

## News of the Week

TUESDAY, JUNE 26.

British advances in which the Canadians played a part, are recorded southwest of Lens and along the banks of the Souchez River. In both cases ground was gained.

On the French front there has been a cessation in the hard fighting that has been for sometime proceeding in several areas. Artillery duels continue unabated and the Germans continue to shell Rheims.

Battles with submarines are reported by several ships.

Machine guns were used on the Sinn Feiners in Cork.

The Greek cabinet has resigned and King Alexander asks Venizelos to form new cabinet.

Steamer Ortolan, belonging to the General Steamship Navigation Company, is reported sunk by a sub.

German and Austrian munitions plants suffered heavily from fires and explosions.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27.

La Coulotte, south of Lens, is in hands of Canadians.

French troops score a great success on the Aisne front, northwest of Hurtebise.

Three British airplanes fight ten German machines, in Flanders.

Lively fighting continues south-west of Lutsk and between the Stripa and Dniester Rivers in the Galicia area.

Fierce Austrian attacks were met by the Italian troops.

Constitutional guarantees have again been suspended in Spain.

Norway appalled by the discovery of a German plot to wreck shipping.

A new mine-sweeping device is being attached to transatlantic steamers.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28.

Fierce fighting continues around Lens.

French and British troops are successful in small operations on Macedonian front.

Fewer British losses owing to subs, are reported for the past week.

Germans urge Bulgarians to break with United States.

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The Congress of the Russian Soldiers' and Workmen's Delegates rejected the separate peace proposals.

The new Budget of Austria was adopted in the lower House by 292 to 150.

The second contingent of Americans disembarks in France.

FRIDAY, JUNE 29.

Canadian troops have made another considerable advance toward Lens.

Hurtebise Ridge heavily shelled by enemy.

Brazil has revoked her decree of neutrality in the war.

British airmen did effective work along the Tigris River.

Compton county carried the Canada temperance act by a majority expected, when the polls are all heard from, to exceed 3,000, the largest yet for prohibition in the Eastern Townships.

Mr. A. Verville, Labor Member of the Commons, stated in the House that an attempt to put conscription into force in Canada without direct authority from the people would be followed by a general and national strike, supported by the sympathy of organized labor in the United States.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30th.

Hard fighting reported on many fronts with advantage on side of Allies in most cases.

British forces strike a hard blow south and south-west of Oppy.

There has been some lively fighting on a small portion of the Belgian front, particularly around Dixmude.

In Macedonian area fighting continues.

British aviators have dropped fifty bombs over Jerusalem.

Russian activity continues in the Caucasus, with victories on both sides.

General Allexby has been appointed to succeed General Murray in Egypt.

Italians active against Austrians at many points.

Five French vessels were sunk by the Huns in the week just past.

President Wilson opposes the prohibition of wines and beer at this point.

MONDAY, JULY 2.

On West front the British continue to progress in their encirclement of Lens.

General Cadorna retakes positions captured by the Austrians near Gorizia.

Italians admit withdrawal from a pass position on the Trentino front.

Niagara gorge car plunges into the rapids, many killed and injured.

Russians open big drive against the Germans with two separate but co-ordinated actions.

Eighty-seven German merchant ships, seized by the United States, for operation by the shipping board.

The two Governments of Greece have been merged.

The Czechs of Austria are now demanding a complete independence.

Brazil's navy is co-operating with the American fleet in South American waters.

It is thought that an attempt was made to wreck a Canadian Northern Railway train at Thurlow Station, a few miles from Belleville, resulting in one of the worst wrecks for a long time, though no person was seriously injured.

Traffic between Port Dover and Erie, Pa., interrupted for more than 25 years, has been resumed, the City of Dover making four round trips weekly, and the Lake Erie & Northern Railway expects to run to the lake front early this week.

Debate on Conscription continues at Ottawa. It is expected to close this week.

## Fire Prevention and the High Cost of Living

A short time ago the National Board of Fire Underwriters issued a bulletin dealing with Fire Prevention and the High Cost of Living, which is in part as follows:

"Few people realize how directly the much discussed 'high cost of living' is influenced by America's excessive fire waste. A recent nation-wide analysis of fires and fire causes has shown enormous destruction of common staples. Single fires in elevators and mills frequently consume the equivalent of a living for a small army of people. For example, a recent blaze in an Illinois elevator rendered 700,000 bushels of corn unfit for human food, and also destroyed 300,000 bushels of oats.

"Grain elevators, flour, cereal, grist and feed mills present well-known elements of fire hazard in that they are subject to explosions of the highly explosive dust that results from handling or milling grain. These disasters also cost many lives; a dust explosion in a Buffalo mill, in 1913, resulted in over thirty fatalities. A short time ago the United States Department of Agriculture made a study of the frequent explosions in grain separators in the Big Bend country of the Northwest, and found that in the height of the season these reached from six to ten a day, the flames from such explosions in a large number of cases spreading into the surrounding grain with destructive result.

"Individual barn fires add enormously to this total. Throughout most of the country the season of thunder storms follows closely upon that of harvest, and thousands of barns, stored with potential food, go up in flames each year because of lightning. These fires must be classed as largely preventable, since statistics compiled by the Actuarial Bureau of the National Board of Fire Underwriters show that of the total fire loss from lightning, more than ninety-two per cent is found where lightning rods are not used.

"The spontaneous combustion of hay and grain in poorly ventilated barns is another big factor which might largely be prevented by proper precautions. When to such items are added the fires in grain fields, from locomotive sparks, and from the matches of careless smokers, it may be realized that a vast amount of foodstuffs is turned into clouds of smoke, instead of human bone and muscle. This inevitably has its effect upon the price of the remainder.

"Most people depend upon groceries for their foods, and the average grocery, containing as it does, stocks of kerosene and other inflammable merchandise, is a special instance of fire hazard. This is shown by the great number that are consumed during each year, and each grocery fire subtracts a definite quantity of staple from the national supply.

"Meat supplies are directly affected by the large number of live stock burned in fires in barns and stables, and also by the many fires in packing houses, slaughter houses, etc.

"The same condition holds true with other staples than those of food. In two years there were reported 822 fires in wool and cotton mills. Cotton is a commodity which is particularly subject to disastrous fires. This also applies in a marked degree to the refining, storing and handling of oil—one of our commonest daily requirements.

"The supply of wood enters into many phases of our living necessities. In New York State alone 200,000 people are employed in turning out an annual product of nearly \$400,000,000 in wood manufactures. Striking at the basis of this great industry, hundreds of human lives, and millions of dollars' worth of property are destroyed each year by forest fires, which might be prevented with proper care. The National Forest Service, in one year, discovered 1,126 forest fires to have been caused by campers; 1,110 by locomotive sparks, and 470 by incendiaries. The burning of saw mills, lumber yards, furniture and woodenware factories and stores is too frequent to call for special comment. Similar surveys might be made in other fields of staples included in the cost of living.

"If America were to reduce her fire losses to the fractional figures of most other countries it can hardly be doubted that the cost of living would be materially reduced. It must never be forgotten that 21.4 per cent of this annual bonfire is due to strictly preventable causes, 37.9 per cent to those which are partly preventable, and that the remaining 40.7 per cent from 'unknown' causes is probably largely preventable."

## The Standard Bank of Canada.

### Quarterly Dividend Notice No. 107.

Notice is hereby given that a dividend at the rate of THIRTEEN PER CENT, PER ANNUM upon the Capital Stock of this Bank has this day been declared for the Quarter ending July 31st, 1917, and that the same will be payable at the Head Office in this City and its Branches on and after Wednesday, the 1st day of August, 1917, to shareholders of record of the 21st of July, 1917.

By Order of the Board,

C. H. EASSON,

General Manager.

Toronto, June 25th, 1917.