

THE WEATHER.  
Maritime—North and east winds.  
Light snow at night.

# The St. John Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

OPERA HOUSE  
TODAY at 2.30 and 8.15  
Mat. - A Butterfly on the Wheel  
Tonight - The Great John Ganton

VOL. VII, NO. 279 TEN PAGES WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 23, 1916 PRICE TWO-CENTS

## ITALIAN TROOPS NOW ALMOST WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE OF CITY OF TRENTO

### PARLIAMENT THRILLED BY WORDS OF COL. CURRIE

LEADER OF THE FAMOUS 48TH HIGHLANDERS GIVES THE HOUSE GRAPHIC STORY OF CANADIANS' GLORIOUS WORK AT ST. JULIEN—FINE TRIBUTE TO FRENCH-CANADIANS AND ELOQUENT APPEAL FOR ABANDONING OF RACE AND CREED PREJUDICE.

Special to The Standard  
Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 22.—Only two men stood between me and any decoration or mention in despatches, one was General Alderson and the other was the Minister of Militia. One was six miles back and the other was 1,800 miles away. I prefer the verdict of the man who was in the trenches with me.

This was the statement of Col. John Allister Currie in the house today in the course of a speech in the budget debate. He is the Conservative member for North Simcoe, and when the war broke out he and his famous regiment, the famous 48th Highlanders, of Toronto, were the first to offer for active service as a unit. They went with the first contingent, and along with other Canadian battalions were cut to pieces at St. Julien.

After that battle Col. Currie's name was almost the only one of the officers engaged mentioned in despatches. The explanation, or at least part of it, came today from Col. Currie. He read a letter from Brigadier General Turner, his brigade commander, in which the latter said that he would have pleasure in forwarding his name for mention in despatches. Col. Currie said he referred to this matter because there had been "some gossip regarding my conduct at the front."

The affair has caused a good deal of a sensation in parliamentary circles and there is considerable speculation as to whether Col. Currie is really attacking General Hughes or General Alderson or both. It is recalled that shortly after the war broke out there was a movement to have General Hughes resign and mention was made of Col. Currie as his successor. The premier, however, refused to consider any change in the ministry of militia. However, it seems hardly possible that General Hughes could bear any grudge against Col. Currie on that account. But with General Alderson the case is different. It is said, although there is no proof of it at hand, that he has expressed himself as opposed to "parliamentary colonialism."

General Alderson is an Englishman whose appointment to the command of the first Canadian division came as a surprise to Canadians. He had never been in Canada. He was not recommended for that command by the Canadian government. When nominally as was made by the government high mentioning officers they would be pleased to see in command, one of these was the Earl of Dundonald, who is well known in the Dominion and regarded as a capable officer. It is true that he had a quarrel with the late Liberal government, but it was not on the grounds of military efficiency.

Tribute to French-Canadians.  
Indeed many of the strongest Liberals in parliament have frequently said that they would have been pleased to see the chief of the Canadian troops. However, the recommendations of the Canadian government were not accepted.

The fact is that Col. Currie is regarded as one of the most capable and bravest soldiers in the Dominion, and General Hughes has paid him the very highest tributes that a soldier could pay another, and a full explanation of this incident is awaited with the keenest interest. The feeling at Ottawa may be gauged by the fact that when Col. Currie finished his speech he was given an ovation from both sides of the House.

He made one of the great speeches of the session, which is already notable for instances of a particularly high order. His tribute to the French-Canadian race will be long remembered. His stirring appeal for the abandonment of race and creed prejudices in Canada was greeted with prolonged cheering.

"There are no braver troops than our French-Canadian boys," he said, and added that the petty notes of racial prejudice which so frequently marred the harmony of Canadian life "makes me very tired."

### ITALIANS SCORE VICTORY IN MOUNTAINS

Have Also Occupied the Towns of Rouchi and Roucagno.

### TURKS ADMIT THE LOSS OF ERZERUM.

Austrians Claim Their Air Raids Over Lombardy Proved Successful.

Bulletin—Rome, via Paris, Feb. 22.—The Italian forces have conquered the mountainous zone of Callo, between the Laganza and Coglio torrents in the Sugana Valley section. They have also occupied the towns of Rouchi and Roucagno.

Turks Admit Reverse at Erzerum  
Berlin, via wireless to Sayville, Feb. 22.—A Turkish retreat to positions west of Erzerum is announced by the Constantinople war office in today's official statement received here. The retreat took place, says the report, after the Turkish destroyed positions which they had occupied fifteen kilometres east of Erzerum and also fifty old cannon which could not be transported.

The statement added: "Fantastic Russian reports stating that ten thousand cannon and eighty thousand prisoners had been taken at Erzerum are untrue. No combat took place in the vicinity of Erzerum besides those in the positions mentioned. The forts at Erzerum had no military value, nor had the town itself."

Enemy Air Raids on Lombardy  
Berlin, via wireless to Sayville, Feb. 22.—Austrian air raids over Lombardy with damage reported at points attacked by the aviators, are announced by Austro-Hungarian army headquarters in today's official statement received here. The statement says:

"There have been lively artillery combats on the Isonzo front especially near Piava.  
"An Austro-Hungarian air squadron attacked factories in Lombardy. Two aeroplanes advanced as far as Milan for reconnoitering purposes. Another air squadron attacked the aerodrome and docks of Desenzano, on Lake Garda. In some instances hits scored on objects of attack were observed in both enterprises. All the aeroplanes returned safely in spite of heavy artillery fire."

### FRENCH AND BULGARS CLASH

London, Feb. 22.—French and Bulgarian patrols have had a lively engagement in the Mochikovo sector on the Greco-Serbo frontier, according to a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Athens today.

The Bulgarians were obliged to retire, leaving six prisoners in the hands of the French.

### HUNS PAY HEAVY TOLL FOR TEMPORARY ADVANTAGE WON TO EAST OF SOUCHEZ

Gained 800 Yards of French Trenches, but Hurled Out of Greater Portion With Enormous Losses.

### THREW 7 BATTALIONS AT FRENCH FRONT.

Vicious Fighting on Western Front—Entire Crew of Zeppelin, Shot Down by French, Burned to Death.

The Italians, after weeks of hammering at the Austrian positions with their big guns, have captured the mountainous region of Callo in the Sugana Valley, and also have occupied the towns of Roncengo and Rouchi.

By their new acquisition of Terrain the Italians now are almost within striking distance of one of their chief objectives of the war—the city of Trent—which lies, protected on the north, east and south by a line of forts, fifteen miles west of the captured region.

Again there has been vicious fighting in the Artois region of France. The Germans, seven battalions strong, not alone occupied first line trenches, but at points gained access to some of the communicating trenches.

The French, by a counter-attack, it is officially announced by Paris, succeeded in driving out the Germans from all but a few of these positions, the Germans suffering heavily.

At Brabant-Sur-Meuse the Germans also broke into the French trenches, but here again they were driven out and back to their original positions.

The entire crew of about twenty-two men of the Zeppelin airship which was shot down by the French near Brant-Le-Roi perished in the flames which enveloped the aircraft as it fell from a height of six thousand feet. Berlin admits the loss of this Zeppelin.

No Change on Other Fronts.

There is no change in the situation along the front in Russia and Galicia. The Russians are still pressing the Turks hard in Armenia. Constantinople, in its first official statement concerning the reverse to the Turkish arms at Erzerum, says the retreat to positions west of the fortress took place after the Turks had destroyed positions to the east of Erzerum and also fifty old cannon, which they could not take away with them. Denial is made that the Russians captured 1,000 cannon and 80,000 prisoners.

A semi-official report from Berlin says the Senussi tribesmen from western Egypt have captured several towns and are approaching the Nile River valley.

Again the Bulgarians and French have come in contact on the Greco-Serbo frontier. The Bulgarians were forced to retire after a lively engagement, leaving half a dozen prisoners in the hands of the French.

A Japanese fleet, having with it a large number of aircraft, is reported to have arrived in the Mediterranean Sea, according to Italian despatches printed in German newspapers.

Lord Robert Cecil, British under secretary for foreign affairs, is considered as likely to be given the portfolio of Blockade Minister, the government having decided to create this new portfolio in the cabinet and place full responsibility for the blockade of Germany and matters connected with the British orders-in-council in the hands of a single individual.

"There was considerable activity on the part of both artillery in the region of Ban-De-Sapt and to the west of Altkirch."

French Statement  
Paris, Feb. 22.—The text of the French official statement given out this afternoon follows:  
"In the Artois district, after the vicious bombardment previously reported to have taken place yesterday evening,

### Jap Fleet With An Air Squadron Arrives at Mediterranean

Copenhagen, via London, Feb. 22.—German newspapers print despatches from Italy stating that a Japanese fleet has arrived safely in the Mediterranean Sea, together with a great number of aircraft.

Two Japanese steamers have been torpedoed and sunk in the Mediterranean, the liner Yasuda Maru and the freighted Konkoku Maru.

On January 3, an announcement was made at Tokyo by the Jiji Shimpo that a squadron of Japanese warships was to be despatched to the Suez Canal, presumably for the purpose of protecting Japanese shipping.

No Compromise, No Separate Peace.  
Paris, Feb. 22.—The Anglo-French parliamentary committee began its sessions today. Viscount Bryce, head of the British section, addressed the French delegates, over whom former Premier Clemenceau presided. He said there would be no separate peace among the warring powers, nor any compromise. He characterized the meetings as definite proof of the indestructible unity of the Entente Allies.

M. Clemenceau said that some such evidence of Anglo-French accord had been long awaited. He said the French and British people would live in a union which would be unbroken, and that whatever might happen, these two nations would continue the war to the end.

### JACK TARS MAKE BEGINNING MUNITIONS IN OF NEW ERA SPARE TIME IN RUSSIA

Sacrifice Time for Recreation Aboard Warships in Order to Help Men in Trenches.

London, Feb. 22 (8.45 p. m.)—The fact that the men of the British warships are turning out a large amount of war munitions in their spare time aboard ship is revealed in a letter from the Munition Minister, David Lloyd George, to Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty, made public tonight.

"I have been greatly interested in the details of the splendid work done by the officers and men of the battle cruiser fleet in making munitions," the minister writes. "The output which has already been reached is very striking, but more important even than the material results is the magnificent spirit which prompted the men of the fleet to devote their leisure time to giving the men in the trenches such loyal and effective support."

"The fact also that the work is being carried out by the men's own wish, and without remuneration, greatly enhances its value."

ing, the enemy delivered a strong attack against our positions at the east of Givenchy. They were successful in penetrating into our first line trenches along a front of about 800 metres, and at several places they gained lodgment in our communicating trenches. There followed a counter-attack on our part and as a result the enemy hold now only a few positions in these latter trenches. The German attacking force at this consisted of seven battalions. They suffered heavy losses.

"They suffered considerable losses as a result of our curtain of fire and from the activities of our infantry and our machine guns.

"At Brabant-Sur-Meuse, between the forest of Hautet and Herbe forest, the Germans gained a footing in some of our advanced trenches. At certain points they pushed on to our communicating trenches, but our counter-attack drove them out from these latter positions. We took about fifty prisoners.

"To the east of Seppois two German attacks were repulsed by us.

"There has been considerable artillery activity along the front between Chapelle and Ban-De-Sapt.

### Gzar's Presence at Opening of Duma Token of New Union of Government and Popular Representatives.

Petrograd, Feb. 22, via London, Feb. 23 (1.30 a. m.)—The presence of Emperor Nicholas at the opening of the Duma today is hailed by the press and public as one of the most important events in the whole political history of Russia. It is pointed out that the appearance of the Emperor in the House has emphasized, in the most striking manner, the increasing disposition of the government and people to lay aside internal politics and devote all their energies to a concerted effort to bring the war to a successful issue.

The event is alluded to by prominent members of the Duma as "the beginning of a new era" and likened, in its far-reaching significance, to the emancipation of the serfs and the manifesto of 1906.

This was the first time that a Russian Emperor had ever visited the legislative body, or in this formal way had recognized it as one of the parts of the government. It bears upon the importance of the political crisis through which Russia has been passing. Critics of the government have protested that since the last adjournment of the Duma the government has not shown any increased tendency to reflect the desires of the populace, or yield to the demands for internal reform, and that a successful prosecution of the war was impossible without some real understanding between the government and the Duma.

The Emperor's presence today is taken as a token of a new union of the government and the popular representatives, towards which the liberal and progressive elements in the Duma have been striving, and will, it is thought, relieve the tension and suspense which has existed since the adjournment of the House.

The new premier, M. Sturmer, who succeeded M. Goremykin in that office, made his first address. He declared that although Russia did not minimize the seriousness of the situation in the Duma, and the sacrifices she was compelled to make, both the government and the Duma were resolved that peace would not be made until Russia had gained, in conjunction with her allies, a decisive victory over the enemy.

"Russia had hardly begun the work of internal re-organization," said M. Sturmer, "when the war interfered. But even in war time this work must go on. Russia's better future is coming. Nothing can disturb our faith in that."

### WARS WON BY HARD HITTING, NOT ORDERS-IN-COUNCIL

TO BRING GERMANY TO KNEES, MUST TURN BLOCKADE POLICY OVER TO NAVY AND LET FLEET ENFORCE, IT BERESFORD DECLARES—LORD CECIL ENTERS CABINET AS BLOCKADE MINISTER.

London, Feb. 22.—The government, through the Marquis of Lansdowne, announced that it had decided to turn over all matters connected with the blockade of Germany to one man, who would rank as a full-fledged cabinet minister. It is understood that the new post will go to Lord Robert Cecil, who, since the formation of the coalition government, has been under secretary for foreign affairs. He will retain this post, joining the cabinet as blockade minister.

The new minister will be charged with the administration of the orders-in-council regarding the blockade, as well as responsibility for the general policy and practice of the government with respect to trade passing into or from neutral countries.

Lord Robert Cecil is a lawyer of wide experience and a young man, as members of the British cabinet go. In the foreign office he has been intimately concerned with the blockade operations, particularly in their relation to the complicated matters touching belligerent and neutral rights. His elevation to the cabinet will give the Unionists another representative in the coalition council.

Hard Hitting, Not Proclamations  
The whole question of the blockade was thrashed out at considerable length in the House of Lords this evening, Baron Sydenham and Baron Beresford making the principal appeals for a stricter blockade, while Marquis of Lansdowne and Baron Buckmaster defended the government.

It was Baron Beresford's maiden speech in the House of Lords, and his words were sprinkled with epigrammatic, contrasting notably with the ordinary, sombre ultra-dignified debates of the upper house.

"There is some doubt," he began, "whether the government is going about its task in the right way. A war was never won by orders-in-council or proclamations, but by hard hitting. If we want to bring Germany to her knees, we must exercise the blockade power thoroughly and completely, under the principles of international law. To do that, it is necessary to have a policy and turn it over to the navy as well as the navy enforce it.

"These orders-in-council may be statesmanship, but they are not war, and they are not likely to win the war. I would allow nothing whatever to go into Germany, not even luxuries. I would abolish the distinction between absolute and conditional contraband. I would extend the doctrine of continuous voyage to all contraband. The war should be run by five cabinet ministers without departmental duties.

### BATTALION OF CANADIAN WOODSMEN

Ottawa, Feb. 22.—A Canadian forestry battalion has been asked for by the war office and steps have been immediately taken by Major Gen. Sir Sam Hughes to form it. It will be in command of Lieut-Col. Alexander McDougall, of Ottawa, the well known railway contractor. The members of the battalion will probably be Gerald White, M. P. for North Renfrew, and B. H. Hepburn, M. P. for Prince Edward. Canadian woodsmen are wanted at once in Great Britain for timber requirements.

Lumber is now at an almost prohibitive price in the Motherland, and ocean rates on lumber from this side are so high as to practically stop export from here. In Great Britain there are still large resources of standing timber which can be cut down and utilized for building operations, trench construction work, etc. The men from Canada know the business and will get

to work within a month or so on the job.

It is proposed to raise companies of experienced woodsmen from British Columbia, from Alberta and Northern Saskatchewan, from the Ottawa Valley, and from Quebec and New Brunswick. A number of prominent lumbermen and contractors have agreed to co-operate in the recruiting of the new battalion.

NO CRIMINAL CASES BEFORE WESTMORLAND COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Special to The Standard.  
Dorchester, N. B., Feb. 22.—The Westmorland Circuit Court opened here today. His Honor Justice Barry presiding. Major C. L. Haughton, clerk of the court, appeared before the bar clad in khaki. No grand jury was summoned, there being no criminal business to come before the court.

There were but two civil cases to come for trial. The first case was that of Albert E. Fillmore vs. Thomas Estabrooks. This was by consent laid over until the May sitting. The second case was settled out of court.

Among those in attendance were His Honor L. Governor Wood. Court adjourned sine die.