

THE WEATHER.
Maritime—Strong winds and gales, east and northeast, with snow falling in some localities to west or rain.

The St. John Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

OPERA HOUSE
TODAY at 2.30 and 8.15
"BRINGING UP FATHER"

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GERMANS THROWN BACK ALONG THREE MILE FRONT IN ASSAULT ON FRENCH LINE NORTHWEST OF VERDUN

HUNS RENEW INFANTRY ATTACKS AROUND VERDUN

Gain Footing on French Territory at Two Places but Repulsed With Serious Losses on Rest of Front.

Launch Three Furious Assaults at French Near Bois Des Buttes but Beaten Back Each Time—French Aviators Continue their Successful Incursions Into the Enemy's Territory.

Extremely heavy infantry fighting has taken place northwest of Verdun, and on the outskirts of the Bois Des Buttes, to the north of the Aisne, with the Germans in both regions the aggressors. Elsewhere along the line artillery duels of great proportions are under way.

In the sector between Bethancourt and Cumieres, northwest of Verdun, the intense artillery bombardment of the Germans was followed by an infantry attack, but over the entire front of three miles it was repulsed by the French with serious losses, except between Bethancourt and Le Mort Homme, where the Germans gained a footing at two points in the French trenches.

The Germans three times to the north of the Aisne threw their troops against the French positions, northwest of the Bois Des Buttes, but none of the attacks proved successful.

In the forest of Argonne the French guns effectively shelled German positions. North and east of Verdun the artillery duels continue. To the north of St. Mihiel, in Lorraine, and in the Vosges mountains the guns of both sides have been active. A large number of fights in the air have taken place around Verdun.

In these four German air-craft have been brought down. French aviators have again bombarded the station of Briulles, behind the German lines north of Verdun.

Paris, Mar. 14.—The violence of the German bombardment of the French positions between Bethancourt and Cumieres, to the northwest of Verdun, was redoubled today, after which the German infantry fiercely attacked this sector. They were repulsed along the whole front with serious losses, according to the official statement issued tonight by the French war office.

The German, however, succeeded in securing a footing in the French trenches at two points, between Bethancourt and Le Mort Homme.

The text of the statement follows: "North of the Aisne the Germans three times endeavored to penetrate our trenches on the northwest outskirts of the Bois Des Buttes. None of these attempts was successful.

"In the Argonne our artillery directed effective fire against the sector of Forêt de Paris, where a munitions depot was exploded, as well as on the railroads, the highways and enemy organizations in the region of Montfaucou and Avocourt de Delme.

"West of the Meuse the bombardment with shells of heavy calibre against our positions between Bethancourt and Cumieres redoubled in violence. In the afternoon the Germans launched a very powerful attack against this sector, but were repulsed along the whole of the front with serious losses. They took foot only in two points in our trenches—between Bethancourt and Le Mort Homme.

"East of the Meuse and in the Vosges the artillery on both sides was very active during the course of the day.

Airmen Keep Up Good Work.

"North of St. Mihiel our batteries bombarded important enemy camps in the Houdicourt wood, and caused a great fire in the station and store houses at La Marchen-Woevre.

"In Lorraine we shelled an enemy column northward of Delme.

"In the Vosges there was great activity of the two artilleries in the sector of Chapelotte and the valley of the Thur. Surprise attacks on the enemy trenches at Stoupeville and Campange enabled us to take about sixty prisoners and quite important material without any loss.

"Six aeroplanes of the first bombing group, and five double-motor aeroplanes dropped forty-two shells of heavy calibre on the station at Briulles (north of Verdun). A large number of aerial engagements were fought today in the region of Verdun. Three German aeroplanes were seen to have been brought down by our machines inside the German lines.

"One of our aeroplanes, attacked by

U.S. TO RECRUIT REGULARS TO FULL STRENGTH

Chase Across Mexican Border After Villa May Start Any Hour Now.

EX-OFFICERS OF VILLA ARMY ROUNDED UP.

Attack on Southern Pacific Train Brings Excitement to Fever Heat and American Population Getting in Supply of Firearms.

El Paso, Texas, Mar. 14.—Through the thick veil of censorship which has been established by Gen. Funston, sufficient information leaked through today to confirm the belief that the advance guard of the first expeditionary force may start in pursuit of Villa at a time to be measured by hours. The main force may not start for two or three days.

The strong undercurrent of excitement along the border was stirred today by news that a Southern Pacific train had been fired upon at Belen, Texas, seventeen miles east of here. Conductor Rogers, in charge of the train, said that several shots had been fired from underbrush near the station.

The local police continue to arrest Mexicans, who were supposed to be in communication with the Villa forces, and eleven, all former officers, generals or cabinet ministers of Villa, now are in jail here. While there has been no disturbance of any kind here, the apprehension felt by the American population was indicated by heavy sales of guns and ammunition in the last few days.

Gum stores reported today that they were almost completely sold out of ammunition.

Washington, Mar. 14.—Word that American troops had crossed the border in pursuit of the Mexican bandit Villa, was still lacking tonight, the War Department itself not having been advised as to when the movement would begin.

Congress took active notice of the border situation today, for the first time. The house passed a joint resolution authorizing the recruiting of the mobile regular army to full strength. This means the addition of approximately 20,000 fighting men to the infantry, cavalry and field artillery. The senate is expected to concur tomorrow.

At the State Department steps were taken to make it certain that distorted versions of the American purpose in sending armed forces across the border were not given wide circulation in Mexico. By cable, telegraph, radio and mail full statements of the attitude of the United States government and its reciprocal agreement with the Carranza government went forward to consuls and State Department agents throughout the southern republic.

The cabinet today considered advice from many parts of Mexico, all of a reassuring nature. Meanwhile the censorship over movements on the border was drawn tighter, and few messages relating to troop movements were allowed to filter out, either there or here. Four newspaper correspondents were officially designated during the day to accompany the expeditionary forces, and orders were issued for their credentials.

DUTCH WAR LOAN.

London, March 14, 5.57 p. m.—A despatch to Reuters' Telegram Company from The Hague says the second chamber of the Dutch parliament adopted today, without division, a war loan bill for 125,000,000 guilder.

BELGIAN KING HONORS CANADA'S PREMIER

Ottawa, March 14.—Mr. M. Goor, Consul-General for Belgium, today handed to the Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden, the insignia of the Grand Cordon of the Order of Leopold, which has just been conferred upon the Premier by King Albert as a public mark of His Majesty's appreciation of the Prime Minister and the Dominion's sympathy generally towards Belgium. This decoration is the highest distinction of the Order of Leopold, which ranks first among the Belgian national orders, and was instituted by the first sovereign of independent Belgium in 1832.

PUGSLEY'S PSEUDO CHARGES RIDDLED BY HON. MR. MEIGHEN

RIDICULOUS ALLEGATIONS BROUGHT BY GRIT MEMBER FOR ST. JOHN DEALT WITH BY SOLICITOR GENERAL AND REFUTED BY DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.

Ottawa, March 14.—The only thing they have succeeded in proving is that they are glib talkers and abandoned slanderers, was the conclusion arrived at by Hon. Arthur Meighen, after two hours discussion of the reckless and unsubstantiated charges of Messrs. Carvell and Pugsley against the shell committee and the munition manufacturers of Canada, by Hon. William Pugsley's charges against the shell committee today were based on the irresponsible statements of Mr. Carvell it was to the latter gentleman that Mr. Meighen paid particular attention.

Every charge and assertion made by Mr. Carvell was dealt with by Mr. Meighen and by documentary evidence he completely refuted the allegation of the member for Carleton.

Hon. William Pugsley's dramatic introduction to his speech in which he purposed on his responsibility as a member of parliament to make charges requiring an investigation was one of the most ridiculous performances ever seen in parliament. The member for St. John had taken no responsibility or produced a particle of evidence on which to demand Canadian interference in an imperial affair, nor even if the matter under discussion had been one of purely Canadian concern. As Mr. Meighen said, the pseudo-charges were the common stock of every opposition and had been made in every parliament practically every day since confederation. The hon. member for St. John had let loose in parliament when stripped of his false mane and tail was found to be the ordinary common wooden dog which he trotted out on every occasion.

Mr. Meighen analysed Mr. Pugsley's supposed charges. Mr. Pugsley had declared that the shell committee was appointed by the Canadian government—what was true. But he had not declared what was equally true, that it was under the jurisdiction of and responsible to the British government. The charge that prices were fixed without competition was a charge against the British government which had fixed the prices at which the shell committee had placed the contracts.

If the prices were excessive the British government which was paying the prices was responsible for them. Another charge was that members of the shell committee had given contracts to companies in which they were personally interested. The Solicitor General proved by affidavits that every allegation made on this score was false. Another complaint of Mr. Pugsley was that delay had been permitted in filling contracts. Hon. David Lloyd George, British Minister of Munitions, had admitted in the British parliament that there had been delay in filling contracts for shells every country, even Great Britain.

Mr. Pugsley's final accusation was that the shell committee had placed a large order for fuses in the United States and this was done through an unwise and imprudent contract. This and every other similar contract, said Mr. Meighen, was submitted to and endorsed by the British government before they were completed.

In every one of Mr. Pugsley's charges, concluded Mr. Meighen, there was wrong doing, which he had not charged, he was accusing the British government of paying false to themselves and their people.

(Continued on page 2)

BRITISH STAMPING OUT THE SENUSSI UPRISING

Occupation of Sellum, on Egyptian-Tripoli Frontier, Imminent and Head Men of Aulad Ali Tribe Are Begging for Peace.

Special German Minister to Roumania Returning to Berlin—Russians Continue to Harass Turks on Caucasus Front While Italians Take Pivot of Enemy's Defences on Isonzo Front.

The British evidently are breaking up the opposition of the Senussi tribesmen, led by Turkish officers in Western Egypt. An official report received from Major Gen. Peyton, commander of the British forces, says the occupation of Sellum, on the Egyptian-Tripoli frontier, is imminent, that the Sheikh Harun has surrendered and is in the British camp, and that the head men of the Aulad Ali tribe are begging for peace.

The Russians are still harassing the Turks in the Caucasus front, and have made further progress against the Teutons in East Galicia. They entered German trenches in the region of Riga, killed the occupants and returned to their own positions without suffering any loss.

The Italians are keeping up their strong infantry offensive, begun several days ago on the Isonzo front. Especially fierce have been the attacks around San Martino. Here, Rome says, the Italians captured Dante Del

Crovisilio, the pivot in the Austrian defenses, and in the same region stormed two other places and seized Austrian trenches.

Vienna, on the other hand, declares that near San Martino the Italians seven times attempted to storm the Austrian positions, but were repulsed with heavy casualties.

Kaiser's Special Envoy Leaving Roumania.

London, Mar. 14.—Baron Von Dem Bussche-Haddenhausen, special German minister to Roumania, will leave Bucharest tomorrow for Berlin, says Reuter's Bucharest correspondent.

Allied Conference in Rome.

London, Mar. 15.—The Post in an article today says that a conference of representatives of the Entente Allies is to be held soon in Rome, and that David Lloyd George, minister of munitions, will probably be the British representative.

CONFESSES TO BURGLARY OF SACKVILLE SHOP

Abner White Arrested for Breaking Into J. L. Black's Store Admits Guilt and Names Accomplice.

Special to The Standard.
Sackville, N. B., Mar. 14.—Abner White, who was brought to Sackville today from Campbell by Constable Hiram Crossman, occupies a cell in the lockup here. He is charged with burglarizing the store of J. L. Black & Sons, Middle Sackville, about a week ago. White has confessed to the crime and has implicated Frank Lester, of Middle Sackville, now in custody at Dorchester awaiting trial for breaking goal about a year ago. White gave information which resulted in the finding of a number of rings and watches in his cellar on Kirk street. Preliminary hearing of White and Lester will take place before Justice Doull here tomorrow.

SENATION IN B.C. LEGISLATURE

Victoria, B. C., Mar. 14.—A sensation in provincial political affairs came this evening on the opening of the legislature. It was in the form of an announcement from the premier that in view of a legal doubt as to the exact date when the present legislature run out by effluxion of time, which may be tomorrow, that he would place himself in the hands of the opposition.

The premier said he would agree to prorogue at any time the opposition wished, after supply had been voted and the non-contentious measures disposed of.

Though the premier did not say so, it is understood to be the intention to fix the election date about June 20.

TEN SIGNED ROLL AT SUSSEX YESTERDAY

Late Gunner Hapcroft of Siege Battery Will be Buried Today with Military Honors—Recruiting Takes Spurt.

Special to The Standard.
Sussex, N. B., March 14.—Gunner Harry Hapcroft of the Siege Battery, who died of pneumonia at the General Public Hospital, St. John, on Monday morning, will be buried here tomorrow with military honors. The body arrived here today on the C. P. R., and was taken to the funeral parlors of F. W. Wallace. The deceased, who was 37 years of age, was for several years in the employ of Mr. Frank Roach and was well and favorably known and his many friends in the vicinity learned of his sudden demise with extreme regret. He joined the Siege Battery about three months ago. The remains will be taken to Trinity church at one o'clock where service will be conducted by the Rev. Mr. Sheven and interment will be made in the Rockville cemetery. The firing party will be in charge of Captain Wm. Barnes of the machine gun section of the 104th Battalion. The deceased is survived by his wife, who is also a native of England.

Col. Percy Guthrie will address two meetings at the Opera House here on Sunday next, one in the afternoon at three o'clock and the other in the evening after the close of the church services.

Lieut. Col. Fowler will preside at both meetings and the band of the 104th Battalion will be present.

Much interest is being manifested in these meetings and Col. Guthrie will no doubt be greeted with capacity audiences and receive a hearty welcome.

Recruiting has been quite brisk here today and yesterday, 10 men having signed on with the 104th Battalion.

The preliminary examination of Daniel V. Canning, charged with the murder of Thomas and Bridget O'Brien, closed here today and Magistrate Frolkins committed the prisoner for trial at the next session of the supreme court which opens at Hampton on the 21st inst. Judge Crockett will preside. The prisoner will be defended by G. W. Fowler, K. C., M. P.

RENFREW, ONT., PLANT WIPED OUT BY FIRE

Renfrew, Ont., March 14.—Fire of mysterious origin completely destroyed the plant of the Renfrew Machinery Company tonight. It was first reported that the blaze followed the explosion of a lead pot in the hands of a workman, but officials of the company could not account for the cause, and particularly the rapid spread of the flames, which enveloped the entire building in the space of five minutes. The loss is estimated at \$100,000. In addition to several important shipments ready to send away. Several of the night shift of workmen had narrow escapes.