

# The St. John Standard

VOL. VIII. NO. 235

TEN PAGES

FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 29, 1916.

WEATHER—FAIR

PRICE TWO CENTS

## HUNS WILLING TO STATE TERMS? HEAVY BATTLES YET IN ROUMANIA

### GERMANS REPULSED IN NORTH FRANCE

Heavy Bombardment by French in Verdun Sector—  
British, French and German Airmen Active—Russians  
and Roumanians Making Stubborn Resistance in  
Dobrudja.

FRESH ADVANCES, ACCORDING TO BERLIN, BY  
TEUTONIC ALLIES AGAINST RUSSIANS AND  
ROUMANIANS IN WALLACHIA — MANY PRIS-  
ONERS TAKEN — INVADING HOSTS OF VON  
MACKENSEN MEET REVERSE SOUTH OF DAN-  
UBE, SAYS PETROGRAD.

The latest official communication from Berlin records fresh ad-  
vances for the Teutonic Allies against the Russians and Roumanians  
in Wallachia. The invaders are now beyond Rimnik-Sarat, advancing  
along the railroad toward Fokshani. Three thousand more prisoners  
and twenty-two machine guns have been captured by the invaders,  
bringing the number of men taken in the Rimnik-Sarat manoeuvre up  
to 10,220.

Although the Berlin war office reports that the Teutonic Allies in  
Dobrudja are keeping up their pressure against the Russians and Rou-  
manians, and have forced the Russians from fortified heights  
east of Matchin, on the east bank of the Danube, opposite Braila,  
Petrograd announces that the invaders south of the Danube have  
been repulsed with heavy losses, except at the village of Rakgi, which  
has been occupied by them. British armed motor cars, says Petrograd, did  
great execution in this fighting.

Fighting in Verdun.  
Considerable fighting has again  
taken place on the Verdun sector,  
around Le Mort Homme and on the  
eastern slopes of Hill 304, where the  
Germans made an attack but were  
repulsed, and where later the French  
began a bombardment of the German  
positions. Elsewhere, along the French  
front there have been reciprocal bom-  
bardments and attacks by small patrol  
parties, interspersed with fights in the  
air and aerial raids by French, British  
and German aviators. In the en-  
counters in the air each side is re-  
ported to have lost machines.

Artillery Duels.  
In the Austro-Italian theatre the  
weather has cleared and the artillery  
duels have been renewed with vigor,  
especially on the Carso front. In  
Macedonia, except for British attacks  
against the Bulgarians northeast of  
Lake Dolan, which Berlin reports  
were unsuccessful, comparative quiet  
still prevails.

"South of Brody, in Galicia, the  
Germans have brought their howitz-  
ers into play against Russian posi-  
tions, and at various points have  
damaged their trenches."  
"Unofficial advices received in Lon-  
don from Saloniki say the Greeks who  
surrendered to the Bulgarians at  
Kavala, and were interned in Ger-  
many, have been ordered by King  
Constantine to proceed to the Mace-  
donian front to fight against the  
Entente Allies. Simultaneously from  
Athens comes an unofficial despatch  
announcing that Greece is addressing  
another note to the Entente, declaring  
that unless there is a change in the  
Entente blockade Greece may be  
forced to seek the advice of the na-  
tion concerning the course to be  
followed."

British Statement.  
London, Dec. 28.—The official com-  
munication from British headquarters  
issued last night reads:  
"After a heavy bombardment three  
parties of the enemy attempted early  
this morning to raid our trenches  
northwest of Gommecourt. Two of  
the parties were driven back by our  
fire before reaching our trenches; the  
third reached the trenches, but was  
immediately ejected."  
"During the night the enemy fired a  
great number of gas shells at places  
behind our front line in the neighbor-  
hood of Arras, and west and north-  
west of Lens."  
"There was considerable artillery  
activity today on both sides in the  
Somme area, and the Ypres sector."  
"A number of fights in the air took  
place yesterday. Three hostile ma-  
chines were destroyed. Three others  
were driven down in a damaged con-  
dition."

French Statement.  
Paris, Dec. 28.—The official state-  
ment from the war office tonight on  
the campaign reads:  
"On the left bank of the Meuse dur-  
ing the day the enemy artillery, ener-  
getically counter-shelled by us, vio-  
lently bombarded our positions on  
(Continued on page 2)

### ACT OF JUDGE BLISS BLOW TO FRIENDS

Judge of York County Court  
Shoots Himself in Head in  
His Office at Fredericton—  
Highly Respected.

Special to The Standard.  
Fredericton, Dec. 28.—Fred St. John  
Bliss, secretary-treasurer of York Co.,  
and Judge of Probate, who shot him-  
self yesterday afternoon, died at 1:35  
o'clock this morning.  
No motive for Mr. Bliss' act is  
known. He was in exceptionally good  
spirits throughout the morning, when  
he was at work with County Auditor  
Geo. E. Armstrong, going over his ac-  
counts and getting them in shape for  
the approaching session of the York  
Municipal Council, which opens here  
on Tuesday afternoon next.

Shot Himself After Noon.  
It was some time between noon and  
one o'clock that Mr. Bliss shot him-  
self. He left his office suddenly, tell-  
ing Mr. Armstrong that he would re-  
turn in a few moments and walked  
across the hall to the office occupied  
by Sheriff Howe. He locked the door  
of the latter office and then shot him-  
self through the temple. The bullet  
entered the top of his forehead and  
came out at the back of his head.  
Mr. Armstrong was a rather un-  
usual noise in the building and on go-  
ing into the hall went to the door of  
the sheriff's office. He found the door  
locked, and believing something was  
wrong in connection with Mr. Bliss'  
sudden disappearance, summoned Dr.  
B. M. Mullin of St. Mary's.

Door Forced Open.  
The door of the office was forced  
open and Secretary-Treasurer Bliss  
was found lying on the floor with  
blood streaming from the wound in  
his head.  
Secretary-Treasurer Bliss was a son  
of the late Geo. J. Bliss, one of the  
best known and most highly esteemed  
residents of this section of New  
Brunswick. He held the position of  
secretary-treasurer for the past fif-  
teen years, having been appointed in  
1901. He was formerly a member of  
the late legal firm of Black, Bliss &  
Nealis, and was a prominent lawyer.  
Mr. Bliss was also Judge of Probate  
Court in York, a position he has held  
since 1909.

### GOOD NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LUMBERMEN

London, Dec. 28.—(Montreal Gazette  
cable)—Canadian lumber merchants  
will be glad to learn the decision of  
the war office to make larger use of  
Canadian woods in the future manu-  
facture of articles required for war  
purposes. This agreement is the out-  
come of representations made by Sir  
Geo. Perley, who put the lumbermen's  
case strongly before the authorities,  
more especially as regards red and  
white pine. Specimen price and  
samples of pine have been submitted  
to the war office with the result that  
an inspector of equipment and sup-  
plies has furnished, for the mer-  
chants' guidance, lists of sixty-eight  
articles in which the use of Canadian  
woods will be provided for in the  
specifications governing their manu-  
facture.  
Ottawa, Dec. 28.—November inland  
revenue figure, for Canada, totalled  
\$2,651,764, an increase of nearly \$300,  
000.

### GERMANY MAY ANNOUNCE HER TERMS OF PEACE

Washington Claims Central Powers Willing to Permit Con-  
fidential Exchange of "Broad Tentative Terms  
Through President Wilson, if—

Washington, Dec. 28.—Germany, it was made known  
here today, will not permit the road to peace negotiations to  
be blocked by a refusal of the Entente belligerents to enter  
a conference without proper knowledge of her terms. It has  
been forecast that the Entente Powers would raise a refusal  
on such a condition.

The Central Powers are represented as willing to permit  
a confidential exchange of broad tentative terms through  
President Wilson should it become necessary to do so to  
bridge the gap which threatens to prevent a gathering of  
peace delegates. There were broad intimations today that  
a statement of this position by Germany either had been com-  
municated to the U. S. government or soon would be.  
(Continued on page 2)

### ALONG SOMME WEATHER IS UNFAVORABLE

Major-General Maurice Tells  
Why British Advance is  
Seriously Handicapped.

London, Dec. 28.—The continuation  
of the British offensive along the  
Somme front is impossible so long as  
the present weather lasts, Major-Gen-  
eral Frederick B. Maurice, chief direc-  
tor of military operations of the war  
office, so informed the Associated  
Press today.  
"I told you some time ago," he said,  
"that our offensive would not cease  
during the winter, but it must be ap-  
parent from the daily reports that no  
real battle has been offered in that  
sector since October. In the first place  
we underestimated the effect of the  
shelling on the terrain. The country  
over which the advance will have to  
be made is thickly sprinkled with shell  
holes filled with water. Also, never  
having held the same line in any other  
winter, we underestimated the effect  
of the fog in the valley of the Somme."

Frequent Frosts.  
"There have been frequent frosts,  
not severe enough to harden the  
ground, but sufficient to freeze fogs,  
making artillery observation fire prac-  
tically useless and also preventing the  
drying of the ground."  
"The French arrived at the same de-  
cision, and transferred their atten-  
tion to Verdun, with results which you  
know. We may be able to resume at  
March, as we found the ground at  
Neuve Chapelle in fairly good shape  
in March, 1915, although it had been  
very bad during the winter. Unable to  
continue the offensive for the present,  
we have done the next best thing. The  
taking over of a section of the French  
line has kept us busy during the past  
ten days. The operation has been suc-  
cessful, and I will be glad to tell you  
the exact extent of the line taken over  
when I am sure the Germans know the  
point of junction."  
"In Roumania the first Roumanian  
army, which has borne the brunt of  
the fighting, has been entirely with-  
drawn and its place has been taken by  
the Russians. In Dobrudja the line  
has been moved back in alignment  
with the battle front north of the Dan-  
ube. In this region both our Allies  
and the enemy are suffering from ad-  
verse weather conditions."

### DECIDEDLY GOLD FOR NEW YEAR'S OUTLOOK.

A cold wave is approaching  
on horse-back. The outlook this  
morning was that a decided  
dip in temperature is due during  
the next day or two. The mer-  
cury at Edmonton yesterday  
registered 32 degrees below  
zero, 22 below at Bellefleur, 26  
below at Port Nelson and 30 at  
Prince Albert.

### KING CONSTANTINE STILL ACTING WITH THE KAISER

Report That Greek Division Which Was Surren-  
dered to Bulgarians at Kavala Ordered to  
Leave Internment Camp at Goerlitz, Germany.

### SUCH AN ACT WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO WAR AGAINST ENTENTE ALLIES ON PART OF GREECE — ADDRESSING SECOND NOTE TO EN- TENTE POWERS — KING AND PRINCE NICHOLAS HOLD LONG CONFERENCE.

London, Dec. 28.—A telegram has been received from Saloniki by  
the Anglo-Hellenic League to the effect that the Greek division which  
was surrendered to the Bulgarians at Kavala has been ordered by King  
Constantine to leave Goerlitz, Germany, where it has been interned, for  
the Macedonian front, to fight against the Entente Allies.  
Such a move on the part of King Constantine would be tantamount  
to an act of war against the Entente Powers, and as recent despatches  
from Athens have represented that the differences between Greece and  
the Entente were being composed the accuracy of the unconfirmed de-  
spatch to the Anglo-Hellenic League is open to question. At the time  
of the occupation of Eastern Macedonia part of the Kavala garrison of  
Greek troops surrendered to the Germans and Bulgarians and the others  
were removed on Entente warships. Those who surrendered to the Ger-  
mans and Bulgarians were transported to Goerlitz for internment. Their  
number was given as 400 officers and 6,000 men.

Greece's Second Note.  
Athens, Wednesday, Dec. 27, via Lon-  
don, Dec. 28.—The government is ad-  
dressing a second note to the Entente  
Powers pointing out the growing popu-  
lar resentment against their blockade.  
This note refers to Greece's previous  
communication urging mutual consid-  
erations with a view to clearing the  
situation, and says that unless some  
such action is taken shortly Greece  
may be forced to seek the advice of  
the nation respecting the course to be  
followed.

### PARLIAMENTARY SESSION WILL BE BRIEF ONE

House Will Meet Jan. 18, and  
will Endeavor to Pass Ne-  
cessary Legislation Before  
Premier Leaves for England

Ottawa, Dec. 28.—In calling parlia-  
ment to meet on January 18th, it is be-  
lieved that the government hopes to  
pass all pressing legislation and se-  
cure prorogation before Sir Robert  
Borden is obliged to leave for England  
to attend the Imperial war council. It  
is necessary for the prime minister to  
be in attendance at these meetings.  
The purpose of these meetings is  
very comprehensive, as it embraces  
the prosecution of the war, the condi-  
tions upon which peace may be made  
and the consideration of problems to  
arise after the war. It is understood  
that the prime minister feels himself  
bound to attend a conference which  
will deal with questions of such vital  
and transcendent importance affect-  
ing not only the interests of the Dominion  
but those of the whole Empire.  
The legislative programme for the  
coming session in view of the neces-  
sity of Sir Robert going to England  
will be of such a character as to per-  
mit its accomplishment within thirty  
days. It will probably consist of only  
the war and civil budgets and exten-  
sion legislation. It is understood that  
Sir Robert will have to be absent from  
Canada during March and April.

### FORMER P. E. I. MAN IS NOW ARCHBISHOP

Winnipeg, Dec. 28.—With all due  
ceremony, and assisted by a great  
gathering of hierarchy, His Excellency  
Monseigneur Stagni, apostolic delegate  
to Canada, performed the final act of  
investiture installing His Grace the  
Most Rev. Alfred Sinnott, D. D., as  
first archbishop of Winnipeg, in St.  
Mary's church, at high mass Sunday.  
The Pontifical High Mass was cele-  
brated by Mgr. Stagni, Archbishop  
Sinnott assisting at the throne.  
The sermon of the occasion was  
preached by Very Rev. Monsignor T.  
J. Kidd, rector of the ecclesiastical  
seminary of Toronto.  
The new Archbishop was formerly  
a resident of Prince Edward Island.

### HUN ANSWER IMPERTINENT TO THE U. S.

Petrograd, Dec. 28, London, Dec. 29.  
—After the recent declarations of the  
Russian foreign minister and the pro-  
nouncement of the Emperor, which  
vigorously expressed the reluctance  
of the nation to consider any peace  
proposals at the present time, it is be-  
lieved that, except for the formula-  
tion of Russia's official reply to Pres-  
ident Wilson's note, the last word has  
been said here regarding the possi-  
bility of peace negotiations.  
Russia's negative attitude has been  
strengthened, if possible, by the Ger-  
man answer to the American note,  
which the Russian government con-  
siders "not only irrelevant, but im-  
pertinent, to the United States," ac-  
cording to information received by the  
Associated Press.  
The foreign office denies that other  
neutral governments will follow the  
lead of the United States and Switzer-  
land and has dissipated the view  
taken yesterday by part of the press  
regarding the neutral governments,  
which in the form of a neutral league  
intended, according to reports, to  
bring combined pressure upon the war-  
ring countries in an effort to bring  
the war to speedy conclusion.

(Continued on page 2)