

The St. John Standard

VOL. IX, NO. 284.

TEN PAGES

FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 22, 1918.

FAIR AND COLD.

PRICE: TWO CENTS.

Like a Mighty Tidal Wave German Invasion of Russian Soil Rolls On

TEUTONS AND ALLIES READY FOR BATTLE

Both Sides Have Made Extensive Preparations Systematically.

GERMANS WILL USE MANY SHOCK TROOPS

United States Secretary of War Gives Outline of Situation.

ENTENTE ALLIES ARE SUPREME CONFIDENT

Bulk of Germany's Forces Are Now Assembled in the West.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Secretary Baker, in his weekly communique issued, regards the impending German offensive on the western battle line with confidence.

Both the Allies and the Germans, he says, after extensive preparations silently and systematically carried on, are ready for battle.

By massed attacks of shock troops, specially drilled and maneuvered for weeks for the onslaught, Secretary Baker says, in agreement with expert military opinion, the German general staff hopes to smash through.

But the secretary of war points out that the German high command must realize that it will encounter far more difficult tactical obstacles than any other attacking army has hitherto encountered. Apparently the secretary, with much information at his command which cannot be given to the public, shares the opinion of the Allied experts that the line will withstand any German shock against it.

Both Sides Ready.

"While there have been no outward change in the situation in the west during the period under review," says the communique, "yet it is apparent that both the enemy and the allies, after extensive preparations which have been silently and systematically carried on, are ready for battle. The Germans have recently withdrawn a (Continued on Page 2)

SEVEN PERSONS LOSE LIVES IN QUEBEC FIRE

St. Amable De Vercheres, Que., Feb. 21.—Six children were burned to death early this morning in a fire which destroyed the dwelling of Louis Beauchemin in this village. Their mother has since died from burns which she received while attempting to save her children.

At three o'clock in the morning Beauchemin got up to kindle the fire in the stove. He returned to bed, and about an hour later was awakened by the smell of smoke and the crackling of flames. He gave the alarm and tried to get his family safely out of the house, but the fire spread so rapidly that six out of the eleven children were caught before they could escape. The little victims of the disaster range in age from three years to thirteen. They are: Alphonse, aged thirteen years; Alma, ten years; Justine, nine years; Alfred, seven years; Paul, five years; Eugene, three years.

CAN MILITARISM OF PRUSSIA WIN IN WORLD WAR?

Viscount Milner of War Cabinet Declares in Plymouth Address That It is No Longer Question of Destroying Prussian Militarism, But Whether Prussian Militarism Will Destroy the Allies and Dominate Europe and Part of Asia.

Lord Milner Has No Fear of Revolution in England and He Predicts That National Unity and the Co-operation of All the Free Nations of the World Will Assuredly Bring About an Enduring Peace.

London, Feb. 21.—Viscount Milner, member of the war cabinet, speaking at Plymouth today, deprecated too much talk about war aims.

"Until peace negotiations are reached," he said, "we are fighting for our lives and the very existence of the free nations of western Europe. As a result of the collapse of Russia, the military party of Germany is again firmly in the saddle. Doubtless many of the people of Germany loathe the continuance of bloodshed for mere aggression, but at present they are quite powerless."

Lord Milner contended that it was no longer a question of destroying Prussian militarism, but whether Prussian militarism would destroy the Allies and dominate Europe and part of Asia.

"President Wilson and Premier Lloyd George have made it perfectly clear," he continued, "that we have no desire to dismember Germany, dictate her constitution, or exclude her from a fair share of the world's intercourse. There can be but one answer to Germany's challenge, and that answer may involve greater sacrifice and endurance than heretofore."

Lord Milner then referred to the Versailles war council, which brought much nearer to real co-ordination the effort of the Allies and to concrete realization that the great conception of a single allied front. He had no fear of a revolution in England and he said, national unity and the co-operation of all the free nations of the world would assuredly bring an enduring peace.

45 HUN WAR SHIPS SEEN

All Approaching City of Reval—Trotzky Will Probably Resign.

London, Feb. 21.—Forty five German warships were approaching Reval on Wednesday, according to a message received by the Express from its Petrograd correspondent. Troops have been landed at Reval and the Daily News, Bolshevik correspondent telegraphs that Trotzky will probably resign.

Allies Not To Aid.

London, Feb. 21.—The Daily Mail's Petrograd correspondent, telegraphing Wednesday afternoon, says that the latest developments there have made impossible measures of assistance which the allies were preparing to give Russia in her fight against the enemy.

Trotzky Suspected.

Amsterdam, Feb. 21.—The belief that Leon Trotzky, the Bolshevik foreign minister may have something in reserve and that his surrender is insincere, appears to dominate the Austro-German press.

The Vienna Fremdenblatt says: "After Trotzky's procedure here-to-for it will be wise to treat his wireless message with the greatest caution. Never did a statesman so ignominiously expose himself, but just for that reason it would be a mistake to give way to premature optimism."

WILL TAKE GOODS FROM CANADIANS

Mistake Made at Washington in Original Embargo Order Corrected.

Ottawa, Feb. 21.—Much anxiety has been caused to Canadian shippers by reason of the prohibition by the United States government of importation into the United States of any freight of more than \$100 value, unless accompanied by a permit from the war trade board, Washington. The Canadian food board received advice today that a mistake had been made in including Canada in this order; that a correction had now been made and that imports from Canada into the United States will now be permitted, under the regulations which were previously in force. Canadian exporters of food stuffs should send their applications for permits to the Canada food board.

TANCUSHKEVITCH SHOT BY GUARD

Petrograd, Feb. 21.—General Yancushkevitch, former chief of the general staff, was shot on his way to prison by a member of the Red Guard when told he was being taken to Petrograd, the general according to the guard, endeavored to seize a revolver for the purpose of committing suicide, upon which the guard shot him.

In a week after the ending of the armistice we will occupy Reval."

The above despatch would indicate that the investment of Reval has actually begun.

On February 18th, the German army resumed operations on the Russian front.

STMR. ETURIA TOTAL LOSS; CREW SAVED

British Vessel Went Ashore on the United States Coast.

FREIGHT STEAMSHIP ON FIRE IN PORT

United States Government Agents Investigating the Blaze.

COASTAL STEAMER ACADIA DAMAGED

Vessel Left St. Pierre, Miq., and Was Bound for France.

An Atlantic port, Feb. 2.—The British steamer Etura, ashore off this coast yesterday was reported today a total loss. No details were obtainable here, but it was said a coastwise cutter went to her assistance and was carrying the crew to port. The British vice-consul here had received no news.

Steamer On Fire.

An Atlantic port, Feb. 21.—An army freight steamer being loaded with shell parts and steel for transport to France caught fire here today. The flames started in the boiler room and spread to the engine room where the progress was checked by flooding the compartment with steam after water and chemicals had failed to extinguish them.

Federal agents are investigating, questioning members of the crew and laborers loading the vessel. The fire is the second on steamships at this port within five days.

Acadia Disabled.

St. John's Nfld., Feb. 21.—A coastal steamer which reached Marystown on the south coast today reported that the small freighter Acadia, bound from St. Pierre, for a port in France, was disabled Tuesday night off Burin by an accident to her machinery. Efforts to get a towing hawser aboard were unsuccessful on account of heavy seas, but the coastal steamer picked up six men of the Acadia's crew and brought them to Marystown. Tomorrow the coaster will return to the Acadia and make another attempt to tow her. Seven men remain on board.

Washington, Feb. 21.—The first official estimate of losses by the torpedoing of the troopship Tuscania was issued through the committee on public information.

It states that there were 2,179 officers and men aboard; 1,971 saved; known dead 127; still unaccounted for 81.

The unofficial compilation has shown 136 known dead; 33 unknown dead; and 72 still missing, including the unidentified dead.

The official compilation at American army headquarters last night put the total dead at 204.

CASUALTIES

Ottawa, Feb. 21.—Tonight's casualty list of twenty seven names reports three Canadian soldiers killed in action, one died of wounds, four died; two missing, one prisoner of war escaped, seven wounded, two gassed, and seven ill.

Maritime names follow:

INFANTRY.
III: W. Browne, Halifax, N. S. J. A. Campbell, Line Hill, N. S.

FORESTRY CORPS.
III: Lieut. R. N. Gilmore, St. John, N. B.

MEDICAL SERVICES.
Killed in Action: W. Barter, Caledonia Mines, C. B.

ARMY OF GERMANY MOVING IN FORM OF BIG CRESCENT

Teuton Invasion of Russia Rolls on Like Great Tidal Wave—From Leal, in Esthonia, on Gulf of Finland, to Rovno on the North, Germans Are Still Advancing, Occupying Cities, Towns and Villages and Capturing an Enormous Amount of War Material and Supplies.

Great City of Minsk Occupied by Advancing Horde and It is Probable There Will Be No Halting of Hun Forces Until Bolsheviki Surrender—French Win Important Victory in Lorraine British Marching on City of Jericho in Palestine.

Like a great tidal wave, the German invasion of Russia rolls forward: From Leal, in Esthonia, the Russian province on the south shore of the Gulf of Finland, on the north to Rovno, one of the famous triangles of fortresses, which stood as a Muscovite bulwark in the early days of the war on the south, the Germans are still advancing.

The advance of the Teutons has taken the form of a crescent, with its convex face toward the heart of Russia. Minsk, which was occupied yesterday by German troops, according to an official report from Berlin is at the extreme eastern curve of the wave.

The formal message of surrender sent to the German high command in Russia, after Berlin had refused to accept a capitulation by wireless, has not as yet been received, and it is probable that there will be no halting of the German invasion until Russia's abject acceptance of peace terms is in the hands of the German general staff—possibly not then.

From the official reports emanating from Berlin, it would seem that the Russians were not destitute of supplies with which to continue the war. Despatches received on Thursday were to the effect that the booty captured at Rovno is enormous. Among the items enumerated were 1,353 guns, 120 machine guns, 4,000 to 5,000 motor cars, and trains with about 1,000 carriages, many of which were laden with grain; airplanes and war material of an amount said to be "incalculable."

(Continued on Page 2)

ATTEMPTS TO KILL WIFE, WHILE CRAZY

Weymouth Man, the Second to Become Insane There This Week, Terrifies Woman.

Special to The Standard.

Yarmouth, N. S., Feb. 21.—Word has just been received here that Joseph Cornwall, colored, of Weymouth, went suddenly insane this week, and attempted to murder his wife by striking her with a heavy stick of wood. She got away from him and was not found for some hours, when she was discovered in a closet upstairs hiding in terror.

Cornwall is the second colored man in Weymouth to go insane this week.

NO INTERFERENCE WITH LOBSTERMEN

Sir Robert Borden Announces That Government Will Not Hamper Lobster Fishing.

Halifax, Feb. 21.—Sir Robert Borden has sent a personal assurance that the food controller will not interfere with the lobster pack of this year. This is in consequence of representations made by the packers who recently met to consider the situation caused by a notice that the food controller was of opinion that the men engaged in the business could be engaged in food production of greater food value. The Board of Trade was officially informed today that there would be no interference into the lobster pack.

PEACE DEMAND BY AUSTRIANS

Socialist Members of Reichsrath Ask Government to Adopt Wilson's Principles.

Zurich, Feb. 21.—Socialist members of the Austrian parliament today passed a resolution calling upon the government to adopt the principles enunciated by President Wilson as the basis for a general peace and asking that negotiations be begun as soon as possible.

Wild Scenes.

Amsterdam, Feb. 21.—The Austrian Socialists have convoked mass meeting to support their demand that direct peace negotiations shall be opened with the United States. The Austrian Emperor has warned the leaders of the different parliamentary parties that he will prorogue the Reichsrath and govern the country by absolute methods if a majority is not secured for the provisional budget.

Wild scenes in the Reichsrath on Tuesday on the occasion of Premier Von Seydler's speech are described in a Vienna despatch to the Berlin Vossische Zeitung.

Violent Protests.

The Czechs and Slavs at one point ostentatiously quitted the House and during the greater part of the premier's speech maintained a continuous din. There were cries of "lies," "treachery," "tell them that in Berlin" and similar expressions. The premier was audible only to those nearest to him. Czech protests are loud against the advance of the German troops in Russia.

GERMANS ENTER METROPOLITAN CITY OF MINSK

Mighty Sweep of Teuton Armies Through Russia Continues.

THE POPULATION OF MINSK IS 100,000

Fighting Along Gulf of Riga and Huns Now Before Wolmar.

THE HUNS ARE STILL PRESSING EASTWARD

Important Railway Junctions and Immense Amount of Booty Taken.

Berlin, via London, Feb. 21.—The German troops have entered Minsk in their advance eastward in Russia, according to the report from headquarters this evening.

The text of today's statement reads: "Eastern war theatre—Army group of General Von Eichhorn—Our regiments from Moon Island, having crossed the frozen ground, marched into Esthonia and occupied Leal. In the march along the Gulf of Riga, through Pernigal and Lemuel, there was fighting for a short time in which 500 prisoners and 20 guns were taken. Our troops marched through Wenden and are now before Wolmar. Between Dvinsk and Pinsk we are pressing eastward.

"Army group of General Von Linsingen—The movement continues along the whole front. Important railway and road junctions have been occupied. Rovno has been cleared of the enemy.

Widespread Invasion.

"It is impossible to give an approximate estimate of the booty. Up to now the following has been announced: Prisoners: the general in command of an army, several divisional commanders, 425 officers and 8,700 men. Booty—1,253 guns, 120 machine guns, 4,000 to 5,000 motor cars; trains with about 1,000 carriages, many of which were laden with food; airplanes and incalculable amount of other war material. The city of Minsk, now in the possession of the Germans, is the capital of the province of that name and has a population of 100,000, more than half of whom are Hebrews. Minsk is the seat of Greek Catholic and Roman Catholic bishops. It is an important railroad centre and is 300 miles southeast of Riga."

COL. CHABOT QUILTS

Quebec, Feb. 21.—Lieut. Col. L. G. Chabot, commandant of the 9th Battalion, Quebec Voltigeurs, has resigned after 36 years of service. He holds the long service and other decorations medals. He saw service during the Northwest rebellion. He is succeeded as commandant of the 9th Battalion by Major J. A. Beaubien.

ANOTHER COLD MORNING HERE

This morning was another stiff one in St. John, the mercury sagging to a dozen degrees below zero before daylight. But it may be warmer tonight, and it surely will be tomorrow, for the passing of the Arctic wave is in sight. The coldest place in Canada officially yesterday was Saskatoon with a mark of 29 below. Prince Albert reported 24 below, Quebec City 22 below, Port Arthur, Ont., 20 below, Ottawa 18 below, Montreal 14 below, St. John 6 below and Halifax zero.