

HEAVY FIGHTING IN FLANDERS WITH ALLIES GAINING GROUND; VIENNA SAYS RUSSIANS RETIRING

CANADA'S UNITY IN TIME OF STRESS AND LOYALTY TO EMPIRE, LESSON TO THE WORLD, PREMIER BORDEN SAYS

Premier Addresses Large Gathering at Amherst in Interest of Maritime Forward Movement—Work of Equipping the Ports of St. John and Halifax Will Go on Until Both Can Compete With All—Given Splendid Reception by Audience.

QUESTIONS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE IN ADVANCEMENT OF MARITIME PROVINCES DEALT WITH

One of Most Unique and Profitable Gatherings Ever Held in Provinces—Maritime Union Touched on and Formation of Maritime Province League Decided Upon—Putting the Maritime Provinces in the Front Ranks—Gen. Hughes Pays Tribute to Fine Class of Men Canada is Sending to Front—Premiers of Nova Scotia and P. E. I. in Eloquent Addresses.

Special to The Standard. Amherst, N. S., Dec. 17.—The greatest and most unique gathering of the sort ever held in Amherst closed tonight with ringing speeches for Sir Robert L. Borden, Premier of Canada, Major General the Honorable Sam Hughes, Premier Murray of Nova Scotia, Premier Matheson of Prince Edward Island, Hon. C. W. Robinson, leader of the New Brunswick opposition and Very Rev. Dean Lloyd of Halifax. It was a fitting climax to a great day. The subject of the addresses at the conference in the morning and afternoon was that of Maritime Forward Movement in which it was urged most emphatically that the provinces should unite in the common interest of all. In the evening there was a touch of maritime union in the addresses but none of the premiers were inclined to regard it as a matter requiring immediate attention. Amherst, N. S., Dec. 17.—Long before the hour for the entrance to the Empress Theatre was crowded to the doors. The committee of arrangements had made the wise provision that until those who had advance tickets had been seated the general public would not be admitted to the main body of the house, consequently the visitors had splendid accommodation. Premier Borden Dr. G. B. Cutten, President of Acadia University, occupied the chair. On his right were seated Sir Robert L. Borden and Premier Matheson of Prince Edward Island. On his left were Major General the Hon. Sam Hughes and E. N. Rhodes, M. P. while gentlemen who had contributed to the programme of the day occupied seats on the platform. Following a selection by a double male quartet, Dr. Cutten introduced Premier Borden as the first speaker. Sir Robert in opening said the spirit of co-operation which had brought about the conference of the day had left its impression upon all Canada since the time of test came a little over four months ago. It was that spirit which had made it possible for Canada to render the assistance she (Continued on page 6)

SHORTER HOURS FOR LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS

Delegation Waits on Minister of Labor—Also Want a Dominion Compensation Act.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 17.—A deputation of railway locomotive engineers have visited Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor and appealed to him to take two important steps in their behalf. The first of these is to create a Dominion Compensation Act which would apply to railways all over Canada, similar in its terms to the Ontario Compensation Act which prevents law suits and takes cases for compensation out of the hands of the courts. The other question asked to be adjudicated was the hours in the industry that an engineer may be required to work. The engineers asked that the limit be made fourteen and that this be made general throughout Canada. Sometimes, it was pointed out, engineers have been required to work more than twenty-four hours at a stretch. In talking of the matter afterwards, Mr. Crothers stated that in his opinion even fourteen hours at a stretch was far too long. No work was more wearing than that of the locomotive engineer. He was strung up to the highest tension all the time. From what he can learn it is hardly likely that any legislation to these ends will be possible next session. It is understood that nothing save legislation pertaining to the war will be introduced. The engineers expressed themselves as delighted with the cordial reception given their views by the Minister of Labor.

Official Report Says Czar's Army in East Giving Ground—Movement Probably to Establish Themselves in Stronger Positions to Meet Terrific Onslaughts of Austro-Germans—New Battle May Settle Whether Enemy Will Retire to Warsaw or Russians Continue Invasion of German Territory—Turkey's Suzerainty in Egypt at an End—Pro- claimed British Protectorate.

London, Dec. 17.—"The Russians are retiring along the entire front in Galicia and Poland." This statement, officially issued at Vienna, is the outstanding feature of tonight's news from the battlefronts. While there is no confirmation of this from other sources, such a move on the part of the Russians, would be quite in line with the announcements in despatches from Petrograd that the Russians, threatened on both flanks, had decided to take up new positions where they would better be able to meet the onslaughts which are being launched against them by the Austro-Germans from the Carpathians to the East Prussian frontier. Should the Austro-German armies, as on previous occasions, follow the Russians in Poland another big battle will soon be in progress, which may decide whether the Germans are to get to Warsaw or whether the Russians are again to threaten an invasion of Germany.

The delay of the Russians in following up their victory would prove a serious mistake. It is a mistake to allow the Austro-Germans to establish themselves in stronger positions to meet the onslaughts of the Russians. It is better for Russia that she should meet her foes in her own territory where the means of communications would be more on an equality.

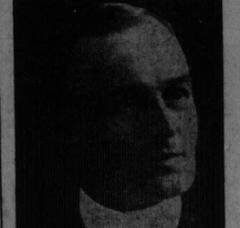
FILLING HOSPITALS WITH THE WOUNDED FROM BATTLE IN WEST.

The German and French official communications do not disclose much of what is going on in the west, but it is apparent that the allies are still on the offensive from the coast to La Bassee and at various other points along the front. While not very marked advances are reported, the French claim to have made some progress and to have organized the ground which they gained during the preceding days. The Germans on the other hand assert that the attacks by the allies have been repulsed. From the number of wounded reaching the hospitals of both the Germans and the Allies, it is evident that the fighting in Flanders today was of a more severe character than shown in the official statements. The correspondents report that the hospitals are again filling up, while along the Dutch border continuous firing can be heard. The long expected proclamation bringing an end to Turkish suzerainty over Egypt and the establishment of a British protectorate over that country was officially issued tonight. The last straw was doubtless the action of the Khedive, who was the Sultan's representative in Egypt, but, with little or no power in taking sides with Turkey against Great Britain. Lt. Col. Sir Arthur Henry McMahon who has been appointed High Commissioner, although a soldier by profession, has had long and varied experience as a political officer in India and other parts of the East. He has been Foreign Secretary to the Government of India since 1911.

HON. J. B. M. BAXTER'S NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL

New Government Sworn in by Lieutenant Governor Wood Yesterday—Hon. George J. Clarke, Premier and Minister of Lands and Mines—Hon. Mr. Baxter's Appointment Everywhere a Popular One.

A new government under the leadership of Hon. George J. Clarke and with J. B. M. Baxter, of St. John, as attorney general, has come into power in New Brunswick. The announcement



HON. J. B. M. BAXTER, Attorney-General of New Brunswick

House in honor of his new cabinet at which besides the members of the government there were present Senator Daniel and Col. Wedderburn. The government will hold a session today. For some time past it has been the general opinion that Mr. Baxter would be called to the provincial cabinet, and his appointment to the important position of Attorney General of the province will not be a surprise to the general public. The new Attorney General is 46 years of age and has won a position at the bar and in civic and provincial politics which gives promise of still greater success in the future.

Apart from his activities on behalf of his party, Mr. Baxter has an established reputation as a public spirited citizen, keenly interested in everything making for the welfare of the city and province, and he has a wide circle of friends outside of his own party who have the fullest confidence in him, and who will be pleased to hear of the new honors which have been bestowed upon him, and will wish him every success. Hon. Mr. Baxter was elected to the Legislature in 1911 and is recognized as one of the most able of the men in the New Brunswick Legislature. He has had considerable experience in the political arena in New Brunswick and has been prominently identified with public life of this city.

Attorney-General Baxter was formerly a member of the Common Council and is now Recorder for the civic corporation. He is ably fitted to fill the position as Attorney General, being recognized as one of New Brunswick's leading lawyers. It is understood Hon. Mr. Baxter will have to run an election in St. John county and E. S. Carter, organizer of the Liberal party, and F. B. Carvell, who were in the city yesterday, both said the Liberal party probably contest his election. But the appointment of Mr. Baxter to the Attorney-Generalship has been so favorably received in the county that it is a difficult matter to get anybody to consent to run against him, the more especially as the re-election of Mr. Baxter is a foregone conclusion.

When the new Attorney-General reached Fairville last evening on his return from Fredericton he was met by a party of about twenty of his friends from the county, who gave him an enthusiastic reception and escorted him to his home on the West Side in automobiles. Last evening the Lieut. Governor gave a dinner at the Barker

OFFICIAL REPORT FROM BERLIN FORESHADOWS NEW ATTACK IN WEST

Berlin, Dec. 17.—Among the items given out for publication today by the official press bureau were the following: "The latest headquarters report from the west appears to point to the possibility of a renewal of activity on a considerable scale in that theatre of war. "The events in the east, however, continue to absorb chief attention. A report received from North Poland refers to the operations as normal. Similar reports preceded the taking of Lodz, and the last report is only more favorable progress is being made. "The Austrians report that the Russians are retiring at nearly all points in South Poland and West Galicia. If the Austrian advance continues it will shortly menace the rear of the Russian forces investing Przemysl, the defenders of which continue to make successful sallies from the fort. "No news of any kind has been received from Servia. "The Turks report successes near Lake Urumiah, but evidently these operations are unimportant. "Persian tribes are alleged to be fighting on the side of the Turks. "The Swedish Lieutenant-Colonel Erel, after a long stay on the German west front, says Germany's economical forces are sufficient, that her military reserves are inexhaustible, and that her forces are steadily increasing. "Basel reports that the municipality of Lille, at the suggestion of the German officer in command, has asked Confederation to get victuals, as Lille is cut off from all foreign communication, and the population is in distress. The commander guaranteed that the victuals were destined exclusively for the consumption of civilians."

TURKEY LOSES ANOTHER OF HER WARSHIPS?

London, Dec. 17.—There has been some naval activity on the part of the Allies in other parts of the world. British ships have been bombarding the Germans along the coast of Flanders and the Turks in the Gulf of Saros, while the Russian Black Sea fleet have sunk a German steamer and an unknown vessel supposed to be a Turkish warship.

ALLIED FLEETS DOING THEIR WORK WELL

Paris, Dec. 17.—Owing to the efficiency of the allied fleets and despite the presence of German cruisers in the various oceans, the Minister of Marine said today that not a man had been lost since the opening of hostilities, of the thousands of French troops transported to France from Algeria, Tunisia, East Africa, Morocco, Madagascar and Tongking, or of the British troops from Asia, Australia, Africa and Canada. The statement was made to the naval committee of the Chamber of Deputies by the Minister of Marine.

ROBS 2 BANKS, SHOT POLICEMAN, ALL IN 3 HOURS

Cincinnati Bandit Crowds Several Chapters of Crime Into Few Hours Work—Finally Shot to Death.

Cincinnati, Dec. 17.—The life of Frank G. Hopf, notorious automobile bandit ended here today following a three hours' career of crime which included the robbing of two Cincinnati banks, the theft of an auto, and a pistol duel with policemen that resulted with almost certain fatal wounds to one officer and the death of the bandit. Thirteen thousand and one hundred dollars are missing as the result of the bank robberies, and the police are confident that Hopf, in his wild auto drives, managed to pass this money along to some confederate.

The beginning of Hopf's end started shortly after 10 o'clock this morning, when he entered the West End branch of the Provident Savings Bank and Trust Company, Eighth and Freeman avenues, fired two shots at Cashier Edward Hughes, scooped up \$8,000 in currency, backed through the door, jumped into a waiting automobile which had been stolen and disappeared. Cashier Hughes fired after the robber, but his shots did not take effect. While the police were searching for the bandit more than an hour

later he entered the Liberty Banking and Savings Company Bank at Liberty and Freeman avenues, ten blocks away, fired two shots at Cashier Winters, grabbed what proved to be \$5,000 in currency, ran to his automobile and again disappeared. The shots were so close to Winters that he was powder-burned, but other than suffering from the shock he was uninjured. Fusillade of Bullets He Met Policemen The bandit had rented a room yesterday in a West Ninth street apartment house, and the owner of the apartment having read a description of the man, called the attention of the police. Three policemen called at his room, and upon opening the door were received with a shower of shots. Policeman Knaul fell wounded and the bandit, jumping past the other two officers, fled to the street, reentered his automobile, which was standing in the front of the house and fled. His flight proved unlucky for him, inasmuch as he crashed into a pole rounding the first corner and wrecked the machine. He extricated himself from the wreckage and started to run, but the officers by that time were close to him and after an exchange of shots the bandit fell. He died later in the afternoon, while the policeman is in a sinking condition.

CONSERVATIVES IN SOURIS, P. E. ISLAND, CHOOSE A. L. FRASER

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Dec. 17.—At the Conservative convention held today in Georgetown, Mr. A. L. Fraser, ex-M. P. of Souris, was nominated as the federal candidate in the coming election.

PATHTIC SCENES IN RAID ON ENGLISH COAST TOWNS

Hartlepool, via London, Dec. 17.—An inquest began here today over the bodies of seventy-nine victims of the German bombardment of Hartlepool and West Hartlepool. The evidence, though mostly of a formal character, brought to light some pathetic cases. An old woman was picking up coal dropped from cars on the railway embankment when she was killed by a shell. An old man and his two daughters were just starting breakfast in the kitchen when a shell burst in the room, killing all three of them. A young woman went to the house of her aged mother, intending to conduct her to a place of safety. Entering the passageway she stumbled across her mother's body. A shell had pierced the roof and killed her. The verdict rendered by the coroner's jury was that the deaths of the seventy-nine persons were due to bombardment "by an enemy who, under cover of a dense fog, fired shot and shell into the towns, killing many unarmed civilians." Although at a late hour tonight the official estimate of the casualties was 82 persons killed and about 250 injured, many of the wrecked houses have not been explored and it is believed the list of dead eventually will reach one hundred. Eight soldiers, two of them gunners in the coast defence, and two sailors are among the killed. Throughout today rumors were current that German and English fleets were firing off the Scotch coast. No sounds of gun fire were heard here, but the rumors excited the crowds, which were willing to believe predictions that the Germans will shortly shell this coast again. Army officers who examined the ruins caused by the bombardment estimated that the Germans fired two hundred shells, chiefly of the 9-inch and 12-inch kind. Several 12-inch shells which had not exploded were found today in the soft earth. As the German cruisers made their escape to the northeast they poured a fire from their guns on the north side of the peninsula. Many destroyers were visible beyond the Germans during the bombardment. At first these were believed to belong to the hostile squadron, but competent observers say the Germans fired both seaward and toward the shore, which seems to indicate that the Germans slipped between the English flotilla and the coast during the heavy fog that prevailed just before the bombardment. Two large German cruisers and one small cruiser did the shelling here. The shore guns acquitted themselves creditably and were not injured by the German fire. Persons who witnessed the fighting between the shore guns and the cruisers say the smokestack of one of the cruisers was smashed and that many shots landed on another, while it was standing broadside to the shore batteries. It is estimated that the cruisers were about four thousand feet off shore during the heaviest part of the shelling.