

The St. John Standard

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WEATHER—UNSETTLED

PRICE TWO CENTS

U. S. IS PREPARING FOR WAR; TURKS WIN AT KUT-EL-AMARA

UNITED STATES STILL ON VERGE OF WARFARE

Senate Today Will Pass Bill to Curtail Activities of Spies — German Steamers in New York and Boston Will Be Commandeered.

Secretary of Navy Preparing Appeal to American Newspapers to Refrain from Publishing for Present any Movement of United States Naval Vessels.

Washington, Feb. 19.—There were strong indications tonight that unless some sensational development precipitates immediate action, President Wilson's next step in the crisis with Germany will be postponed until a few days before congress adjourns for the session, a week from next Sunday. The belief still is prevalent in official quarters and at the capital that the president intends to ask congress for authority to protect Americans and their ships from illegal submarine attacks, and as he is known to want no extra session, if it can be avoided, it is regarded as certain that he will address a joint meeting of the senate and house before March 4. It was stated authoritatively again tonight, however, that nothing toward that end had been done since the president visited the capital and discussed the subject with senators Saturday evening.

Waits for New Congress. Although recognizing the existence of minority opposition in both houses to a resolution which would give the president authority to deal with any emergency that might arise after adjournment, administration leaders are satisfied that if such power is sought it will be given. The minority contention is that the executive now has power to use the nation's armed forces, short of war, and that if necessary the new congress could be called into session quickly.

Demands that some way be found for relieving the congestion at Atlantic ports, resulting from the holding of American and other neutral ships in port, are pouring in at the White House, and the executive departments. The disposition of the administration, however, seems to be to await further development of Germany's policy. It is freely admitted that American rights are being violated, and the government defied, and that at what the president deems the proper time the United States must assert itself.

Word came from the Spanish minister at Berlin today that the American prisoners of the prize steamer

Yarrowdale would be released "shortly." The United States will insist that, having been carried into Germany against their will, the men must be given their freedom in some neutral country from which they may make their way home.

Those in charge of the work of preparing the nation for possible hostilities, which has gone steadily forward day and night—since the severance of diplomatic relations, believe it now has reached the stage where the country's resources can be marshalled quickly for the public service, if the need comes.

After two weeks of intensive preparation by the army and navy, an order was issued today under which an immediate appraisal will be made and the exact condition of the regular fighting forces reported to the president.

Secretary Daniels is preparing to appeal to American newspapers to refrain from publishing, for the present, any information as to the movements of American naval vessels, or as to activities toward defense precautions that may be in progress at various yards and harbors. He probably will seek the co-operation of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, as there exists no authority for establishment of an actual censorship.

TELEGRAPH'S DISTORTED REPORT OF JOINT DEBATE CAUSE MUCH AMUSEMENT

Mr. Carter Wrote it Himself and it is Characteristic of the Opposition Purist—Government Speakers Meeting with Success in Their Campaign—Premier Murray in Albert

Special to The Standard. Hampton, Feb. 19.—The Telegraph's distorted account of the joint debate here on Saturday has caused much amusement among the hundreds from this centre who attended the proceedings at the court house. Although a representative from that newspaper was at the meeting the effusions appearing in the opposition organ were doubtless the production of E. S. Carter himself. Mr. Carter protests that the right of speech is denied him and makes a most unwarranted attack on the intelligent electors of King county who were in attendance at the meeting. It is true that one or two gentlemen did resent the abuse which Mr. Carter attempted to heap on the Government candidates, but he got as good a hearing as he could hope for. If there were any serious interruptions at the meeting they were made by the organized forces of some of the more partisan supporters of the opposition but the Government candidates were able to deal effectively with those who attempted to interrupt them. The Telegraph's report of the proceedings while distorted with reference to Mr. Carter's case, showed clearly that there had been several attempts to interrupt the Government speakers. Indeed Mr. Carter, in his report of the proceedings put in a number of remarks as having emanated from the electors that absolutely were not made. But he hopes to gain political capital by continuing his misrepresentation.

The Government candidates are meeting with success in every section of the county. Messrs. Jones and Dickson were at Upham tonight and were well received. This evening they will address the electors at Millstream. They will address meetings at Kingston on Wednesday evening, at Baywater on Thursday evening, and will close the campaign at a grand rally at Sussex on Friday evening, when Premier Murray will also be a speaker. The Premier went to Albert county this morning and addressed the electors at points there this afternoon and this evening.

WHERE E. S. CARTER GOT THE PEOPLE'S MONEY IN ROTHESAY WHARF WORK

"I charge that E. S. Carter was paid \$4 per thousand superficial feet on the lumber supplied by James E. Waddell of Reed's point, in connection with repairs to the Rothesay wharf in 1910. I charge that according to the sworn statement of F. T. Fenwick, the foreman, sworn to before E. S. Carter, J. P., the price of the lumber supplied for the repairs to the bridge which had been damaged by the freshet was padded to amount to \$226.16, and out of this amount \$4.00 per thousand superficial feet was paid to E. S. Carter. Here, gentlemen, we have the man who has been going throughout every section of the county attacking and vilifying me from every platform, yet he is the man who made a profit out of this work which he did not deserve. He is the man before whom these accounts were sworn to as correct, yet he knew well that the amount did not represent the price of the lumber which had been supplied. I hold in my hand the complete statement of the account and I will read for you the various items."

GEORGE B. JONES.

Mr. Jones then proceeded to read the items which made up the total charge for lumber of \$226.16.

Turning to Mr. Carter, he said: "Did you not receive \$4 on every thousand superficial feet of lumber supplied by Mr. Waddell in connection with this work? Did you not know when you certified to Mr. Fenwick's accounts that lumber to the amount of \$226.16 had not been supplied, and that you were getting a rake-off from this work out of money that belonged to the people whom you now seek to represent? You have attacked me time and time again, but I tell you I was never guilty of stealing one cent of the people's money. You got \$4.00 on every thousand superficial feet of lumber that you were not entitled to and you know you did. And you are posing as the greatest purist of the province, the man who is going to make the political life of New Brunswick clean. What will the people of the province think of you now?"

"Mr. Chairman, you say my time is nearly up. Well I will take my seat. I thank you, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen for your kind hearing."

"What will the people of New Brunswick think of you now?" was the question Mr. Jones asked Mr. Carter. It was a proper question. The people of New Brunswick will not have to stop long to arrive at their opinion of Mr. Carter, a gentleman who has attacked every public man who is opposed to him in politics in a most vehement and vicious manner. Mr. Carter was confronted with the documentary evidence in support of the charges, yet he did not make the slightest attempt to explain the details of the transaction. "I characterize that statement as absolutely false," was his only answer. Why did he not give a more satisfactory explanation, an explanation of the whole affair? Why did he not produce or offer to produce one of his famous affidavits? But "I characterize that statement as absolutely false" was all he replied.

The electors of New Brunswick will be unanimous in the opinion that Mr. Carter must do some further explaining. The man who abused and shouted "grafter" at French residents of Kent county because some trifling irregularities existed in connection with the bookkeeping of the accounts for road work must tell the people why he certified to an account which he knew did not represent the fair price of the material supplied, and an account from which he was being paid a rake-off. It was the people's money that Mr. Jones charged Mr. Carter with misappropriating. Do the people of New Brunswick want to place him in charge of their finances?

The return of the opposition party means the placing of Mr. Carter at the head of the financial department of the government. Mr. Carter intimated as much at the nomination day debate at Hampton on Saturday. His case is clearly up to the people.

Mr. Waddell's letter, denying this charge, as mentioned in The Standard, was published in yesterday morning's Telegraph.

GEN. FUNSTON DEAD.

San Antonio, Tex., Feb. 19.—Major General Frederick Funston, commander of the American forces on the Mexican border, collapsed in a hotel here tonight and expired in a short time.

Still Unconscious. Harry Cahill who was admitted to

the General Public Hospital yesterday morning in an unconscious condition suffering from bruises about the head, had not up until an early hour this morning gained consciousness.

The fire department was called out last evening about 7.45 o'clock on account of a slight blaze in an ash barrel in the rear of No. 166 Carmarthen street.

OPPOSITION PROMISE NEW DEPARTMENT

To Dr. Roberts — Would Place Local Candidate As Head of Public Health Department — Other Jobs for Their Candidates.

A report that emanated from authoritative sources yesterday afternoon indicates how difficult it was for the opposition party to secure a complete ticket in the City of St. John. The report was to the effect that Dr. W. F. Roberts insisted on being given the assurance that the opposition party, if successful at the polls, would create a new department of the government to take charge of the public health of the province and that he would receive the new portfolio. This assurance, it is understood, was readily given by the party leaders who realized it was the only course they could take to ensure Dr. Roberts taking a place on the ticket.

It is stated that other opposition candidates throughout the province have been assured of places on the Crown Land Commission and the Public Works Commission which the opposition should return them to power. But such a calamity is not likely to happen as the people prefer to place the conduct of their affairs in the hands of men who will be directly responsible to the electors who can express their opinion of their conduct at the polls at stated intervals.

MANY LIVES SAVED BY STATION MAN

Special to The Standard.

Richibucto, Feb. 19.—Much favorable comment has been heard here in the last few days in connection with the prompt action of J. Q. Quilty, station agent at Barnaby River, whose presence of mind saved at least six lives and a quarter of a million dollars worth of rolling stock belonging to the C. G. R.

At this point on the C. G. R. the station is located in a hollow with quite a grade both north and south. A south bound freight had the right of way, but by some misunderstanding the north bound freight instead of waiting at Rogersville for the other to pass left before its arrival.

Prevented Disaster.

It was a clear day and Mr. Quilty, who had some business on the platform of the Barnaby River station heard both trains coming. Knowing that he had no order for a pass at his station and that should the two trains come together at full speed a terrible catastrophe would result, he immediately got busy and set signals against both trains, and as a consequence of his action, while they struck the speed of both had been so far reduced that no damage was done. Had Mr. Quilty not acted as promptly as he did there is no doubt the two trains would have been destroyed and at least six lives lost.

Mr. Quilty is a native of this place, and his friends here needless to say feel proud of him. He comes of a family of railroaders. One brother, Pierce, is with the Boston and Maine in a responsible position; another, Hugh, is the station agent at Newcastle.

MORE VICTIMS OF U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

London, Feb. 19.—Captain Jacobson, of the Norwegian ship Thor II, who, with his wife and daughter, were taken aboard a German submarine after

TURKS MAKE BOLD STAND NEAR KUT-EL-AMARA

British Fall Back Near Sannaiyat, Twelve Miles Northeast of City, After Capturing Turkish Front Line Positions.

Bitter Struggle in Asiatic Turkey Between Forces of Britain and Those of Ottoman Empire — British Army in France Still Gaining.

On the Iraq front in Asiatic Turkey, the British and Turks have been engaged in hard fighting at Sannaiyat, about twelve miles northeast of Kut-el-Amara. In their onslaught the British captured front line positions at two places respectively on frontages of 350 and 540 yards. Their tenure of the positions was short-lived however, for the Turks in two heavy counter-attacks forced the British right wing back upon its original line. The left wing continued the struggle of attempting to hold back the Turks until near nightfall, when it also fell back covered by the barrage fire of the British guns.

Quiet in France.

Aside from this engagement no fighting of importance is reported in any of the latest official communications. The operations on all fronts have again been carried out by small raiding parties, sappers and the artillery wings of the belligerent armies.

London reports that on the front in France the British carried out a successful raid east of Souchez, while Berlin reports attempted British advances southwest of Messines and north of Armentieres resulted in failure. The artillery duels between the French and Germans on several sectors of the Verdun front have again become quite severe.

On the line running from the Baltic Sea to Roumania there have been no developments anywhere. The usual artillery actions and minor skirmishes continue in the Austro-Italian theatre and on the Macedonian front.

Teutonic allied submarines continue their sinking of both Entente Allied and neutral vessels. Monday's reports from London show that two more British steamers, of an aggregate tonnage of 8,242, have been sent to the bottom.

The chancellor of the British exchequer has announced to the House of Commons that the subscriptions to the new British war loan amount to at least £700,000,000, exclusive of contributions from banks.

British Win in France.

London, Feb. 19.—"We carried out a successful raid this morning east of Souchez" says the official report from British headquarters in France tonight. "A hostile mine shaft was blown up and several occupied dugouts were destroyed. We took a few prisoners."

"Beyond the usual artillery activity on both sides there is nothing further to report."

Paris, Feb. 19.—The official commu-

nication issued by the war office tonight reads:

"The activity of the two artilleries was quite marked in the sectors of Avocourt, Cote Du Poivre and Besonvaux. Our batteries effectually shelled the German organizations north of Damoupy."

"In Alsace a surprise attack against the adversary lines at Barenkopf, north of Munster, enabled us to capture ten prisoners."

"The Belgian communication: 'Nothing of importance to report.'"

British Fall Back.

London, Feb. 19.—British troops on the left bank of the Tigris river in Iraq, Mesopotamia, took the offensive on Saturday afternoon against the Turkish positions at Sannaiyat, says a British official statement issued today, and occupied two Turkish front lines on a frontage of 350 yards and 540 yards respectively.

The Turks launched two heavy counter-attacks, and forced back the British right wing to its original line. The British left wing repulsed a Turkish counter-attack, but when night came the troops were withdrawn from their newly won positions. The text of the statement follows:

"On the afternoon of Saturday an assault was made on the Sannaiyat position, on the left bank of the Tigris, and the enemy's two front lines were occupied on a frontage of 350 yards and 540 yards respectively."

"Two heavy Turkish counter-attacks were launched, the first one hour and the second one and a half hours after we had obtained possession of these trenches. The former counter-attack was repulsed, but the latter was partially successful and forced our right back to the original line. Our left, however, held on till dusk, when it was withdrawn under cover of our artillery barrage."

"On the south bank of the Tigris, west of the Shuman Bend further progress has been made."

Agency announces that one German submarine has sunk the British steamer Gravina, of 1,140 tons, loaded with fruit; the Italian sailing ship Maria, of 1,080 tons, with a cargo of coffee for London, and the Swedish sailing ship Hugo Hamilton, of 2,560 tons, carrying saltpeper.

Two Others Sunk. London, Feb. 19.—The British steamers Okemant and Iola have been sunk, Lloyd's announces.

German Statement. Berlin, Thursday, Feb. 15, via Sayville, Feb. 19.—The Overseas News

the sinking of his vessel two weeks ago, arrived at Copenhagen today, says a despatch to the Danish capital to the Exchange Telegraph Company. The captain and his family spent eight days on board the submarine, and in the course of that time the U-boat sank two British steamers and a trawler.

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