

THE WEATHER
Mar. 1.—Forecast: Partly cloudy, with
occasional showers of rain and
drizzle, with cold.

The St. John Standard

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VERDUN FIGHTING SLACKENS WHILE ENEMY THROWS STRENGTH INTO BLOWS IN CHAMPAGNE AND WOEYRE

ONLY A FEW SHIPS BETWEEN U.S. AND EUROPE AFFECTED BY NEW SUBMARINE POLICY

Only Very Small Proportion of Them Carry Guns.
MAJORITY OF THESE ITALIAN STEAMERS.
Lord Robert Cecil Shows How Germans Twisted Meaning of Instructions Given to British Ships to Suit Their Own Purpose.

New York, Feb. 29.—Only a small proportion of the shipping plying between American and European ports—a fleet of armed Italian merchantmen—appears to be menaced by the new Teutonic submarine policy, which goes into effect at midnight.
British and French ships that have arrived here and at other Atlantic ports during the past year have carried no guns. Seven Italian ships, with naval guns mounted on their after decks and manned by trained crews from the Italian navy, have been plying between New York and Mediterranean ports since the first of the year, and one, similarly armed, put in at Fort Arthur, Texas.
The steamship *Giuseppe Verdi*, the first Italian liner to arrive here since the new policy, is due to leave port tomorrow, and is being her second round trip as an armed vessel. Her agents had not ascertained today the number of passengers she will carry, but believed that the number would not be large, the majority being third class.
Local agents of the Italian lines here today decline to discuss the new submarine orders, but all said that "insofar as they knew, there would be no interruption of the sailing dates. They also said today that they had received no specific instructions from the home offices of the line or from representatives of the Italian government.

French and British passenger ships from New York now at sea and due to pass through the war zone are as follows:
French line steamship *Lafayette*, Feb. 26, for Bordeaux; her sister ship *Espagne*, Feb. 28, for the same port; British steamships *Cretic*, Feb. 29, via Boston for Liverpool and Tuscan, Feb. 28, for Glasgow. No guns were seen on any of these ships when they departed, nor were any reported to the collector of the port.

London, Feb. 29.—On the eve of the new act by Germany for the beginning of her submarine campaign against armed merchant ships, Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of War Trade, has issued a statement giving the British view of the status of such merchantmen.
This statement, which is in answer to queries whether merchantmen have been instructed to take the offensive against submarines, says:
"The British view has always been that defensively armed merchantmen must not fire on submarines or on any other warships, except in self-defence. The Germans have twisted a passage in a document taken from a transport which they sank into meaning that merchant vessels have instructions to take the offensive. This is not so."
"The passage in question, which lays down a maximum distance beyond which merchant ships are advised not to fire, must be read in conjunction with another passage which makes it perfectly clear that merchant vessels must not attack, unless a submarine shows unmistakable hostile intentions."

KENT CO. MAN DIES OF WOUNDS

Ottawa, Feb. 29.—The casualty list tonight contains the names of the following New Brunswick men:
Twenty-Sixth Battalion,
Dangerously ill—Daniel E. Melanson, 126 Orange street, St. John, N. B.
Fifty-Fifth Battalion,
Seriously ill—Alan Cripps, Queen street, Chatham, N. B.
First Canadian Mounted Rifles,
Died of wounds—Gordon D. Hately, Cocagne, Kent Co., N. B.

FORTY UNARMED BRITISH VESSELS SUNK WITHOUT WARNING UP TO END OF 1915

London, Feb. 29.—The Admiralty tonight made public a list of "unarmed British vessels torpedoed and sunk by enemy submarines, without warning," up to the end of 1915. It comprises thirty-nine steamers and one trawler.
A list also was given of neutral vessels said to have been torpedoed in the same period without warning, consisting of thirteen steamers and one sailing vessel, of which two, the *Gullifant* and *Nebraskan* were American, four Norwegian, four Swedish, one Dutch, one Danish, one Greek, and one Portuguese.
"In addition to the above," says the Admiralty statement, "there are several cases in which there is no reasonable doubt that the vessel was sunk by a torpedo, fired without warning from a submarine, but in the absence of actual proof, due to a lack of survivors or from other causes, these cases are omitted from the list."

HOUSE ADOPTS BUDGET WITHOUT DIVISION

Hon. Mr. Meighen in Brilliant Speech Shatters Arguments of the Opposition Critics and Reminds them of Days of Grit Extravagance and Plunder.

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, Feb. 29.—Another brilliant speech was delivered by Hon. Arthur Meighen in the House this evening in the debate on the budget. This has been a session remarkable for brilliant speeches, but it is not too much to say that the utterance of the Solicitor-General will compare favorably with the best of the year. It is true, that for the most part, he had perforce to deal with the arguments of the opponents, that his was the task of pulling down the castles of the opposition, and so he had to assume the attitude of the unenviable critic, necessarily he had to appear as counsel for the defence, gathering up the stray shots of the attackers, and hurrying them back, but he did it as few men in the House can do it. He made several of the opposition speakers in the debate appear ridiculous, particularly J. G. Turriff of Assiniboia, who had foolishly attacked the policy of the government respecting the export of nickel to the United States. Mr. Turriff had argued that the government should stop the export of nickel from Canada in the unrefined state, and that all the refining should be done in this country. He declared that the Germans had succeeded in getting Canadian nickel for their own purposes.
Enemy Got Not Pound of Canadian Nickel.
The Solicitor-General easily disposed of Mr. Turriff. He showed that not one pound of Canadian nickel had reached Germany since the war began, and as to the possibility of bringing the refineries of New Jersey to Canada by means of an export duty, he said the supporters of this proposal had not a very serious sense of responsibility if they understood the question. Would they, he asked, have prevented the export of nickel and prevented the manufacture of munitions in the United States for Great Britain and her Allies? It would take a year to establish a nickel refinery in Canada, and no one knew that the war would last so long as a year when it broke out. He mentioned the fact that the British government had not interfered with the export of nickel to the United States, thus showing that it had no fear of its reaching Germany, and, said Mr. Meighen, "The British government knows its own business in this matter a trifle better than the honorable member for Assiniboia."
He re-opened the attack made upon the Jewish people by Mr. Bouley, the member for Rimouski, who had declared that the immigration of Hebrews should be restricted. Mr. Meighen said that the Jewish people were a respectable people from end to end of the Dominion and they were joining hands in the awful struggle in which Canada was engaged.
Mr. Meighen paid a glowing tribute to Sir Thomas White, saying that the

NATIONAL DEBT BILLION AND HALF POUNDS

Announcement Made in British Commons—Yesterday by Chancellor McKenna.
MORATORIUM FOR SOLDIERS' FAMILIES.
Government Considering the Scheme—Socialists Flow of Questions Checked by Speaker of the House.

London, Feb. 29.—In response to a question in the House of Commons today the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Reginald McKenna, said it would not be in the public interest to publish the amount of American securities which have been collected in consequence of the government's mobilization plan. Mr. McKenna estimated that the national expenditure for the current year would reach the gigantic total of £1,500,000,000 sterling.
"The government," he said, "was prepared to give assistance for the development of foreign trade, in order to insure that rivals who were Great Britain's bitter enemies should not, as in the past, enjoy control of the foreign market."
David Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions, said in reply to a question that it was not desirable to publish information concerning the communications that had passed between the Allies when they mutually bound themselves not to conclude a separate peace.
Socialist Checked.
Phillip Snowden, Socialist member for Blackburn, intervened with a question as to whether a secret treaty had not been concluded as the price of Italy's intervention in the war, offering to give Italy large tracts of Austrian territory. At this point the Speaker stopped Mr. Snowden's further progress with his question, which remained unanswered.

Recent recruiting in Great Britain has revealed a good deal of dissatisfaction over the course of the government to make adequate financial arrangements for married men in good positions existing under the Lord Derby scheme, and in whose behalf agitation arose for a moratorium for the tenants of their residences and other liabilities.
Walker Hume Long, president of the local government board, announced in the House of Commons today that the government was considering the question of establishing such a moratorium, but that no detailed statement was yet possible.
He also announced, in behalf of Premier Asquith, that Rear Admiral Sir Dudley De Chair had been appointed to assist Robert Cecil as Minister of War Trade.

Military Pensions £1,500,000 a Year.
London, Feb. 29.—The military pensions the government is now paying amount to £1,500,000 annually. This announcement was made in the House of Lords today by Baron Newton, who said it was calculated that the amount could easily rise to £1,500,000 if war lasted until the end of March, 1917.
About one-third of the men discharged were not pensioned, Baron Newton continued, but if all of them were pensioned the annual charges would now be £2,500,000, and probably would rise to over £11,000,000 by the end of March, 1917.
Says Kitchener Reduced to Mere Figurehead.
London, Feb. 29 (9:33 p. m.)—In the course of a general discussion today in the House of Commons on the Consolidated Fund Bill, Arthur Lynch, Nationalist member for West Clare, declared that the government had inflicted upon Earl Kitchener severe censure by having taken from him, one after another, his chief functions, so that the Secretary for War was now in a somewhat ignominious position, being little more than a figurehead.
No reply was made to Mr. Lynch's remarks.

FRENCH GUNS BATTER HUN WORKS AND SPOIL PLANS FOR FURTHER OFFENSIVES

ALLIES HAVE 500,000 TO 1,000,000 MEN AT BORDEAUX READY FOR EMERGENCY

New York, Feb. 29.—The Entente Allies have massed from 500,000 to 1,000,000 new troops at Bordeaux to be ready for emergencies, according to passengers who arrived here today from France aboard the steamship *Rochambeau*. None of these soldiers, it was asserted, have been near the battle lines in any of the theatres of the war. They are said to comprise a part of Lord Kitchener's new army and drafts from the French colonies.

ALLIED ATTACK IN BELGIUM?

Amsterdam, via London, Mar. 1.—Probably in preparation for an Entente Allied attack in the neighborhood of Ypres and Dixmude there is great German activity behind the lines in Belgium, according to the *Telegraaf's* frontier correspondent.

WHOLE REGIMENTS OF TURKS ANNIHILATED AT ERZERUM

Russian Victory a Greater Coup Than Garbled Reports of Turkish War Office Would Make it Appear—Exact Number of Prisoners is 235 Officers and 12,753 Men Besides Hundreds of Guns.

Petrograd, Feb. 29, via London, March 1, 12:10 a. m.—The official communication from general headquarters issued today says:
"The Turkish communication of the 21st states that the retreat of the Turkish army from Erzerum towards positions west of the fortress was effected without loss, and that the Turks abandoned in the fortress only fifty old guns they could not remove. At the same time Turkish headquarters denies statements alleged to have been disseminated by the Russians of the capture in Erzerum of 1,000 guns and 80,000 prisoners. The same Turkish communication declares that Erzerum was really not a fortress, but merely an open town with fortifications, devoid of any military value."
"In view of these assertions, the Russian general staff announces that the fortress of Erzerum was the only fortified point in the interior of Asia Minor protecting Western Armenia and Anatolia and commanding all the best roads of Trans-Caucasia and the interior of Asia Minor. For many years past great improvements have been carried out in the works by the Turks, with the assistance of the Germans. The terrain in front rendered it naturally strong, while it was covered on the flanks by mountain passes, most difficult of approach and with their passes protected by powerful forts."
"Such was the formidable barrier on the path of our offensive, with enormous defensive advantages of the northeast and east."

Turks Resisted Stubbornly.
"During the five days assault the fortress was defended by the Turks with stubbornness, to which the enormous number of dead and wounded gives testimony. The Caucasian army succeeded in surmounting a steep mountain, protected not only by frost, but by wire entanglements and other defenses, and assaulted the fortress after an artillery preparation. The assault on the forts and principal position lasted from Feb. 11 to Feb. 15, inclusive.
"After we had taken the forts on the left flank of the principal Turkish line of defense, extending 27 miles, the fate of the forts in the centre and on the right flank, and after them, of the second line forts and the principal defensive position, was decided Feb. 16, after short attacks. These fortifications, which were full of Turkish dead, remained in our possession."
"During the assault on the fortress several Turkish regiments were annihilated or taken prisoner, with all their officers."
"On the line forts alone we took 197 artillery pieces of various calibres in good condition. In the defense works of the central fortress we took another 126 pieces. In the fortified region of Erzerum we took a large number of storehouses of various kinds, which have already been mentioned by our headquarters staff."
"The exact number of Turkish prisoners is 235 officers and 12,753 men. It is possible to estimate the force of the blow which we dealt the Turkish army by the fact that some of their army corps of three divisions now number only from three to five thousand men, with a few guns. All of the remainder have either fallen into our hands or perished in the fighting or from cold."
"The Turkish prisoners captured in Erzerum or in the pursuit complain bitterly that their headquarters staff was concentrated in the hands of the Germans, who during the assault on the fortress were the first to abandon the fortified positions, causing panic and disorder among the already shaken Turkish troops."
"At various points on our front in the Voevre our artillery fire prevented attacks in the course of preparation from being carried out."
"In the Voevres there has been great artillery activity in the region of Senones and the Ban-De-Sapt. To the east of Seppois a counter-attack by us drove the enemy from some sections of trenches which he had penetrated during the morning."

BLAIR INQUIRY CONCLUDED

Hotel Man Sent Police After Chief Witness who Left Without Paying Board Bill.

Special to The Standard.
Fredericton, Feb. 28.—The enquiry which M. G. Teed, K. C., conducted here into charges against H. M. Blair

Paris, Feb. 29, 4:55 p. m.—The German attacks are extending westward in Champagne and eastward in the Woeyre. The Temps refers to the skill with which the Germans have organized their offensive, saying:
"This great operation has been admirably carried on by our adversary. In a region naturally very difficult, where bad weather is rendering communications precarious, he has been able to send food supplies and munitions even to the most advanced line of combat."
"What is more difficult to do is to renew the strength of the soldiers who have been fighting for a week in the most disagreeable weather. Despite that, he must continue to the end; he cannot now remain in the trenches waiting better days."

Fighting Slackens Around Verdun.
With the lessening of the activity of the contending forces to the north of Verdun, the French in the Woeyre region, east of Verdun, are using their artillery to break up German preparations for further advances towards the fortress. At various points the fire of the French guns has prevented the Germans from launching offensives.
In the Vosges Mountain there has also been great artillery activity by the French near Senones and Ban-De-Sapt, while near Seppois the Germans have been driven out of trenches they had previously taken. In the Champagne region, German fortified positions in the region of Hill 193 have been battered by the French guns, and the crater of a mine exploded by the Germans was occupied by the French.

The Germans have added several additional points to their train in the fighting about Verdun, having been enabled to construct trenches on the slopes north of the Cote Du Poivre and to capture an armored work northwest of Douaumont, and have taken the ruins of Manheulles and Champlon, thirteen miles southeast of Verdun.
In this drive to the east of Verdun the advance of the Germans has extended over a front of virtually twelve miles, from Dieppe to Champlon.
Berlin reports that thus far they have taken prisoner 228 officers, 16,875 men and a large number of guns, machine guns and much war material. There has been considerable artillery activity and fights in the air between battalions of German and British aviators along the British front in France and Belgium.
In the Dvinsk region of Russia the Russians have driven the Germans back and advanced their line, and put down under heavy fire an attempt at a counter-attack.
Paris, Feb. 29.—The official communication tonight by the war office reads:
"Between Senones and Rheims our artillery has scored important points behind the enemy's front."
"In Champagne our batteries shattered German organizations in the region of Hill 193. To the west of Mairons De Chateau the Germans exploded a mine, the crater of which we occupied."
"In the region of Verdun the bombardment continues on the north front with less intensity than on the preceding days. No infantry action was reported in the course of the day. The Germans entrenched themselves on the slopes north of the Cote Du Poivre the first ridge of which is occupied by our advanced elements."
"We carried off a violent fire on Samogneux, where an enemy battalion had assembled."
"At various points on our front in the Voevre our artillery fire prevented attacks in the course of preparation from being carried out."

J. L. STEWART'S CONDITION REPORTED IMPROVED

Montreal, Feb. 29.—J. L. Stewart, member of the New Brunswick legislature, and editor of the *Chatham World*, is a patient in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, suffering from eye trouble. An operation was performed by Dr. W. C. M. Byers today, and Mr. Stewart is reported improved.