

Hamm Brothers' Biscuit and Confectionery Plant in the North End Wrecked by Fire.

The St. John Standard

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TEN PAGES

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 2, 1918.

DECIDEDLY COLD.

PRICE: TWO CENTS.

AUSTRIANS RETIRE ACROSS PIAVE; RUSSIAN REDS CAPTURE POITAVA

PIAVE NEARLY CLEAR OF THE HUN INVADERS

Smashing Defeat of Teutons at Zenson Bridgehead Hopeful for Venice.

THE INVADERS RAID 4 TOWNS

Berlin War Office Claims Further Gain South of Marcoing.

LITTLE ACTIVITY ON WEST FRONT

Bolsheviks Occupy Important City of Poitava, Famous Old Battleground.

Another reverse for the Teutonic allies, following that effected by the French troops in their initial drive on the northern front in Italy, has been brought about by the Italians in a sharp attack in the famous Zenson loop, on the lower reaches of the Piave River. Here the enemy has been driven to the eastern bank of the stream from positions he had held since the Italians in their retrograde movement from the Isonzo made their stand along the western shore of the Piave. Thus the entire right bank of the invaders, except far to the north, where the battle line runs westward from the stream through the hill region.

The fighting for the Zenson bridgehead had been in progress since last Thursday, the Italians keeping energetically after the foe in order to regain the position, which always has been considered a menace to Venice. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy by the artillery and rifle fire of the Italians before he was forced to recross the stream.

Enemy Air Raids.

On the northern front the infantry again is idle for the moment but the big guns of both sides are keeping up intensive duels on various sectors, particularly around Monte Tomba and on the Asiago Plateau. The enemy is continuing to make raids over important towns on the plain, his latest attack having been directed against Vicenza, Bassano, Costel Franco and Treviso. Thirteen persons were killed and forty-four others wounded, the majority of them civilians. Only small material damage resulted from the new raids.

Likewise the operations on the fronts in France and Belgium are being confined almost exclusively to bombardments, although the German war office claims a further gain of ground by the army of Crown Prince Rupprecht over the British south of Harcourt in the Cambrai sector.

Fighting in Russia.

There are persistent reports that heavy fighting is in progress between Bolshevik Cossacks and Bolshevik troops in southwestern Russia, and that the casualties have been heavy. No details of an authentic nature have yet come through, but the reports say the Bolsheviks have been defeated on the southwestern front with numerous losses of men and guns, but that the Bolsheviks have occupied the important town of Poitava.

Still further progress has been made by the British troops operating against the Turks in Palestine, north of Jerusalem. The Turks in the fighting of the past several days have lost more than a thousand men killed and 100 men made prisoners.

TUG IN DISTRESS

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Jan. 1.—The ferry, Prince Edward Island, was sunk to the west of the tug *Claspian* in distress in the Northumberland straits. She towed the tug within two miles of the pier at Port Borden but was unable to take her in owing to heavy fog.

MONCTON TIMES HAS WEDDING

Foreman Clarence Wilson and Miss Lottie Clare Brown United in Marriage.

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, Jan. 1.—The marriage of Clarence Wilson, foreman of the Times composing room, and Miss Lottie Clare Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Brown, was solemnized this afternoon at 5.30 at 144 Highfield street. Rev. Bowley Green, pastor of the First Baptist church, officiated, only immediate friends being present. The bride was groomed in a travelling suit of navy blue and was attended by her sister Miss Lena Brown, while the groom was supported by his brother, Cecil O. Wilson of Amherst. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson left for Nova Scotia points on a wedding trip.

40,000 MILITARY AND NAVAL VOTES ARE FORWARDED

Counting at Ottawa Will Not Be Begun Until Jan. 8 and Will Probably Last Remainder of Month.

Ottawa, Jan. 1.—Forty thousand military and naval votes cast in North America have been received in Ottawa. They come from all parts of the United States and Canada, from polling stations held on trains and ships, from points as remote as Sable Island. Only one poll—that held on a vessel now on the high seas—still remains to be heard from.

Allocation of the votes to their various constituencies will be begun probably on January 8. That and the subsequent counting is expected to take up the whole of January. Final announcement of the military and naval vote, here and overseas, is not expected before the first week in February.

HARRY C. GREEN IS DEAD, AGED 100

Former Sheriff and Postmaster at Summerside and Oldest Free Mason on P. E. I.

Summerside, P. E. I., Jan. 1.—Harry C. Green is dead in his 101st year. He was at one time sheriff of Prince County, postmaster of Summerside and was the oldest Free Mason on the island. He was the father of Herbert Green, manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia, at Digby, N. S., and an uncle of A. B. Warburton, M. P.

SIR GEORGE FOSTER CONTINUES TO GAIN

Was Able to Be Up for Short Time on Sunday.

Ottawa, Jan. 1.—Reports received here indicate continued improvement in the condition of Sir George E. Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, who is suffering from the effects of the accident he received at Toronto, Sir George was able to rise for a short time Sunday.

N. B. MAN KILLED

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 31.—Tonight's list of fifty-four casualties reports seven Canadian soldiers killed in action, four died of wounds, one prisoner of war, twenty-four wounded, seven gassed, ten ill and one seriously injured. Maritime names:

Infantry. Killed in action: P. A. Murphy, North Head, N. B. W. N. Cummings, Stellarton, N. S. H. H. Aichers, Richmond, P. E. I. Artillery.

Wounded: C. Gusters, Glace Bay, N. S.

BOLSHEVIKI DEFEATED IN BIG BATTLE

Petrograd Dispatch, However, Claims They Have Captured Poitava.

SCENE OF HISTORIC STRUGGLE IN 1709

Ukrainians and Cossacks Defeat Bolsheviks Near Haprand.

AMERICANS ARE UNDER ARREST

M. Avskentieff, Former President of Council of Republic, in Custody.

Petrograd, Monday, Dec. 31.—The battle between the Ukrainians, Cossacks and Bolshevik troops has been resumed at Kuruk, midway between Moscow and Rostov-on-Don. It is reported that there have been heavy casualties in the three days fighting. The Bolsheviks are reported to have occupied Poitava, the scene of the historic battle at which Peter the Great defeated Charles XII. of Sweden in 1709. The city has a population of 50,000. There is a famine in the government of Moscow.

Bolsheviks Defeated.

Stockholm, Dec. 31.—Ukrainian and Cossack forces, in a great battle on the southwestern front, have defeated Bolshevik troops, taking four hundred prisoners and capturing eight big guns and 628 machine guns, according to a despatch received by the Dago Nyheter from Petrograd, by way of Haparanda. The Cossacks are in hot pursuit of the Bolsheviks.

Americans Arrested.

London, Jan. 1.—It is reported that the Bolsheviks have arrested the members of the American railway mission at Irkutsk, Siberia, says a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Petrograd.

Avskentieff Incarcerated.

Petrograd, Monday, Dec. 31.—M. Avskentieff, former president of the council of the republic, has been arrested and taken to the St. Peter and St. Paul fortress.

LIGHTLESS NIGHTS

New York, Dec. 31.—A lightless night every night in the week except Saturday was ordered today by the state conservation commission on fuel, on recommendation of the advisory committee representing light, heat and power companies. The order will go into effect on Wednesday throughout the state.

DR. REMINGTON DEAD

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 1.—Dr. Joseph Price Remington, dean of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and a pharmacist of international reputation, died today. He was seventy years old.

HEAVY STORM

Sydney, N. S., Jan. 1.—The heaviest snowstorm since March, 1907, swept over Sydney on Monday and last night. Traffic was tied up all over the city. Railway traffic has been tied up since Sunday night. Many of the streets are completely blocked.

P. E. I. ISOLATED

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Jan. 1.—The Prince Edward Island Railway has been tied up since Sunday, owing to a dried track. Two trains got through tonight, but no mail has arrived from the mainland since Sunday morning.

COLD HAMPERS THE RAILROAD

Last Month the Coldest Moncton Has Experienced in Many Years.

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, Jan. 1.—Last month goes on record as the coldest December Moncton has experienced in many years. Thirteen days of the month the thermometer registered below zero and the last seven days the mercury has ranged between five and eighteen below. Last Thursday was the coldest of the snap, the mercury being 18 below. Last night the glass showed 14 below. The cold spell has been disastrous to rain sewers on the C. C. R. Through passenger trains are running hours behind time and even local trains find it impossible to run on schedule. The effect on freight transportation is even more serious as it is almost impossible to keep trains from freezing up in sidings. Railway men report that the past week, as a result of the extreme cold, has been one of the toughest in their experience.

79,527 BRITISH CASUALTIES IN PAST MONTH

List Shows Marked Decrease from That of November, Which Totalled 120,089, Highest in Five Months.

London, Dec. 31.—British casualties reported in December reached a total of 79,527, divided as follows: Killed or died of wounds—Officers, 1,046; men, 14,805; wounded or missing—Officers, 2,842; men, 60,338. Casualties reported from December 26 to 31 were 9,951, divided as follows: Killed or died of wounds—Officers, 60; men, 2,600. Wounded or missing—Officers, 298; men, 1,549.

British casualties this month show a marked decrease from November, reflecting the slowing down of operations with the coming of winter. The total for last month was 120,089, the highest in five months, owing to the severe fighting on the Cambrai front. The figures for the last six days of December are much lower than for the preceding six days. The report for the period December 1904 gave a total of 15,945.

MISSING MONCTON GIRLS ARE FOUND

Their Mother and Four Other Members of Family Killed in Halifax.

Halifax, Jan. 1.—Mrs. John Reid, 59 High street, Moncton, through J. J. Stroder, chairman of the information bureau, found her two nieces, Annie and Lizzie White this evening at St. Joseph's Orphanage. Their mother and four other members of the family were killed in the explosion and their father, Walter B. White, formerly a brakeman on the C. G. R., is now overseas.

One of the girls found this evening was in practically an unconscious condition since the explosion until Sunday last. Only today did she learn of her mother's death. Mrs. Reid will take the two little girls to her home in Moncton.

86 BELOW ZERO!

Dawson, Y. T., Dec. 31.—Eighty-six below zero is the record for this season of cold which began several weeks ago. This temperature was recorded at the mouth of the Peily River, 100 miles up the Yukon from here.

James A. Seely. The death occurred at Upham Corner, Dorchester, Boston, on Monday of James A. Seely, formerly of St. John. Mr. Seely was 86 years of age.

THE ITALIANS FORCE BACK AUSTRIANS

Later Compelled to Abandon Zenson Bridgehead and Cross Piave River.

ITALIANS HOLD ZENSON BEND

Enemy Sustains Heavy Losses in Concerted Drive by Italians.

THE BRITISH ALSO ARE SUCCESSFUL

French Forces in Monte Tomba Execute Important Victorious Move.

Rome, Jan. 1.—The Austrians last night were compelled, in consequence of Italian operations, to abandon the Zenson bridgehead, where they had a lodgement on the western bank of the Piave River, and pass to the eastern bank of the river. All the Zenson Bend is now held by the Italians. The text of the statement follows: "At Zenson Di Piave, owing to our energetic pressure, begun on Thursday and continued without interruption, the enemy last night was obliged, as the result of our combined operations with fire and detachments, and after having suffered heavy losses to abandon the bridgehead and to pass again to the eastern bank. All the ground in the bend is now held by us.

Moderate Artillery Fire.

"On the remainder of the front the artillery action on both sides generally was moderate. Our artillery showed more activity on the Asiago Plateau, and the enemy's guns increased their fire in the Monte Tomba-Piave sector. "Last night enemy aircraft attacked the aviation camp of Istrana and repeated their aggression against the inhabitants and open cities of Vicenza, Bassano, Cavallfranco and Treviso, where bombs were dropped. Altogether we registered 18 dead and 44 wounded. The victims, for the most part, belonged to the civil population. The material damage was slight. "Our air squadrons bombarded enemy aviation camps. Two hostile machines were brought down in the course of the day by French and British airmen."

British Active.

London, Jan. 1.—The following official communication dealing with the operations of the British forces on the Italian front was issued tonight: "The British commander-in-chief in Italy reports that the Italians at the end of the year remain in possession of their defensive lines on the Monte Grappa and Asiago sectors, which they have worked untiringly to strengthen. Little snow has fallen. The success of the French yesterday in the Monte Tomba region has given much satisfaction. "Some small raids have been successfully made across the Piave River by the British. The crossing of the river is difficult at this season of the year. British artillery and aircraft continue their efforts daily to destroy the enemy's batteries. "In retaliation for December 26, when they lost eleven machines, the enemy aircraft has been active lately in bombing raids. The damage thus inflicted has been slight. "All the allied troops are confident of future success of their united efforts and look forward to the new year."

French Take Positions.

Rome, Dec. 31.—In the Monte Tomba region on the northern front the French have captured enemy positions between Osterio Di Monteforno and Marzolino, the war office announced. They also captured about 1,400 men and 60 machine guns and seven cannon.

The French Report. French Army Headquarters in Italy, Monday, Dec. 31.—(By The Associated

GOMPERS CALLS UPON LABOR

In New Year's Message Asks Members of A. F. of L. to Support Country in War.

Washington, Jan. 1.—In a New Year's greeting to all organized labor, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, calls upon representatives and organizers to make plain to their fellow the issues involved in the war and the obligation that devolves upon all citizens. He also emphasizes the importance of seeing to it that the spirit and methods of democracy are maintained at home while the country is fighting to establish them in international relations. "War means victory for our cause, or danger to the very existence of our nation," says the address. "With our nation at stake, individuals cannot interpose opposition to the war—a war declared by the will of the nation's representatives. Under the exigencies of war opposition to the war declared by constituted authority becomes treason."

LLOYD-GEORGE GREET'S ALLIES

"All Hopes of the Human Race Centre Upon Triumph of Our Cause," He Says.

London, Dec. 31.—Messages from the British prime minister, David Lloyd George, have been sent to all the allies except Russia, but including Greece. All express the good wishes of the British war cabinet to the governments and peoples addressed. To President Wilson, Mr. Lloyd George says: "At this season I wish in behalf of the British war cabinet to send to your government and people a message of good will. Every day that passes must make us realize more clearly that the hopes of the human race centre upon the triumph of our cause. "Every day proves to us that our friendship for one another is becoming more and more the cement of that league of free nations which now stands as the guardian of justice and liberty."

FIREMAN HURT IN MONCTON

D. E. Shaw Falls from Hose Cart and Sent to Hospital.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, Jan. 1.—D. E. Shaw, substitute fireman in No. 2 Hose Co., while returning from a fire today was thrown from the cart and sustained injuries which necessitated his being taken to the hospital. He was unconscious for a time but late tonight his condition seemed improved.

TWO BRITISH NAVAL VESSELS ARE SUNK

Mine Sweeper and Boarding Steamer Torpedoed—Seven Landmen Killed by Mine.

London, Jan. 1.—The Admiralty announces that the mine sweeping sloop *Arbutot* and the armed boarding steamer *Grive* have been sunk owing to bad weather, after having been torpedoed. Seven persons were killed and twenty-four injured by the explosion of a mine that was washed ashore today between Ramsgate and Deal. The explosion occurred while an attempt was being made to haul it out on land.

Firemen Killed.

Falling floors and walls took toll of firemen and naval guards. One fireman was killed and seven others hurt in the collapse of an upper floor of the Monticello hotel in the day and tonight two firemen and several sailors were caught in a falling wall of the Lenox building. Three were brought out badly hurt, but two others were left in the debris.

K-3 TWO. The explosion first was in a cloak and hat shop near the Monticello. The second was on the sixth floor of that hotel after the first fire was practically under control and the third in the Lenox buildings, which later was destroyed.

When the second explosion occurred, Mayor Mayo put the naval officers, fire in charge. They placed patrols throughout the business district, threw a cordon of marines and firemen around the fire district, began picking up persons unable to account for themselves.

Department of justice agents followed, with the city detective force in seeking to unravel the mystery of the explosion. Just as dusk fell in the Monticello broke out afresh and despite the heroic work of the firemen and sailors, the Lenox, Carpenter and Tanswell buildings, six story structures, across the street, were wrecked.

TWO MILLION BLAZE SET BY ALIENS

Norfolk, Va., Practically Placed Under Martial Law by Mayor.

THREE EXPLOSIONS DISTINCTLY HEARD

Three Persons Killed and a Score of Others Were Injured.

NORFOLK IS A NAVAL STATION

Granby Theatre, Monticello Hotel and Business Blocks Are Destroyed.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 1.—Nearly two blocks in the heart of Norfolk's business district, including the Monticello hotel, were destroyed, a three men were killed, and a score more injured, in a series of explosions and fires today which both the police and naval authorities believe were incendiary. The fire had been checked tonight, but still was burning fiercely in the ruins. The loss is roughly estimated at more than \$2,000,000.

Three distinct explosions in as many buildings, one after the fire once virtually had been brought under control, led to the general belief that enemy agents were at work. Mayor Mayo practically placed the city under martial law by turning the situation over to naval officers, and some 2,500 marines and blue-jackets from nearby naval stations assisted the police and home guards in maintaining order and preventing vandalism.

Five Men Arrested. Naval patrols rounded up suspicious persons throughout the afternoon while five men were arrested as suspects. Two of these, Hugo Schmidt and H. K. Lessing, said to be Germans, were turned over to the department of justice agents. Tonight there were reports that two Germans had been shot by sailors during the day, but neither the police nor naval authorities could confirm them.

The fire started before dawn in the old Granby theatre and gained headway rapidly as the firemen were handicapped by near zero temperature. It quickly spread to the Monticello hotel and other nearby buildings in the block.

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