The St. John Standard

VOL. X., NO. 148. TWENTY-FOUR PAGES SATURDAY, MORNING, SEPTEMBER 21, 1918. SHOWERY. PRICE TWO CENTS

Centre of Interest Changes From Western Front To Operations of Allies in Palestine and Saloniki; Turks and Bulgarians Treated to Terrible Drubbing

SERBS CAPTURE 5,000 PRISONERS

Bulgarians Burning Depots and Camps in Hurry To Escape Onrush of Allied Forces.

BRITISH AND GREEKS ATTACK IMPORTANT BULGAR POSITIONS

Operations in Northern Russia Have Resulted in Severe Defeat For German-Led Forces — Prisoners and War Material Taken.

PARIS, Sept. 20—(Havas)—The capture of several villages, and 5,000 prisoners, is recorded in the Serbian official statement, made public today.

"Continuing our advance," the statement says, "we crossed the left bank of the Cerna River. The enemy burned his depots and camps.

"We have taken more than 5,000 prisoners, and captured ten additional guns, mostly heavy pieces. Several villages have fallen into our hands."

British and Greeks Attack.

Saloniki, Thursday, Sept. 20.—"On the morning of September 15, British and Greek troops attacked the enemy's positions west and east of Lake Doiran. West of the lake and south of the town of Doiran the trench system was captured, and our line was pushed about 2,000 yards. Heavy Bulgarian counter-attacks regained part of the ground captured on our left, but on the centre and right our positions were maintained.

"East of the lake, after a night advance, we carried the enemy's outpost line. Up to the present more than 700 prisoners have been counted.

"The Greek troops fought with great gallantry.

"Four of our scouts engaged fourteen enemy machines, and crashed two of them to the ground. One of our machines is missing."

Operations in North Russia.

London, Sept. 20.—The following official communication dealing with the operations in Northern Russia, was issued today:

"On the Dvina the largest of the enemy's armored steamers has been captured.

"On the Murmansk front there have been several encounters between Karelians and hostile patrols, who crossed the frontier into Karelia from Finland. The Karelians have been uniformly successful.

"In a severe defeat of German-led forces at Ukhtinskaya, the enemy suffered heavily, and was pursued while in disorderly retreat. Thousands of rifles and many boats were captured."

Italians Bomb Pola.

Rome, Sept. 20.—Fighting activity on the Italian front was confined mainly to artillery fire, says the official statement, issued by the War Office today. The text follows:

"In the Seren Valley an enemy attack was repulsed. On the northern slopes of Mon Fenera our patrols captured prisoners.

"Our aviators bombed Pola."

Serbians Fighting on 25-Mile Front.

London, Sept. 20.—In Macedonia the Serbians have extended their front westward to the Cerna River and it is now 25 miles wide. The total depth of the advance is 15 to 17 miles.

Five thousand prisoners and eighty guns have been captured.

All the Bulgarian trench systems on the Serbian front have been penetrated. Allied cavalry has taken up the pursuit and one cavalry unit has crossed the Cerna, 20 miles north of the Sokol positions.

Another force of horsemen has moved the same distance northeast.

British and Greek troops in an attack on a ten-mile front south of Lake Doiran have made some progress. No details have yet been received.

AERIAL OPERATIONS.

London, Sept. 20.—The following official communication dealing with aviation was issued tonight: "Clouds and a strong wind interfered with air work yesterday and observation was carried on with difficulty. Squadrons working on the 3rd and 4th army fronts kept in close touch with the troops, reported positions of enemy batteries and delivered ammunition to machine gunners in the forward areas.

"Five and a half tons of explosives were dropped and two hostile machines were downed and two sent down out of control. None of our machines is missing. Night flying was impossible."

ONE STORE ALONE LEFT AFTER FIRE

Business Portion of Saskatchewan Town Wiped Out By Flames on Thursday.

Moosejaw, Sask., Sept. 20.—The whole business portion of Hawer, Saskatchewan, was wiped out by fire, which started shortly before five o'clock Thursday afternoon. The fire originated in a Chinese restaurant, the cause of which is not yet known. In less than two hours, the post office, Dillon Bros.' general store, the Queen's Hotel, the store adjoining the Queen's Hotel, the pool room and a dwelling house belonging to Joe Nash, adjoining the restaurant, were completely destroyed. Although valiant efforts were made by the citizens with water from the G. T. P. well, the flames had too much of a start. The loss is estimated at $95,000. Only one store remains, that of the Mawer Supply Company.

WASHINGTON'S NEW RECORD IN WAR FUND BILL

House Gives Government Authority To Raise More Than Eight Billion in War Taxes During Year.

Washington, Sept. 20—The house late today passed the war revenue bill, designed to raise by taxation approximately $8,182,000,000 of the twenty-four or more billions needed by the nation for the current year. The huge measure—the largest of its kind in the history of any nation now goes to the senate.

Passage of the bill was unanimous. A formal roll call, demanded by Majority Leader Kitchin, recorded 350 yeas and no nays, which announcement by Speaker Clark, was greeted by roars of cheers and applause.

The Allies May Change This.

Washington, Sept. 20—Bosnia, Herzegovina and Croatia are to be formed in a single provincial government under the Austro-Hungarian empire with Count Tschza, former Hungarian premier, at its head, according to an official despatch today from Switzerland.

ENTIRE TURKISH ARMY IS MENACED BY THE ALLIED BLOW IN PALESTINE

River Jordan May Be Scene of Turkey's Elimination As Fighting Factor in Present War—Allied Forces Have Driven Turks To West Bank, While Arabs Bar Escape.

BRITISH AND FRENCH PINCERS COMING CLOSER TO ST. QUENTIN

Positions From Which Enemy Hoped To Defend That Town Have Been Taken By Allies and Complete Success There Is But Matter of Few Days.

New York, Sept. 20.—The Associated Press tonight issues the following: Holy Land is aflame under the impetus of a mighty stroke by the British, French and friendly Arab forces, and the Turks from the Jordan River eastward to the Mediterranean Sea seemingly are in rout. Added to their already heavy losses in ground, men killed, wounded or made prisoner and stores captured in Belgium, France, Italy and the Balkans, Teutonic allies, judging from first reports of the hostilities begun against the Ottoman in Palestine are in for further hard usage.

In less than a day General Allenby's British forces, aided by French troops and natives under the flag of the King of The Hedjaz, struck the Turkish line over a front of sixteen miles and penetrated it to a depth of twelve miles, taking more than 3,000 Turks prisoners and over-running the entire hostile defensive system. Railway and highway junction points were captured and strong forces of cavalry at last accounts were well in advance of the attacking troops, threatening to carry out a turning movement against the fleeing Turks which might prove disastrous to them.

Naval Units in Action.

Meanwhile along the shores of the Mediterranean naval units were clearing the coastal roads of the enemy by their gunfire.

In addition to the large number of prisoners taken, great quantities of war materials had fallen into the hands of the Allied troops, and the pressure against the enemy was going on unabated.

The predicament of the Turks is heightened by the operations of the Hedjaz tribesmen on the eastern side of the Jordan, which will prevent them from taking refuge across the stream in the Jordan Valley, and compel them to fight their way out of their trouble west of the river as best they may.

Quiet in the West.

Although there has been somewhat of a let-up in the intensity of the fighting from the region of St. Quentin to Cambrai in the French theatre both the British and French armies have been able materially to better their positions in front of both Cambrai and St. Quentin. Moeuvres, lying to the west of Cambrai, over which there has been such intensive fighting for more than a week, in which the town several times changed hands, now is definitely British. The large numbers of German dead strewing the ground around it, attest the value they placed on Moeuvres as a point of strategic importance in the defence of Cambrai.

To the south on both sides of St. Quentin, the British and French have moved in more closely the jaws of the nipper which is being poised ultimately to pinch St. Quentin out of the battle line. Most of the Germans' strong points which have been the means of holding back the Allied troops in this region now have been overcome and apparently it is only a matter of time when General Foch will give the order for the pressure on the pincers and the capture of St. Quentin. In the region northeast of Soissons the Germans are still using machine guns in large numbers to hold back the French from further encroachments on the Chemin des Dames positions and also are launching heavy counter-attacks in endeavors to expell the French from the positions they have attained. Notwithstanding these strenuous efforts, however, the French have gained further ground northeast of Vailly.

Little further fighting has developed on the front held by the Americans north of St. Mihiel but American long range guns are heavily shelling the big German fortress of Metz.

In Macedonia the British, Serbians, French and Greeks continue hard after the Bulgarians, driving the enemy before them and taking large numbers of prisoners.

In Northern Russia the Allied troops have gained further successes over the enemy forces.

MINISTER OF JUSTICE ASKED TO INTERVENE IN MONTREAL MURDER

Ottawa, Sept. 20.—A plea for an Italian named Mucera, convicted of murder in Montreal, was made to the Minister of Justice today by Daniel McAvoy, K. C., Mucera's counsel. The point raised turns on the time when the victim met his death. His body was discovered in a decomposed state.

Medical testimony goes to show, it is claimed, that the man had been dead seven days when the body was found.

Mucera is sentenced to be hanged on Tuesday.

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Trouble At Home !

Paris, Sept. 20—(Havas)—Because of the aggravation of the internal situation in Germany, which continues to grow worse, the German government has taken measures to assure "rapid and pitiless repression" in case of revolt, a Zurich despatch reports today.

Ready For Peace.

Amsterdam, Sept. 20—An official communication issued in Berlin says the German ambassador in Vienna today presented Germany's reply to the recent Austro - Hungarian peace note. The German note announces the readiness of Germany to participate in the proposed exchange of ideas.

SCOTS DRIVE THE HUNS OUT OF MOEUVRES

Men From the Highlands Capture Village West of Cambrai.

GERMAN COUNTER BLOW BEATEN BACK

Little Fighting on Western Front Yesterday, But in What There Was the Allies Gained.

London, Sept. 20.—Scottish troops Friday morning finally overcame the resistance of the Germans still in the village of Moeuvres, west of Cambrai, where there has been much violent fighting recently and completely captured the village, according to Field Marshal Haig's communication tonight.

The text of the communication follows:

"During the morning Scottish troops completed the capture of Moeuvres, overcoming the resistance of a party of the enemy who were still holding out in the village.

"This morning after a heavy bombardment the enemy delivered a strong local attack on our positions northwest of Halluch. The attack was completely repulsed and a number of prisoners were left in our hands.

"English troops carried out successfully minor operations northwest of La Bassee this morning, advancing their line on a front of more than 2 1-2 miles, as far as the village of Rue Du Marais and La Tourelle. More than 100 prisoners were captured and a hostile counter-attack later in the day was beaten off in sharp fighting."

BACK PAY GIVEN TO MEN ON C. G. R.

More Than $200,000 Distributed From Government Railway Offices Yesterday —Death of Capt. Givan.

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, Sept. 20. — Cheques amounting to over $200,000 were issued by the C. G. R. today to shopmen for back time under the McAdoo schedule recently adopted on Canadian railways. The highest individual amount for back time which was from May 1, was over $600. Quite a number received $400 and $500.

It cost a Moncton young man named Connelly $85 today to have a bottle of liquor in his possession. Complaint was laid in Hillsboro and the case tried and a conviction obtained before Magistrate Blight. The case will be appealed making one of the first test cases in this section under the Prohibition Act.

Capt. Henry P. Givan, a well-known resident of Shediac Cape, died this afternoon at his home, Idlewyde, after being in failing health for two years. Capt. Givan was born at Harborville, N.S., and was seventy-eight years old. He followed the sea for many years, retiring about twenty-five years ago. He resided at Fall River, Mass., prior to coming to Shediac Cape some twenty years ago. He is survived by a widow, one son, Lieut. Harry E. Givan, with the Royal Air Force overseas; four daughters, Mrs. Chas. Bicknell, Malden, Mass., Mrs. William Payson, Medford, Mass., Mrs. Astley Purton, Salt Lake City, and Miss Myrtle; David Givan, of New York, Alex. Givan of Harborville, N.S., and Mrs. Charles Jones, of Moncton, are surviving brothers and sisters. The late William Givan, of Moncton, was a brother.

The death of Margaret Robideaux, the 13 year old daughter of Dr. Eric Robideaux, occurred today at Shediac, after a week's illness, with pneumonia. She had been in delicate health for some time, due to an attack of infantile paralysis.

CHASING TURKS FROM HOLY LAND

General Allenby Leading British Forces in Palestine Advances Twelve Miles on Sixteen Mile Front.

THREE THOUSAND PRISONERS TAKEN BY BRITISH IN GREAT DRIVE

Australians and Indian Troops Co-operate With British To Good Advantage—Turks Could Not Stand To Face Allied Infantry.

(Associated Press Bulletin.)

London, Sept. 20.—British forces in Palestine, under command of General Allenby, attacked the Turkish positions on a front of 16 miles, on September 19. The British broke through the Turkish lines between Rafat and the sea, and pushed forward for a distance of twelve miles.

Three thousand Turks were taken prisoners by General Allenby's forces. The main Turkish forces in Palestine are now being closely pursued by the British.

The cavalry pushed through the Turkish front, and was advancing in the rear of the Turkish armies in the direction of Nablus. Another body of cavalry was advancing in a northeasterly direction toward Elafula and Beisan to intercept the Turks to the north. On Wednesday General Allenby's right wing attacked west of the Jordan, and occupied El Mugeir.

The Official Communication.

The text of the official communication dealing with the operations in Palestine, as issued by the war office tonight, follows: "During the night of September 19 (18?), our troops commenced a general attack on the front between the Jordan and the sea. East of the Jerusalem-Nablus road British and Indian troops advanced successfully and intercepted the Turkish road communications leading southeast from Nablus.

"At 4.30 a. m. of the 19th the main attack in which French troops participated was launched after a sharp bombardment between Rafat and the coast

Infantry Overrun Positions.

"Our infantry made rapid progress overrunning the entire hostile defensive system on this frontage by 8 a. m. and penetrating to a maximum depth of five miles before swinging eastward.

"The latest reports indicate the Tulkeram Railway junction was occupied by our infantry in the course of the afternoon, while a brigade of Australian light horse reached the main Tulkeram Messudieh Railway and the road in the vicinity of Anosta, cutting off large bodies of retreating enemy with their guns and transports.

Cavalry Also Do Well.

"Meantime a strong cavalry force of British, Indian and Australian troops moving northward on the coastal plain had seized the road junction at Hudeira Lektera, 19 miles from the point of departure by midday.

"East of the Jordan a strong detachment of Arab troops of the King of the Medjas descending from the Turkish railway junction of Berea, severed rail communication leading north, south and west from that centre.

"Naval units co-operated with our advanced troops in clearing the coastal roads with their gun fire.

"The operations continue. By 8 p. m. of the 19th more than 3,000 prisoners had pased through our cages and many more were reported as not having been counted. Large quantities of material have been taken."

PRAISE FROM CURRIE FOR CANADIANS

Compliments Fourth Division For Its Work on Queant-Drocourt Switch Line.

At British Army Headquarters, Evening, Sept. 20.—(Canadian Press Despatch from Reuter's, Ltd.)—Reuter's correspondent cables:

General Currie in a letter to the Fourth Division, expresses his high appreciation of the Canadian Corps for the splendid part played by the Fourth Division during the recent operations. He says: "Your task from the beginning was an exceedingly difficult one. You took over in the middle of the battle and advanced steadily each day over very bad ground against most serious opposition, finishing up by what must be to you one of the most satisfactory engagements in which you have ever participated. Your success on Monday last is in keeping with the best traditions. The Fourth Division testified in the most forcible manner to the fine fighting qualities of the troops comprising it. To me it was a prouder satisfaction to have the Fourth associated with us because it was by them that the First Canadian Division received its first instructions in the art of war. Monday's battle was not merely a success; it was a glorious victory."

The battle referred to is the attack that succeeded in breaking through the Queant-Drocourt Switch line.

Cape Breton Railway Accident

Sydney, N. S., Sept. 20—Engineer John Anderson had his leg broken and there was much damage to roadbed and equipment when a westbound freight hauled by two engines ran through an open switch and struck some cars standing on a side track here a few minutes after midnight. The train was just leaving the yard and had not attained any speed, which prevented more serious consequences. Passenger trains were delayed several hours by the wreck.

AUSTRIA'S PEACE NOTE UNOFFICIALLY DEAD

Allies Will Not Even Trouble To Send a Joint Reply To It.

London, Sept. 20.—The Austrian note inviting the belligerents to a conference not being a collective one, but addressed to each government separately, it is regarded as unlikely that any joint reply on the part of the Allies will be forthcoming. Moreover, it is pointed out, the attitude of the various Entente Powers has been made sufficiently clear by responsible ministers for the European countries, as has that of the United States by President Wilson.