ont., Sept. 30.—Labor will be represented on the Dominion Board of Commerce. Official announcement was made tonight that Mr. James Murdock, of Toronto, was today appointed a member of the Board to take the place temporarily filled by Mr. F. A. Acland, Deputy Minister of Labor. The official announcement says in part:

"Mr. Murdock has for many years been an outstanding figure in Canadian labor circles. He took a prominent part in establishing the Canadian railway adjustment board in 1918, which did so much to ensure and maintain harmony and co-operation as between railway companies and their employees. For a year past he has strongly held the view that the cost of living should be controlled and, if possible, reduced, and that increasing wages only would never solve labor problems.

"For the past fourteen years Mr. Murdock has been an officer of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and during most of that time the chief Canadian executive. He is a resident of Toronto. Two of his sons were in the war and both are still under medical care as a result of service. A fearless champion and leader in demanding a full measure of justice for workingmen, he has, with equal determination, insisted on labor recognizing its responsibilities and obligations undertaken.

"Mr. Murdock will enter upon his new duties in a few days."

CARMANIA DOCKS AT HALIFAX

Halifax, Sept. 30.—The steamer Carmania, which arrived today with soldiers' dependents and a large number of passengers for New York, brought also 456 of a crew intended to take charge of the former German steamer Imperator. The steamer sailed for New York at four o'clock this afternoon. The men learned, on arrival of the change in the arrangements under which the liner is not to pass to the Cunard Line as expected.

BOTH SIDES IN BIG STEEL STRIKE ARE CONFIDENT

Strike Leaders and the Representatives of the Companies Continue to Give Out Conflicting Reports.

INCREASED TENSION IN CHICAGO

Leaders of Strikers Are Disturbed Over Decisions from Allegheny County Courts.

Washington, Sept. 30.—Both sides in the steel strike of the steel workers, now in its tenth day, are awaiting developments at the industrial conference which will open at Washington next Monday, and it was said last night that there seems little chance of a "break" either way until then.

Throughout the affected territory there was little material change yesterday. Strike leaders and representatives of the companies continued to give out conflicting statements—the former maintaining that they were not only holding the men already out, but making substantial gains; and the latter that the plants were being operated with more men than at any time since the strike began.

Labor leaders announced that the daily bulletins would be sent out to inform the men of the course of the strike. Circulars yesterday urged the men to stick together, and declared that the steel workers "have almost every plant in the country shut down."

In the Pittsburgh district, indications were that the day had brought little material change, while in Chicago it was said that the "tension had increased" between the warring forces, but no serious violence was reported. The plants were operating with from 25 to 30 per cent. of their normal forces, it was stated. Reports of labor headquarters said it was "absolutely peaceful" in the Chicago territory and that there was picketing at all points.

The strike leaders were said to be somewhat disconcerted by the decision of the Allegheny County Court in upholding the action of the Mayor of Duquesne in preventing mass meetings in that city.

Authorities at Waukegan, Ill., conferred with union leaders in regard to calling on Governor Lowden for state troops, but the labor men gave assurances that they would redouble their efforts to control the strikers and the request for troops was held in abeyance.

Governor Goodrich, of Indiana, sent Colonel J. R. Mitchell to Gary to inspect the situation. The authorities denied that they had any intention of asking for state troops unless the situation grows materially worse.

The Bethlehem Steel Company said that no reports of disorder had been received and that the strike situation showed improvement over Monday.

Fireworks Failed To Break Forth

Ottawa, Ont., Sept. 30.—The fireworks which were expected to be uncovered at today's meetings of the special committee on soldiers' civil re-establishment did not materialize. Instead, the committee dealt largely with figures supplied by witnesses from the Army and Navy Veterans and the Imperial Veterans, while Sergeant J. Harry Flynn, of the Gratuity League, addressed a meeting downtown.

There was a fairly large attendance at the afternoon session, but when it was announced that Flynn was not to be heard, the gallery melted away to nothing in a few minutes.

E. Brown-Wilkinson, of the Army and Navy Veterans, Winnipeg unit, occupied the stand nearly all afternoon. He further outlined the demands of his organization for larger pensions for widows, dependents and disabled men; greater aid to re-establishment, and equal treatment in regard to gratuities and training for Canadians who served with the Imperial forces.

In the evening Major Scharschmidt, of the Imperial Veterans, estimated the grand total required for proper re-establishment of all classes of ex-Imperial soldiers was $9,000,000.

Hon. J. A. Calder estimated it would be over $13,000,000, using Major Scharschmidt's figures on the various classes, and a revised total was $9,457,000. This was for re-establishing 52,000 men, of whom 30,000 had not gone overseas. Most of the latter were R. A. F. men who were held in Toronto.

LEGISLATION IS AIMED AT U. S. STORAGE PLANTS

Washington, Sept. 30.—Additional legislation recommended by President Wilson, as a means of reducing living costs, was passed, today, by the House and sent to the Senate. It would limit the time of holding food in cold storage to twelve months and require that when released such food be plainly marked with the date it was placed in storage.

VILLAGE OF OROMOCTO LAID IN WASTE BY FIRE FIEND

Flames Breaking Out at Noon Yesterday in the Valley Lumber Co's Mill Leaped With Lightning Rapidity to Adjoining Structures, Wiping Out Stores, Residences and Churches, Entailing a Loss of Approximately $250,000—Serious Blow to the Thriving Village.

Oromocto, Sept. 30.—Fire which broke out shortly before noon today, wiped out a large portion of the village of Oromocto, Sunbury county, and threatened the entire place with destruction. The flames broke out in the Valley Lumber Co.'s mill, on the bank of the Oromocto River, in the western end of the village, and within a short time the plant had been entirely destroyed, as well as several million feet of lumber piled alongside the mill.

A terrific, variable wind which, at times, reached the proportions of a gale, was blowing and the flames shot up into the air almost 100 feet at times, the whole mill site and yards being a seething mass of flames, while sparks and burning embers were carried to the other extreme end of the village, a distance of more than half a mile. The wind swept the flames in the direction of the buildings which had been destroyed in the last big conflagration, about a year ago, and within a short time half a dozen or more houses and stores were ablaze, and the entire village seemed doomed, with the exception of the buildings on the hill back of the mill, where the residence of R. B. Smith, M. L. A., is located, and other buildings in the district near the old location of Stocker's Hotel.

Calls for assistance were sent out by telephone to Fredericton, and members of the fire department were despatched to Oromocto where they arrived before one o'clock with hand chemicals and other fire fighting apparatus. They at once entered upon the work of salvaging goods from the stores of A. B. White and Thomas McElroy, which seemed in imminent danger, and later they went to the registry office and houses nearby, which were then catching fire from sparks carried from the buildings across the road, which were entirely in flames, and worked hard to save them.

Kelley's Hotel, with all its outbuildings, was destroyed as well as the house and store of Leo Higgins, and several adjoining houses, while houses all the way along the main road which leads up over the hill were ablaze. The sidewalks, fences, grass and trees along the road were in flames all the way up to the top of the hill near the Anglican church, and as long as the gale of wind continued there seemed no hope of saving the whole village from destruction.

There was a marked shortage of vehicles and help to move stuff from the burning and threatened buildings, but men, women and children of the place, as well as the occupants of motor vehicles which flocked to the scene of the fire from all over the country, all helped and it was a pitiful sight. The community was entirely without any fire fighting apparatus or means of combating the flames, and when the fire once got under way the village was at the mercy of the flames and the wind. The Valley Lumber Company's loss, it was said, would be probably $100,000 or more, as it was said that three million feet or more of manufactured lumber that was piled had been destroyed and lumber on scows in the stream were ablaze. This company, so it was said, would be fairly well covered by insurance.

The fire was gotten under control late in the afternoon after more than half of the village was destroyed. A report gave the following buildings as among those destroyed: Church of St. Vincent de Paul, Roman Catholic; Anglican church and rectory; sawmill, office and mill yard of the River Valley Lumber Co.; James Kelley's hotel; J. T. McElroy's store and residence, latter new; also buildings owned by the same and used as warehouse; Leo Higgins' residence and barber shop; Harry Cannon's residence and store; John W. Gilmour's residence; R. W. Wield's blacksmith shop. Other buildings also have been destroyed, but a completed list could not be obtained.

Some buildings which were in the western part of the village were saved. A. B. White's store was one of these. The wind was blowing in that direction, but suddenly changed, aiding the fire-fighters.

This is the second disastrous fire which has visited Oromocto within two years, a large part of the village being destroyed a year ago last spring.