

# The St. John Standard

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THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 23, 1918.

FAIR AND MILD

PRICE TWO CENTS.

## TEUTONS REPULSED IN ATTACK ON BRITISH FRONT ON EVE OF DRIVE

### VERDICT IN KIERSTEAD CASE TODAY

**Hereditary Insanity Theory Advanced By Counsel For The Defence.**

**EVIDENCE COMPLETED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON**

**Attorney General and Hon. Mr. Slipp Address Jury in the Evening.**

**MURDER INSTRUMENTS ARE IDENTIFIED**

**Young Daughter of Defendant Breaks Down on the Witness Stand.**

Special to The Standard.  
Gagetown, May 22.—It is expected that somewhere around noon tomorrow Robert Kierstead of Salmon Creek, who is on trial in the Circuit court here before Mr. Justice Barry and a jury on a charge of murdering his wife, Elsie, at their home on the night of Dec. 23 last will know his fate. The evidence and the address of Attorney-General Byrne and Hon. A. R. Slipp of counsel for the defendant were completed today and tonight, the judge's charge remaining to be delivered tomorrow morning at ten o'clock. The feature of the session today was evidence revealing that an uncle of the defendant had died in the Fairville hospital and that another relative, a cousin, is a inmate of that institution at the present time. Today's session was an exciting one and of much interest throughout. The sticks and rifle, with Mrs. Kierstead believed to have been beaten to death were exhibited in court and identified by several witnesses.

Myrtle resumes stand.  
When court resumed, Myrtle, the fourteen year old daughter of Kierstead continued her evidence. Hon. Mr. Slipp brought out that Kierstead had cut trees occasionally out of his orchard, quite a good one, for firewood. She also told how her father had been in the habit of writing notes. He did not seem to mail the notes anyone, but placed them in his pocket. On Friday, Dec. 21, Kierstead asked for some lard in the pantry which he melted on the stove and drank to off-set poison, which he said had been given him by his wife. He drank from one half to one pound of the lard. The little girl said that her father was afraid to go to the barn alone after dark and that he usually took her along while he did his work. She had also gone to work with him in the daytime. She first noticed his strange acts in the summer. They continued in the fall and early winter. To Attorney-General Byrne she stated that her father awakened her on the night of Dec. 21 and told her her mother had poisoned him. He asked her to go to Thomas Boyd's. The mother was crying at the time. Kierstead told the same story to Boyd.

Threatened Woman.  
Later when they returned home Kierstead threatened his wife with a chain and when witness intervened, her father said: "Oh Myrtle, don't do that." On another occasion he upbraided her mother. He threatened to murder her one morning because she did not rise early enough to suit him. The Kiersteads had two farms, one belonging to her father and one to her mother. Last summer she heard her parents quarrelling. Kierstead averring his wife wanted to get his property away from him. He claimed she desired to kill him to get the property.

Ten Year Old Witness.  
The next witness was Lizzie Kierstead, the ten year old daughter of the defendant. She did not seem to (Continued on page 3)

### BERLIN REPORTS HEAVY GUNFIRE NEAR KEMMEL

Berlin, May 22, via London—Heavy artillery fighting is reported in the official communication from general headquarters today. The chief zones under gunfire were the Kemmel district, both sides of the Lys and between Arras and Albert.

The text of the statement reads: "In the Kemmel region lively artillery activity continued. North of Kemmel Village and south of Loere strong enemy local attacks delivered in the evening failed. "On both sides of the Lys and at La Bassee Canal our rear districts again were subjected to a heavy fire. Between Arras and Albert the enemy artillery was very lively in the evening. "Between the Somme and the Oise fighting activity revived only temporarily. "Monday night one of our bombing squadrons destroyed extensive French munitions depots near Biargies."

### THIRTEEN MORE MEN LOST ON CYCLOPS

Three Lives Lost When Steamer William Rockefeller Torpedoed.

Washington, May 22.—An additional list of thirteen men, probably lost with the naval minesweeper Cyclops, was received today by the navy department. The announcement said they had been transferred from other ships to the Cyclops as passengers and were presumably aboard the vessel when she left on her last voyage. Three men were lost in the sinking of the American oil tanker Wm. Rockefeller, of 7,157 tons, torpedoed in European waters. Eleven officers and 61 men were landed unharmed. One engineer and two men of the engineer force were killed.

### CARDINAL BOURNE OPENS ARMY CLUB

Sir George Perley and Gen. Turner Speak at Ceremony.

London, May 22.—(Via Reuters' Ottawa Agency)—Cardinal Bourne opened the Catholic army club at 24 Grosvenor Place, supplied by Canadian Roman Catholics for the use generally of Imperial and Allied forces. He paid a tribute to the energy of Father Workman and his colleagues in the club's foundation and said that the club was meant to form a bond of union among those sharing the Roman Catholic faith. Sir George Perley and General Sir Robert Turner also spoke.

### A TIMBER AND MILL DEAL AT SPENCER'S I.

A. O. Seaman Developing Shipbuilding Industry Further.

Special to The Standard.  
Parraboro, May 22.—A. O. Seaman, of Parraboro, has purchased the timber lands and sawmill of Capt. Burias Spicer at Mahony's Brook, near Spencer's Island. Mr. Seaman will at once commence working this property, which has not been operated for more than thirty years, and which is said to contain the largest and best ship timber on the Parraboro shore. He is now building at Cape D'Or a four hundred ton stern schooner which will be launched this summer and will be followed immediately by another of about the same size.

### SUBJECTS OF ENTENTE ABANDONING RUSSIA

Distribution of Bread in Petrograd Ceases.

Moscow, Monday, May 13, (By The Associated Press)—There is under way a marked exodus of Entente Allied subjects from Russia. The distribution of bread in Petrograd will cease tomorrow. It will be replaced by half a Russian pound of potatoes. Flour is unobtainable, even with doctors' prescriptions. Sugar costs fifty rubles a pound.

### THE GERMAN OFFENSIVE IS COMING SOON

Word That Big Drive Has Started May Be Expected At Any Hour.

INTENSIVE FIGHTING BY THE AIR FORCES

British Alone Have Destroyed One Hundred and Fifty Machines.

RUINS OF BETHUNE ARE STILL AFIRE

Enemy Drenches West Front With Gas Shells, Forerunner of Attack.

(By Arthur S. Draper.)  
Special Cable to the N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard.

London, May 22.—Word that the German offensive has started may be expected at any hour. Air fighting during the last five days in which the British alone claim to have destroyed 160 enemy machines, is indicative of the fierceness with which the coming great battle will be waged. On both sides of the lines the troops are being harassed by aviators using bombs and incendiary bombs and setting fire to the ruins at Bethune where the British alone have destroyed 160 enemy machines, generally a forerunner to an infantry attack. All along the west bend of the deep Armentieres salient the Germans are shelling the British positions heavily with occasional reconnoitering raids. Southeast the Bethunes region the famous Hill 70, the enemy's artillery is reported active while the bombardment grows violent east of Arras and at Albert.

### Huns Free With Shells.

General Haig's communique shows that the Germans are using shells lavishly along the 50 mile front from Meteren on the southwest of Kemmel to Albert on the Somme. The British and French continue their sniping tactics, wresting a position here and there, and strengthening their line of defence. Judging by the artillery fire, the enemy plans his first move north of the Somme with the hope of engaging in a position near the British forces. Though the Ypres sector is comparatively quiet, it does not follow that the enemy abandoned his hopes of taking this point. Major Endris, military critic of the Munich Neuste Nachrichten suggests that the next attack will come to the south of Ypres, and force the Anglo-French troops behind the Yser, Comines canal and possible as far back as the Nieupoort-Purnes-Steenvorde-Hazebroek line which runs a mile west of Poperinghe. There have been some lively gun duels southeast of Armentieres, but the same relative stagnation on the northern front exists on the southern battlefield. General Lidendorff hesitated so long there are already some skeptics, who doubt whether he intends to hit at all, just as there was skepticism before the March drive. But then there have been people who prophesied stagnation in Germany monthly since the winter of 1916.

### CENTRAL POWERS HAVE 3,575,000 PRISONERS

"Our Growing Labor Army" Is What German Papers Term Captives.

Amsterdam, May 13.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—"Our growing labor army" is the description applied by the German newspapers to their prisoners of war. In an official statement the German people is notified that Germany and her allies states now hold 3,575,000 prisoners. The statement lays stress on the "supreme value" of these prisoners as man-power for industry and agriculture.

### HUN WARSHIPS TAKE STEAMER FROM HOLLAND

(By George F. Steward.)  
Special to The Standard.  
Amsterdam, May 22.—News was received here today that German warships had seized and taken in to Swinemunde the Dutch ship Metz, bound from Rotterdam for Sweden, under charter of the Dutch government to fetch a cargo of wood. The reason given was that the vessel had no safe conduct from the Germans for passage through the so-called safe zone.

As a sequel to this action the Dutch government today ordered that no Dutch ships except coasting and fishing vessels should leave the harbor. The German government has refused further safe conducts to Dutch ships as a means to force an economic agreement.

### UNION GOVERNMENT REFUSES ENQUIRY ON COPP CHARGES!

Hon. C. J. Doherty in Commons at Early Hour This Morning Declares That the Accusations Not Sufficiently Supported—Will Investigate Archambault's Charge.

Ottawa, May 23.—Speaking shortly before one o'clock this morning Hon. C. J. Doherty, Minister of Justice, said that into charges of so general, in the government could not be expected to grant an inquiry definite and unsupported of a character as those brought forward by Mr. Copp. He promised, however, that there would be judicial investigation of a charge by Joseph Archambault, Laurierite member for Chambly-Vercheres, that 700 soldiers and seventeen officers stationed in the barracks at St. Johns, Quebec, had perjured themselves in order to fraudulently cast their votes in his constituency. The Copp motion was defeated 92 to 61, a majority for the government of 31.

### FORTY-FOUR KILLED IN SUNDAY AIR RAID

Total of 179 Injured—In London Thirty-seven Were Killed and 161 Hurt.

London, May 22.—The casualties in Sunday night's air raid are given in a supplementary statement issued today as 44 killed and 179 injured. An official statement issued in London Monday gave the casualties as 37 killed and 161 injured.

### STEAMER ON FIRE

A Canadian Pacific Port, May 22.—The Japanese freighter Burma Maru of the Osaka-Shosen Kaisha line is on fire off the north Pacific coast, according to naval wireless messages received here late today. The crew had been transferred to the Canadian Maru of the same line, the message said.

Ottawa, May 21.—A great increase in the export of agricultural products over April, 1917, was shown today in the monthly statement of the customs department. Last month domestic agricultural products to the amount of \$30,316,946 were exported, while a year ago, these only totalled \$11,443,161 during April. There was a marked decrease, however, in the exports of manufactured articles last month compared with the same month last year, the figures being \$23,693,925 and \$40,859,646 respectively.

### NOTORIOUS W. PRESTON USES COPP

Westmorland Wind-jammer's Election Charges Merely a Political Move.

'HUG THE MACHINE' MAN BACK OF WHOLE GAME

Copp Would Indict Heroes Overseas as Conspirators and Crooks.

CHARGES ARE NOT TAKEN SERIOUSLY

Preston's Unsavory Political Record Sufficient To Kill Copp's Case.

Special to The Standard.  
Ottawa, May 23.—Before empty galleries and a bored and listless house, Mr. A. B. Copp of Westmorland, today recited the much-heralded opposition scandal charges in connection with the overseas soldiers' vote. Largely discarded in advance, owing to the fact that it was common knowledge that their author was Mr. W. T. R. Preston, of "Hug the Machine" fame in the era of electioneering corruption in Ontario, the accusations created hardly a ripple of interest. The general feeling of the house was that the charges were more or less in the nature of an electioneering ploy, a sort of laboring and belated effort by Mr. Preston's humiliating failure to secure for Sir Wilfrid the soldiers' vote, and long before Mr. Copp had waded through the hours of a dreary procession of statements, affidavits and other pretentious documents most of even his own colleagues had sought refuge outside the house.

Winning Recrimination.  
In an effort to turn the jumble of bald assertion, innuendo, suspicion and winning recrimination which he brought into the house in an appearance of dignified, well-founded accusation, Mr. Copp divided his so-called charges into thirty-two separate paragraphs, but, briefly summarized their burden was that a conspiracy had been entered into in England to bring about the defeat of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and that, in pursuit of this object there had been "grievous irregularities and frauds" committed in Britain in recording and allocating the soldier vote. In concluding Mr. Copp made the usual request for a judicial committee to enter upon a fishing expedition for material to substantiate his claims. There is not the slightest possibility of his demand for an inquiry being granted. There is no such possibility, because not even responsible members of the opposition themselves are willing to see the case carried further.

A Political Move.  
Prominent Laurierites spoken to in the corridors tonight frankly confessed that an inquiry was out of the question, adding that their only object in bringing the matter forward at all was to get it upon record and before the country as a good political move. So far as the government and its supporters are concerned the charges of Mr. Copp leave them absolutely unmoved. There is some resentment over Mr. Preston using the member for Westmorland to indict Canadian heroes overseas as a lot of "conspirators and crooks" but in the main, few of the Unionists take the matter seriously. Hon. Martin Burrell, Secretary of State who spoke for the Government, took less than an hour to completely demolish the fabric of mingled rumor, insinuation and suspicion which in five laborious hours Mr. Copp had built. Mr. Burrell recalled Mr. Preston's unsavory political record and asked the House what faith it could place in the charges of such a man. Laurier and Conscriptio.  
He fairly brought down the house when he produced an advertisement which Preston had placed in an English (Continued on page 3)

### BRITISH REPULSE GERMAN ARMY NEAR MESNIL

London, May 22.—The Germans made another attempt today to raid the British positions near Mesnil, but were repulsed, according to Field Marshal Haig's report tonight from British headquarters in France. The British carried out a raid on the German positions around Hebuterne, with heavy casualties to the Germans. The report says: "Early this morning the enemy made a second attempt to raid our positions southeast of Mesnil, (north of Albert), but was repulsed. "Another successful raid, in addition to those reported this morning was carried out by us last night in the neighborhood of Hebuterne. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy in these encounters, and we captured a few prisoners. "On the remainder of the front there was nothing beyond artillery activity on both sides in the different sectors."

Capt. D. W. Holmes of PARRSBO RO DEAD  
Was Well Known To Traveling Public For More Than Thirty Years.  
Special to The Standard.  
Parraboro, N. S., May 22.—The body of the late Capt. Daniel W. Holmes, who died yesterday afternoon, after a long painful illness, was taken to Hantsport today on the tug Diamond for burial. Capt. Holmes was well and favorably known to the travelling public for more than thirty seasons. He has commanded passenger steamers crossing Minas Basin, being especially master of the steamers Acadia, Evangeline and Prince Albert. Before entering the passenger service he was engaged several years in the Caracas trade.

### MARTIAL LAW ORDERED IN BOHEMIAN CITIES

Independence Movement Menaced The Power of Austria.  
Washington, May 22.—An official Austrian note cabled to Washington from Berna throws light on the motives which impelled the Austrian government to declare martial law in Bohemia. The note says: "Certain events, which were a danger to the safety of the state and presented even a character of high treason took place during the first days of the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the national Bohemian Theatre and led the authorities to take repressive measures." The Swiss point out that all these events prove the formidable character of the Jugo-Slav independence movement and show the feelings of the Czechs as well.

### BIG SHIP LAUNCHING DAY JULY FOURTH

Every Yard Requested By Washington Government To Speed Up Production.

Washington, May 22.—Every shipyard in the United States was asked by telegram tonight to speed up production and make July fourth the greatest ship launching day in the history of the world. Commissioner Colby and Charles M. Schwab, director general of the emergency fleet corporation, will be in San Francisco for the launching of nine ships in yards there. The United States is now showing themselves unlikely to invite intervention by Japan and feeling seems to run so high on this subject in Bolshevik circles that several members of the right faction of the revolutionary executive were arrested for favoring this. In view of this situation and Wilson's pledge to Russia that the United States would stand by her the allies may decide to leave the whole Russian policy in the hands of the United States, as the papers suggest. President Wilson's Metropolitan Opera House speech is recognized as a pledge to Russia such as no other nation has made in such a formal way publicly and will have a great effect on people in the allied countries who tended to envisage possible peace by allowing Germany a certain amount of freedom eastward.

### DR. VON SEYDLER SEES PEACE LOOMING UP

Declares Efforts To Stop War Not So Hopeless as Many Suppose.

London, May 22.—The Breslau newspaper Volksrecht, as quoted in a Copenhagen despatch to the Daily Mail says Dr. Von Seydler made a visit to Prague and northern Bohemia, and in addressing striking miners asserted that the effort for general peace which he said Emperor Charles was carrying forward incessantly was not so hopeless as many persons thought.

### WILSON MAY DECIDE THE SLAV ISSUE

London Papers Suggest He Deal With Allies' Russian Policy Soon.

ALLIES' PLANS IN RUSSIA BEATEN

Japan Hesitates To Interfere Without Being Asked By the U. S.

BOLSHEVIKI WIN ON JAP ISSUE

United States Apparently Pledged To Stand By the Russians.

By Arthur S. Draper.  
Special Cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard.  
London, May 22.—A Conservative evening paper, The Globe, takes up the suggestion of this morning's Chronicle that the allies' policy toward Russia be left in President Wilson's hands. Neither paper pledges its unqualified support to whatever policy President Wilson adopts. Both hold the opinion that the Japanese should intervene and they appeal that Wilson take the initiative. Japan is meanwhile making time and has possibly intimated that it would like any invitation to intervene to come from the United States. The Russian problem requires the immediate attention of the allies, for the latest news from Moscow is that the Bolshevik convention has "triumphed over" the extreme right wing of supporters of the policy of the Japanese orientation. Allies Fail.  
Definite rejection of the idea consenting to Japanese help means the failure of the present allied policy and the whole Russian question again in the melting pot. Until now the allies' policy has been compromise, England, France and Italy wanted immediate and unqualified intervention while Wilson advocated leaving Russia to find its feet alone. Finally a compromise was agreed to, that if the allies were able to obtain the Russian consent in some form to intervention, President Wilson would no longer oppose. The Bolsheviks have now shown themselves unlikely to invite intervention by Japan and feeling seems to run so high on this subject in Bolshevik circles that several members of the right faction of the revolutionary executive were arrested for favoring this. In view of this situation and Wilson's pledge to Russia that the United States would stand by her the allies may decide to leave the whole Russian policy in the hands of the United States, as the papers suggest. President Wilson's Metropolitan Opera House speech is recognized as a pledge to Russia such as no other nation has made in such a formal way publicly and will have a great effect on people in the allied countries who tended to envisage possible peace by allowing Germany a certain amount of freedom eastward.

### QUEBEC MEN RUSHING TO JOIN THE ARMY

Lt.-Col. Piuze Greatly Elated Over the Results of the Draft Call.

Quebec, May 22.—Seen today by The Canadian Press, Lt.-Col. P. A. Piuze, officer in charge of the reception of the draftees enlisted under the latest order-in-council, said he was greatly elated over the results of the call. "The recruits," he said, "are simply pouring into headquarters. Since the fifteenth of May, the date on which the first calls were sent out, I have received from military district No. 5, (Quebec), 325 draftees, and, mind you, this does not comprise the five hundred odd men that voluntarily enlisted in the Level corps or in the Royal Flying Corps."