

THE WEATHER.
Maritime—Northwest to west winds, fresh to strong at first; fair and comparatively mild.

The St. John Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

OPERA HOUSE
TODAY MATINEE 2:30
TONIGHT 8:15
Feldman and Christie Musical Co.
In "THE FLOPERS"

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PRICE TWO CENTS

RUSSIANS AND GERMANS HARD AT GRIPS ALONG WHOLE FRONT WITH CZAR'S MEN ON THE OFFENSIVE

Russians Force All Enemy Lines and Barricades Between Dvinsk and Vilna and Repulse Vigorous Counter Attack—Fighting in Nearly All War Theatres—Artillery Duelling on Serbo-Greek Frontier, While Italians are Forcing Matters in Cordevole Valley.

FRENCH CONTINUE TO HAMMER THE ENEMY'S POSITIONS

It is still in the French and Russian war theatres that the heaviest battles are in progress, but fighting also is continuing in the Austro-Italian zone, in Serbia near the Greek frontier, and in Asiatic Turkey.

The French are keeping up their vigorous bombardment of the woods of Malancourt and Avocourt, northwest of Verdun, which are held by the Germans, and also are hammering away with their guns at German lines of communication in the eastern fringes of the Argonne forest.

To the north and east of Verdun an intermittent bombardment by the Germans of French second line positions is still going on, with the French replying energetically.

The only infantry encounter along the western front took place in the Argonne forest, where the Germans gained a portion of a French first line trench, but were expelled from it by a counter-attack and lost some thirty men, taken prisoners.

All along the Russian front, from the region of Pridvichinsk to the district around Vilna, the Russians forced all the German lines and barricades and repulsed a vigorous German counter-attack.

Berlin, however, says that here the Russian attacks failed, and with heavy losses, before the German entrenchments.

Bad weather prevails in the Austro-Italian theatre, but despite a blizzard the Italians have attacked and occupied Austrian positions in the Cordevole Valley.

Berlin reports that in the region of Glogevcl, on the Serbo-Greek frontier, artillery duels have been in progress. The statement does not give the nationalities of the contending batteries.

The defeat of a British force which attacked a Turkish position on the right bank of the Tigris river, near Falekile, is chronicled by Constantinople. The report also says that Turkish armor have again dropped bombs on Kut-el-Amara, where a British force is under siege.

Hammer Hun Positions.
Paris, March 24 (10.25 p. m.)—Bombardments by the French of German positions in the woods of Malancourt and Avocourt, and by both the German and French guns of opposing positions on all sides of Verdun, continue, according to the French official communication issued tonight. No infantry action has taken place, except in the Argonne forest, where the Germans entered French first line trenches, but were immediately expelled with a loss of some men taken prisoners.

British Report.
London, March 24, 10.38 p. m.—The British official statement on the campaign on the western front, issued tonight, says:

"The enemy exploded mines last night and today near Clinchy, just to the north of the Labasse Canal. They did no damage. We bombarded their trenches to the south of the Colines Canal."

EXCHEQUER COURT SITS HERE MAY 10TH

Ottawa, March 24.—Notice is given that the annual Spring sitting of the Exchequer Court will be held in St. John on May 18, in Charlottetown on May 25, in Sydney on May 30, and in Halifax on June 6.

HONOR FOR ST. JOHN BOY

Special to The Standard
Montreal, Mar. 24.—Frank J. Scully, B. A., son of ex-alderman W. E. Scully, of St. John, was last night elected president of the McGill Medical Undergraduates' Society.

GEN. MURRAY IN FULL COMMAND IN EGYPT

London, Mar. 24.—A re-organization of the British forces in Egypt, following the turn of affairs for the British there, has been effected, it was officially announced this afternoon. The war office statement says:

"The military position in Egypt being unsatisfactory, owing to the failure of attempts by the Turks on the west frontier, a re-organization of the forces in that country has been effected, and Gen. Sir A. Murray has assumed sole command in Egypt."

"Gen. Sir G. J. Maxwell left for England today."

DOMINION LINER ENGLISHMAN SUNK

Last Record of Her Showed She Sailed from Portland, Me., Feb. 7, for St. Nazaire and Avonmouth.

London, March 24, 11.47 p. m.—The steamer Englishman, of the Dominion Line, has been sunk, according to Lloyd's. It is stated that thus far sixty-eight survivors have been accounted for.

The last record of the steamer Englishman shows that she sailed from Portland, Maine, Feb. 17 for St. Nazaire and Avonmouth. The Englishman was a vessel of 5,257 tons, and was owned by the Mississippi & Dominion S. S. Company, of Liverpool. She was built in 1892 at Belfast.

The Alamoia Being Towed to New York
New York, March 24.—The Malloy liner Alamoia, carrying fifty passengers which has been in distress with a broken rudder and a disabled engine, off the Atlantic coast, has been taken in tow by the Algonquin, a sister ship, and is being brought to New York where she is expected to arrive tomorrow, according to a wireless message received today at the line's offices here.

The two vessels were reported at noon as being about 143 miles south of Sandy Hook, with the United States coast guard cutter Onondaga proceeding to their assistance.

On Way Back to Portland.
Portland, Maine, March 24.—The Dominion Line steamer Englishman, which was reported sunk in a despatch from London tonight, was bound from Avonmouth for this port to obtain horses for the Entente Allies forces. Agents of the Dominion Line here said the Englishman left Avonmouth Wednesday night. The 68 men reported saved, in their opinion, constituted most, if not all, those aboard the steamer. The Englishman was commanded by Captain Morshouse.

MT. PLEASANT N.B. MAN WOUNDED

The casualty list issued at midnight contains the name of only one New Brunswick man, Guy Sanborn, Mount Pleasant, N. B., of the Third Pioneer Battalion, who is reported wounded.

SOCIETIES WAKE UP!

The first public organization to vote money towards the 140th New Brunswick Battalion is the Women's Canadian Club, which, at a meeting on Thursday evening, decided to contribute thirty-five dollars to this purpose, this amount being considered sufficient for the purchase of one of the less expensive instruments. This gift will be acknowledged as soon as the cheque reaches the treasurer of the Brunswick Chapter. Another organization, The Douglas Avenue Circle, is taking interest in the matter and there is a rumor that it, too, will contribute. When these bodies get busy the fund will really begin to grow in jumps; but, for the present, individual contributions are very gratefully received and while the progress is not particularly rapid still every dollar helps. Yesterday several gifts were received and are herewith acknowledged:

Previously acknowledged	\$256.60
Frank L. Peters, city	5.00
E. R. Teed, Woodstock	10.00
J. Walter Holly, city	10.00
J. Roy Campbell	5.00
Total	\$286.60

EXPLOSION ON STR. SUSSEX IN ENGLISH CHANNEL

Unofficial Reports Say She Was Torpedoed—Believed Number of Americans Aboard—Likely All Passengers Saved—Employed in Folkestone-Dieppe Service.

London, March 24, 8.19 p. m.—It is reported that a cross-channel passenger boat from Folkestone to Dieppe was sunk this afternoon.

Nothing is obtainable as yet from any reliable quarter here concerning the Folkestone boat, but she is understood to have been carrying 240 civilian passengers in addition to a crew of 60 men.

It is rumored that the steamer sank at four o'clock this afternoon. The continental traffic office of the Brighton Railroad says that according to reports received by it all persons on board the steamer were saved, and the vessel is still afloat.

London, March 24, 9.56 p. m.—The Central News says the steamer was the Sussex, and that she was torpedoed off Beachy Head. The agency gives the number of passengers as 380, a few of whom were British. The vessel was under the command of Captain Moutet, while the crew numbered forty, mostly French.

London, March 24, 10.47 p. m.—A later report—timed 10.36 p. m.—says the Sussex is still afloat and in charge of a tug.

Believed Several Americans Aboard.
London, March 24, 9.30 p. m.—"I think it probable that there were a number of Americans among the passengers of the Sussex," said Robert P. Skinner, the American consul-general, in reply to a question by the Associated Press, "because in the last few days my office has received passports for many Americans going to France."

At both the American embassy and consulate-general there were rumors that the Sussex had been torpedoed, but neither had received any details. The Brighton Railroad tonight issued the following account of the accident to the Sussex:

"The Sussex, sailing under a French flag in the Folkestone-Dieppe service, met with a mishap somewhere off Dieppe on her passage today. There were 386 passengers aboard, and a crew of about fifty, but it is impossible at present to give further particulars, nor is the passenger list available. At 8.43 o'clock this evening the vessel was still afloat in charge of a tug. It is assumed therefore that all the passengers were saved."

The Sussex left Folkestone at 1.30 o'clock this afternoon, flying the French flag, and met with mishap somewhere off Dieppe at seven o'clock tonight. When the alarm signal was sent out a number of vessels in the vicinity hurried to her assistance.

BLOCKADE COMMITTEE APPOINTED

To Help Obviate Avoidable Delays Shipping Suffers Through Blockade.

VISCOUNT PEEL IS CHOSEN CHAIRMAN.

Allies in Individual Reply to U. S. Refuses to Disarm their Merchant Vessels.

London, March 24 (6.52 p. m.)—As a result of complaints from the United States and other neutrals over the delays to which shipping suffers from the operation of the blockade, the government has appointed a committee of inquiry, headed by Viscount Peel, with authority to make all necessary recommendations for reforms, if any are found to be necessary. The official announcement follows:

"His Majesty's government has appointed a committee, under Viscount Peel, to see if there is any avoidable delay caused by the methods, hitherto adopted, for dealing with ships and cargoes brought into British ports under the exercise of the restrictive operations against German commerce, and to make such general recommendations as it may think fit for improving such methods."

The members of the committee are Viscount Peel, chairman; Sir Kenneth S. Anderson, Benjamin A. Cohen and K. W. Elmale.

Discussing the formation of the committee Lord Robert Cecil, minister of war trade, stated that no red tape would be permitted to stand in the committee's way.

The committee will have full power and facilities to make all requisite investigations, and its recommendations are expected to result in immediate action tending to meet the reasonable complaints of neutrals.

No Disarmament of Merchantmen.
Washington, March 24.—The Entente Allies, replying individually to Secretary of State Lansing's suggestion for the disarmament of all merchant ships, have in effect declined the proposal.

GOVT BUSINESS TO HAVE PRECEDENCE AT MONDAY SESSIONS

Premier Borden Decides Not to Press Motion to Hold Morning Sittings of Commons.

Ottawa, Mar. 24, via leased wire—After hearing the views of a number of members, Sir Robert Borden today decided not to press, at the moment, his motion to hold morning sessions of the commons on and after Monday next, and to give government business precedence on Mondays for the rest of the session. Hon. Wm. Pugsley was opposed to the idea of holding sittings in the forenoon and thus interfering with the work of the committees of the house. He suggested that the house might assemble at two o'clock instead of three o'clock each afternoon.

Sir Robert Borden said that all the government legislation for the session was before the house, with the possible exception of certain supplementary estimates and a bill respecting the department of agriculture. He thought that further discussion of the prohibition bill might take place upon the bill introduced by the minister of justice, but was disposed to object to further consideration of the Stevens resolution. He pointed out that the private members' motions on the order paper had already been called a number of times. Finally, however, he agreed to allow his motion to stand.

(Canadian Press.)
Ottawa, Mar. 24.—Before the orders of the day were called Mr. Loggie rose to correct a report of his speech of Friday last which appeared in the St. John Telegraph in regard to the collection of excess profits through the new business tax proposals.

Mr. Loggie had cited the case of Armstrong and Ferguson of Newcastle, N. B., who appeared in the auditor-general's report as having sold 1,046 pounds of potatoes to the Militia Department at four and a half cents per pound, or about \$7.00 per barrel.

Mr. Loggie had declared that there was at present no such firm in Newcastle. He said today that the report in the Telegraph had given the price of the potatoes "at 7 cents per pound or \$7 per barrel." He thought he owed it to Armstrong and Ferguson to say that they were in existence during August, September and October of 1914, when the transaction referred to took place.

Mr. J. H. Sinclair asked the Prime Minister whether the report of the

MORE GAINS FOR GEN. SMUTS' ARMY IN GERMAN EAST AFRICA

HAVE OCCUPIED ARUSHA AND DRIVEN GERMANS FROM THEIR LINE ALONG THE RUWU RIVER—SOUTH AFRICAN CAVALRY DO SPLENDID WORK.

London, March 24 (7.45 p. m.)—The British expeditionary force campaigning against German East Africa is making further progress in its aggressive operations, according to an official statement issued tonight.

General Jan Christian Smuts, in charge of the operations, has reported the occupation of Arusha and the driving of the Germans from their line along the Ruwu river.

Field Marshal Earl Kitchener, the secretary of state for war, has telegraphed his congratulations to the commanding general.

The official communication issued this evening regarding the campaign says:

"General Smuts reports that the German forces, dislodged from their strong defensive positions on the Ruwu river and the Kivovo hills by operations commenced March 7, and concluded March 12, effected their retreat through Kabe to a further series of defensive positions constructed in the thick forest belt which lies along the Ruwu river. Direct pursuit was rendered difficult by a heavy rainfall and numerous swollen streams over which the bridges had been destroyed."

"The period between March 13 and 17 was spent in re-organizing the troops and transport and repairing the roads and bridges for motor traffic. On March 18, the forces were pushed south to occupy Kilevo and Duterer Itimo, in close contact with the enemy on the Ruwu river."

"On the 19th there was a good deal of bush fighting in the vicinity of Kabe, the enemy maintaining a stubborn resistance."

"On March 20 a mounted force occupied Arusha, dislodging an enemy detachment. The night of March 20-21 strong bodies of infantry bivouacked in the Ruwu forest, in close contact with the German entrenchments. The enemy made a strong night attack, but was driven off with severe losses."

"Meantime a strong force of South African mounted troops marched by night from Moshi, and, traversing the thick bush country, reached a point on the Pangani, five miles south of the Kabe railway station by daybreak. The railway station was seized and many stores captured. The railway bridge over the Pangani river had been partially destroyed."

"The mounted troops then established themselves on the hills southeast of Kabe, in contact with the enemy. This threat against their line of retreat decided the enemy to hold on throughout the whole day of the 21st with a view of effecting a further retirement under cover of darkness."

"Reinforcements reached him from the south by railway during the operations. Thus we were enabled to inflict heavy losses, which would not have been possible had the Germans been free to abandon their positions earlier. As it was they maintained an obstinate resistance."

committee appointed by the Militia Department to inquire into hospital conditions in connection with the troops at Halifax would be made public and if not, whether the Prime Minister or the acting minister of militia would give some assurance to the public that things were all right now."

Premier Borden replied that he would make inquiries and see whether it was advisable to have the report of the committee made public.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley asked if a colored regiment was going to be organized. He said that the colored men were complaining that they were not treated fairly and were not welcome when they went to the recruiting offices of various units now being formed.

Hon. Mr. Kemp replied that there were a number of colored men in the various units throughout the country and he was not aware of any attempt to raise a regiment. However, he would look into the matter.

HOTEL BURNED

Andover, Mar. 24.—Parent's Hotel, which is one of the three line hotels, was destroyed by fire this morning. The fire was discovered about ten o'clock and hard work on the part of those in the vicinity saved the barns, but the house was completely destroyed.

"LUXURIES" WHICH BRITISH GOV'T BARS OUT

List of Prohibited Imports Made Public Last Night—License Necessary to Admit them.

London, Mar. 24.—A lengthy extension of the list of articles, the importation of which is prohibited, which was foretold by Walter Runciman, president of the board of trade, in an interview with the Associated Press last week, was announced tonight by the board of trade. The board gave notice that a proclamation would be issued shortly prohibiting, after Mar. 30, the importation of the following goods:

Baskets and basketware, except of bamboo, cement, chinaware and pottery, not including cloisonne ware; cotton yarn, cotton piece goods and cotton manufactures of all kinds, except hosiery and lace; cutlery, fatty acids, furniture, manufactured joinery and other wood manufactures, except lacquered wares; hardware and hollow ware; oilcloth, soap, toys, games and playing cards; wood and timber of beech, birch, elm and oak; woolen and worsted manufactures of all kinds, except yarns.

Importations of these prohibited goods will be allowed only under a license, but the board of trade states such licenses will generally be granted only for goods on the way to the United Kingdom, or goods actually purchased when the notice is issued.

SHACKLETON PARTY MUST STAY ANOTHER YEAR

Latest Reports Say Their Ship Has Broken from Moorings at Ross Sea Base and is Adrift.

London, Mar. 24.—Lieut. Sir Ernest Shackleton has arrived at his base on the Australian side of the Antarctic continent, apparently having achieved his purpose of crossing the South Pole. Reports from Sydney, N. S. W., announced the arrival of the expedition at the Ross Sea base. Later despatches, however, make it appear that the expedition with most of the party will have to spend another year in the Antarctic regions because of an accident to the expedition's ship, the Aurora.

The Aurora, in command of Lieut. Aeneas Mackintosh, had been at Ross Sea awaiting Shackleton's arrival. Sydney reports that the Aurora has broken from her moorings and gone adrift. If this report is true, it is probable that Lieut. Shackleton and his party will have to remain at the Ross Sea base until a relief ship comes to their rescue. Whether Sir Ernest was at the base when the Aurora went adrift is not clear. Should the party be compelled to wait in the Antarctic for a relief ship it will probably be a year before it can begin the journey from Ross Sea to New Zealand.

TELEGRAPH'S REPORT WAS MISLEADING

W. S. Loggie, Grit Member From North Shore Finds it Necessary to Correct Telegraph's Story.

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