

Maritime—Steady gales with rain.

The St. John Standard, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

TODAY "THE GREAT JOHN GANTON" TONIGHT—"JERTLL AND WOE"

HUNS CASUALTIES IN THE FIRST FOUR DAYS OF THE STRUGGLE FOR VERDUN ESTIMATED AT 150,000

FLOWER OF KAISER'S ARMY FLEW DRIVE AT FRENCH LINE

THIRD CORPS OF BRANDENBURG, EQUAL OF PRUSSIAN GUARDS, AND 15TH ARMY CORPS COMMANDED BY GENERAL VON DEIMLING.

DESPITE BLINDING SNOW STORM STRUGGLE GOES ON AND BIDS FAIR TO CONTINUE FOR FORTNIGHT—HUNS CLAIM CAPTURE OF SEVERAL VILLAGES—FRENCH WIN A SALIENT.

Along the front in the region of Verdun the Germans and the French continue the great struggle which began several days ago, with the Germans on the offensive, and their aim evidently the great French fortress of Verdun.

Despite a heavy fall of snow the Germans to the north of Verdun have attacked with what Paris terms unprecedented violence and with large forces, French positions at several points, but according to the French official communication, the attacks were without success.

Heavy casualties are being inflicted by both sides, and the Germans claim that they have taken a goodly number of prisoners—their estimate at last reports totalling ten thousand.

French Capture Salient East of the Meuse the fortified villages and farms of Champ Neuville, Marmon, Beaumont, Chambray and Ornes, are declared by Berlin to be in the hands of the Germans, as likewise are French positions to the north of Verdun reaching to the ridge of Loudeumont, which lies to the south of Beaumont.

Fighting has also been going on in the Champagne region, and bombardments of German positions in the forests of the Argonne and in the Vosges mountains have taken place. In Champagne the French report the capture of a German salient south of St. Marie-Auxy and the taking of three hundred prisoners, including twenty officers and non-commissioned officers. Artillery and mining operations have been in progress along the British front.

Embarkments, Infantry attacks and fights with land grenades have taken place in Russia and Galicia, but there has been no important change in positions. The bombardments between the Austrians and Italians on the Austro-Italian front continue.

Turks Quit At Kut-El-Amara. The Russians in the Caucasus and in Persia have taken additional towns from the Turks. Pursuit of the Turkish forces driven out of Erzerum continues.

Late reports from the British force surrounded by Turks at Kut-El-Amara say that the Turks long ago ceased their attacks upon the besieged position.

Vienna records a further drive of the Italians before the Austro-Hungarian east and south of Durazzo, Albania. Eleven Italian officers and over 700 soldiers have been captured. The Durazzo docks are under the fire of the batteries of the Teutons, which are hampering the embarkation of the Italians and their allies in their endeavor to make their escape.

The situation in Congress since the publication of President Wilson's letter to Senator Sisson concerning the stand of the chief executive with regard to the submarine controversy between the United States and Germany has become more quiet, and it seems apparent that no action by either house which might embarrass the diplomatic negotiations will be taken for the present.

Equals Year Battle in Violence. Paris, Feb. 25.—The German losses during the first four days of the battle around Verdun are authoritatively estimated at 150,000.

The German offensive is recognized now as probably only the beginning of a determined effort to take the fortress, formerly the key to the French

front, and compare in violence and losses to the battle of the Yser. The French assume the battle may continue for a fortnight. The German forces are known to be at least 200,000, supported by numerous 15-inch and 17-inch Austrian mortars, with all the heavy artillery used in the Serbian campaign and part of that formerly employed on the Russian front.

Preparations for the battle were observed early in December, when the first troops assigned to the operation were brought up. Eight divisions which returned from Serbia, were sent to Belgium for a rest, and then transported to the region of Verdun in January. Five army corps in all are known to have been brought up to reinforce two corps which previously held that part of the line between Etain and Vauquois.

These were the best troops of the German army, including, as it is learned, from prisoners, the famous Third Corps of Brandenburg, supposedly equal to the Prussian guards, and the Fifteenth Army Corps, commanded by Gen. Von Dabbling, known in France as one of the most brilliant of the general officers.

Whole German Brigade Annihilated. The resoluteness of the Germans to capture the fortress is explained by the fascination that the name Verdun has had on the minds of the German people since 1792, and the consequent moral value of its fall to the Germans. This psychological reason, in the judgment of high official critics, explains the presence of Emperor William behind the troops, and the orders of the day issued to the army by the Crown Prince and the general. The French compare the ground gained by the Germans in the four days with twice that amount taken by the French in the first two days of their offensive in Champagne, together with eight times the number of prisoners. The confidence of the French is unshaken by the fierce attacks and the slight bending in of the French line.

The military critic of the Temps reports that heavy French reinforcements have been brought up. Lieut. Col. Leonce Rousset, another military critic, relates in conversation he had with a surgeon just returned from Verdun. On Feb. 22, during the present battle, the surgeon saw an entire brigade, which was advancing in close order, caught by the concentrated fire of French batteries and annihilated in a few minutes.

Heavy Cannonading in Eifel Region. Berlin, Feb. 24, via London, Feb. 25.—The Cologne Volks Zeitung reports that heavy cannonading has been audible in the Eifel region (a low mountain range in Rhineland Prussia, on the left bank of the Rhine) since Monday. The sound increased on Tuesday morning to drum fire, which could be heard even with the windows closed. Heavy reports of big guns and the continuous rolling of smaller pieces were distinguished plainly despite a north wind. The cannonading is comparable with that of last September.

German Statement. Berlin, Feb. 25.—The text of the German official statement tonight says: "Western theatre: On the right bank of the River Meuse our successes previously reported were exploited yesterday in different directions. The fortified villages and farms of Champ Neuville, Collette, Marmon, Beaumont, Chambray and Ornes were captured.

"In addition all the enemy's positions as far as the ridge of Loudeumont were captured by storm. "The sanguinary losses of the enemy again were extraordinarily heavy while our losses were normal. The number of prisoners taken was increased by over 7,000 to more than 10,000.

"No information can yet be given with regard to the booty in materials which we captured. "Eastern and Balkan theatres: There is nothing to report."

Canadians Are Taking No Part In the Battle of Verdun

Are Considerable Distance from Point Where Germans Are Making Terrific Drive--French Have Smashed First of Enemy's Attempts.

Ottawa, Feb. 25.—(Via leased wire)—The Canadians are taking no part in the battle of Verdun.

At the opening of the house Mr. E. M. MacDonald of Pictou asked the Minister of Militia if the Canadians were in the Verdun fighting.

Sir Sam Hughes, in reply, said that according to reports which had been received by the department the attack was being made to the north and northeast of Verdun which is perhaps the most strongly fortified place in Europe with the exception of Metz. He was informed that the French had succeeded in smashing the first attempt (applause) and that the German troops now coming on were reserves composed practically of raw recruits. It appeared that in one or two places the French first line had been broken but the second line was absolutely intact.

The Canadians, Sir Sam stated, were a long distance from this position. No special assault on their lines with infantry was being made but there was heavy artillery firing. Gen. MacDonnell had been wounded rather seriously in the shoulder and the side by shrapnel and General Leckie had been shot in the thigh. "These are the chances they take every day. The casualties, however, are not high, five killed and eight wounded last night. The artillery firing is very heavy over our lines and our fellows are paying them back in their own coin."

GERMAN SUCCESS AT VERDUN WOULD ENDANGER LONDON

London, Feb. 25, 8:38 p. m.—The importance to England of the battle raging around Verdun was emphasized by Major General Sir Francis Lloyd, general officer commanding the London district, in a speech today at the opening of a military building at Wimbledon.

"In the great war which is now proceeding," said General Lloyd, "every individual must give up self absolutely, and all must unite in one bond to make the war result in victory. Do you realize that a fight is now going on for a passage to Paris? The result will hang in the balance until the Teuton drive back, as I have great confidence he will be.

"But if once our allies' line is pierced the way will be open to the French capital, and if that capital is reached a new complexion would be put on the whole face of the war, and on our lives and being. A German success on the French front would not merely mean the loss of Paris, but would endanger London."

General Lloyd administered a rebuke to those Britons, who, he declared, had acquired the habit of fault finding and criticizing the work of their leaders. "You crumbly," said Gen. Lloyd, "are putting spokes in the wheels of the war's progress. The people must learn that it is necessary to carry discipline into every corner of private life and home life to turn the great struggle into a victory."

POTATO SUPPLY NEAR LOW EBB IN GERMANY

Amsterdam, via London, Feb. 25.—The Telegram says today that the new Dutch minister of finance is determined to stamp out smuggling and has asked for two thousand new customs officials, who are to be recruited from the military.

According to the Berlin Vossische Zeitung potato cards, allowing a pound daily to each person, which are already in force in Dresden, will be stopped shortly throughout Germany. A potato census is now being taken in order to ascertain whether the shortage among the Teutonic Allies is serious.

M. P., had been found near the ruins of the Commons Chamber, turns out to have been erroneous. What was found was a conglomerate mass of rubbish of iron, which it was thought at first, might have contained some remains of the late member. Examination of this on behalf of the relatives of the late member has, however, failed to show any recognizable traces of human remains.

The debris of the burped building has now been nearly all removed, and it is probable that the only obsequies of the late member for Yarmouth will remain the funeral pyre of the parliament building.

The full sessional indemnity of a member of parliament will be voted to the widow of the deceased member.

REMAINS OF B. B. LAW NOT FOUND YET

Ottawa, Feb. 25 (via leased wire)—The report sent out some days ago that the charred remains of one of the bodies of the late B. B. Law,

PRES. WILSON STANDS PAT THO' ODDS AGAINST HIM

NO DISPOSITION IN CONGRESS TO STOP VOTE IF LEADERS FORCE IT, AND TWO TO ONE VOTE IN FAVOR OF WARNING AMERICANS OFF ARMED VESSELS REGARDED AS CERTAIN.

AMERICAN SYMPATHY ALREADY MANIFESTED, NEITHER ENGLAND NOR ALLIES HAVE ANY INTEREST IN SEEING A WAR BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND GERMANS, FRENCH PAPER SAYS.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Congress settled down today to await developments in the submarine controversy between the United States and Germany with an overwhelming majority of both houses apparently very definitely determined to take action which might embarrass the administration in the present stage of diplomatic negotiations.

A few of the more ardent advocates of legislation to keep Americans off belligerent ships continued their activities, and former Secretary of State Bryan's support for them was shown in the form of a telegram, but even most of them admitted there was no prospect of immediate action.

So far as the administration is concerned it was stated authoritatively tonight that while agitation of the issue just now was undesirable, there was no disposition to oppose a vote on the pending armed ship resolutions, if their sponsors tried to force one. It was declared that reports from the capital during the day showed conclusively that both the senate and the house would stand behind President Wilson in his refusal to permit any abridgement of the rights of American citizens on the seas, as outlined in his letter to Senator Stone last night.

Wilson Stands Pat. The president reiterated his statements in that letter to Speaker Clark, Majority Leader Kitchin and Representative Flood, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, early in the day when they called at the White House to tell of the situation on their side of the capital, and hear the executive's views. There was plain speaking both by the president and his callers. Mr. Wilson said plainly that his efforts to keep the country at peace were liable to be hindered by impressions sent abroad by Congress, and the congressmen were equally frank in giving notice that a strong sentiment existed at the capital against risking the possibility of war by permitting Americans to travel on armed belligerent ships, whatever might be their rights under international law.

Although wholly different reports came from other sources during the day, speaker Clark declared he believed a resolution to warn citizens of armed vessels would carry in the house by two to one, if it reached a vote.

The house delegation went back to the capital with word that the president stood unalterably by his position. There the situation rests, and while there probably will be many more conferences and possibly some speeches, the generally accepted opinion is that no further serious effort to bring about action will be made unless developments occur to make a rupture of relations with Germany imminent.

The cabinet discussed the matter at length today, and one of the secretaries said afterwards that the members stood behind the president "to a man." There was no change in the diplomatic status of the situation.

French Papers Comment. Paris, Feb. 25.—The Temps discussing the situation between the United States and Germany, says: "Neither Great Britain nor the Allies have any interest in seeing a war between Germany and the United States. American sympathies are sufficient, and these have been won. One does not observe in London or Paris the least tendency to intervene in the German-American crisis, either with the object of bringing about a rupture or in favor of a compromise."

BLAMES LIQUOR INTERESTS FOR STARTING YARN

Halifax, Minister Replies to Story that He Helped German Prisoners to Escape.

Special to The Standard. Halifax, Feb. 25.—The Herald will publish the following tomorrow: "A story was current on the streets yesterday that Rev. Hamilton Wigle, minister of Charles street Methodist church, Halifax, had assisted German prisoners at the Citadel to escape a few days ago. It appears that a rumor had been furnished, in some mysterious way, to enable the prisoners to cross the moat, and the yarn went that the Rev. Mr. Wigle knew something about this. During the evening the Herald office had a great many telephone calls asking if there was any truth in the story. In order to see the matter at rest, the Herald called up the Rev. gentleman at his residence.

"Have you heard this story about your helping German prisoners to escape?" the Herald asked. "Oh, yes," he said, and his laugh could be distinctly heard over the telephone.

"What have you to say about it?" "Nothing at all, my record is well known. But you can say, if you wish to publish anything, that I am told the yarn has been traced directly to the liquor interests in Halifax, because I have been prominent in the agitation for a prohibition law in this city."

"Are you going to do anything about it?" "Nothing at all. I shall simply ignore the whole thing. People know my position. I have contributed from the first to the Patriotic Fund; my sentiments have been frequently expressed in public, and there is absolutely nothing for me to say. The enmity of the liquor interests has been aroused because I am the head of the Nova Scotia Temperance Alliance, and of the Halifax branch of the organization, and as I said before the story is traceable directly to the liquor people. At least, so I have been informed by a member of the legislature."

A CHANGE PROJECTED FOR MARKET SQUARE

The Commissioner of Public Works is considering the advisability of removing the fountain at the foot of King street to the south corner of the gram plot, facing Water street. Since the tram tracks have been moved the fountain is practically in the way.

Commissioner Potts hopes to have a concrete walk laid on the upper side of the plot in order that people might alight from the cars without wading through mud and water. The Street Railway Co. then be asked to erect a shelter for passengers.

Organizations in this part of the Dominion. The meeting adjourned to meet again on Thursday night next at 8:30 o'clock.

DR. CUTTEN GOING TO FRONT WITH N. S. BRIGADE

Will Command a Company in 219th Highlanders—25 Undergraduates of Acadia Going With Him.

Special to The Standard. Halifax, Feb. 25.—One of the presidents of a maritime university is deep in the front as an officer of Canada's overseas forces. Dr. G. B. Cutten, president of Acadia College, at Wolfville, has been accepted for service and will command a company of the 219th Battalion in the Nova Scotia Highland Brigade. Dr. Cutten will at once begin a course of training for officers and also engage in an active recruiting campaign.

Not only is Dr. Cutten going to the front himself, but twenty-five undergraduates of Acadia have enlisted for the company in the 219th to be commanded by their president. During mobilization this company will be quartered at Wolfville so that the students may, while training for their future military work, also keep up their studies as far as possible at the University. The Nova Scotia Highland Brigade will consist of four battalions, and a recruiting campaign is being started which it is hoped will raise the number of men required in a little more than a month.

RESTAURANT AND HOTEL WORKERS TO ORGANIZE A UNION

About sixty men met in the Labor Hall, Union street, last night, with C. H. Stevens, president of the Trades and Labor Council in the chair. J. P. O'Brien, district organizer of labor, and John Kemp, secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, made addresses.

It was decided by those assembled, by a unanimous standing vote, to apply for a charter, to become affiliated with all other organizations, and also to become affiliated with the Trades and Labor Council of St. John.

When this body is duly organized it is anticipated that it will be one of the largest unions in St. John. It takes in cooks, chefs, bar-tenders, waiters, waitresses and all hotel employees. It will be known as the international organization of hotel, restaurant and bar-tenders league of North America.

They will be affiliated with the Dominion Trades Congress and all or-