

The Standard

VOL. IX., NO. 252.

TEN PAGES

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 16, 1918.

CLEARING AND COLDER. PRICE: TWO CENTS.

The Italians Attack Teutons And Gain Ground at Monte Asolone

A CRISIS IS REACHED IN WORLD WAR

British Labor Party Wants Tropical Africa Under International Control.

BRITISH PEOPLE MUST SPEAK

Accept Principle of No Annexations for the British Empire.

TO PROTECT ARABS AND ARMENIANS

Call to Central Europe to Renounce Annexations in Europe.

London, Jan. 15.—The British Labor party in a message issued today declares in favor of placing the whole of tropical Africa under uniform international control. The more rapid development of self-government for India is promised, and a protectorate for the peoples of Asia Minor by an international organization to be constituted by the peace conference is favored.

The message, which was issued by the Labor party in conjunction with the parliamentary committee of the trades union congress, says: "We have reached a crisis in the war. The negotiations between the Allies have been interrupted because the Germans have refused to admit the principle of self-determination of peoples and the doctrine of no annexation. In thus acting, the Central Powers are speaking clearly in the name of a militarist state."

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PARIS STIRRED BY ARREST OF M. CAILLAUX

Old Panama Scandal, Concordat Documents and Other Things Said to Have Been in Safe in Florence Bank.

Paris, Jan. 15.—The arrest of former Premier Caillaux is commented upon at great length by the newspapers of Paris, which in general take the view that the government would not have decided upon this action if it had not obtained evidence of the gravest character. Most of the newspapers welcome the government's action. Even organs like L'Humanite and the Radical papers, which are inclined to sympathize with M. Caillaux, do not deny themselves with saying that the government must have overwhelming proofs to justify it and demanding that this evidence be produced.

Public interest in the Caillaux case is concentrated upon two points—the contents of the safe in the Florence bank and the terms of Secretary of State Lansing's cable messages on the subject of the Caillaux-Lansberg relations.

The reports regarding the contents of the safe vary in every newspaper. Humante says the documents include a sketch of a concordat between France and the Vatican drawn up by President Poincare himself and documents on relations between Premier Clemenceau and Cardinal Hirs, which latter would have reference, apparently, to the Panama scandals. There were also, according to this newspaper, a letter from M. Clemenceau to Cardinal Barrois, French ambassador to Italy, and a document of Tommaso Tittoni, former Italian ambassador to France.

Teutons Pushed Back On Piave River and At Monte Asolone

Italians Oust Enemy Out of Trenches in Spite of Furious Counter-Attacks and Also Make Successful Attack on High Ground of Battle Front—Little Fighting Elsewhere.

Canadians Again Raid German Trenches North of Lens, Blowing up Dugouts and Taking Prisoners—Allies Planning to Meet Anticipated German Drive on Western Front—Russian Situation.

After days of activity, due to heavy snows and very severe cold, the Italians have again attacked the Austro-German front in the Monte Asolone region and made good gains of ground. Likewise along the southern course of the Piave River they have added materially to their bridged east of Capovilla, pushing back the enemy from several trenches, which were held by the Italians in spite of furious counter-attacks.

In the hill region the Austro-Germans offered strong resistance, but the Italians, who were ably supported by their artillery, would not be denied, and in addition to inflicting extremely heavy casualties, captured eight officers and 283 men. On the other fronts the fighting for the artillery continues below normal, although the Canadians have raided German trenches north of Lens, blowing up their dugouts and taking prisoners and a machine gun. Probably with the purpose of laying further plans to meet the anticipated stroke of the reinforced armies

of the Germans on the western front, there will be an early meeting of the plenary session at Versailles of the supreme allied war council.

Italian Statement.

Rome, Jan. 15.—The statement follows: "In the Monte Asolone region fighting took place yesterday afternoon. Our troops, effectively supported by artillery, advanced gallantly to recapture the hill from north of Osteria S. Lepore to the head of the Cretella Valley. In spite of the enemy's bitter resistance and very lively reaction, considerable advantages were gained and very heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy. We captured eight officers including one lieutenant-colonel and 283 men of other ranks. "In the Monte Selarolo salient storming parties, making an effective demonstrative action, penetrated the enemy trenches. (Continued on Page 2)

STREET RAILWAY MEN ASK RAISE

Montreal Employees Want Increase of Four Per Cent.

Montreal, Jan. 15.—The employees of the Montreal Street Railway Co., at a meeting held today decided to ask for a four per cent. increase in wages. They claim they are being asked by the company to work longer hours because of the shortage of labor owing to the Military Service Act. It was stated by some of the men that unless the demand for a wage increase is complied with by Feb. 1, a strike will be called.

HEAVY STORM IN UNITED STATES

Worst General Snow and Ice Storm of Generation Ties Up Traffic, Delaying Food and Coal Supplies.

Washington, Jan. 15.—Against the worst general snow and ice storm of a generation, the government railroad administration today struggled in an effort to open main travel routes and keep coal and food shipments moving over the lines best able to handle them. The situation tonight was regarded as worse than at any time within the last week of traffic paralyzing weather. On top of an accumulation of snow in the middle west, from blizzards of several days ago came a fresh snow-fall today.

UNIONISTS TO BE SEPARATE PARTY

Newly Elected Members Will Have Quarters to Themselves.

Ottawa, Jan. 15.—It is evident that those members of parliament who were elected as straight Unionists intend to be identified as a political party separate from the Conservative Liberals. A number of rooms at the museum which belonged to the national history staff have been vacated and are being furnished for their

A SERIOUS BLAZE AT MONCTON

Victoria Block Erected in 1916 Completely Ruined by Fire.

LOSSES WELL UP IN THOUSANDS

L. H. Higgins, Shoe Dealer, Donald and McMurdo and Others Occupants.

THE FIRE PROBABLY BEGAN IN HALLWAY

H. M. Gross's Bookstore, Cumberland Store, Burned Out.

Moncton, Jan. 15.—During a raging snow storm this evening, fire broke out in the Victoria block, situated a short distance below the subway and at midnight the fire department was still fighting the blaze. The alarm was sounded at 6:35 and when the fire fighters arrived the fire was well under way.

The interior of the fine new block was completely ruined at midnight. The walls were still standing but the roof had fallen in. It was practically certain that the walls would not give way. The fire was confined to the Victoria block, no other buildings being damaged.

The Empress theatre, which adjoins was not damaged. The lower floor of the block was all occupied by stores and the upper story by offices, apartments, etc.

Owned by L. H. Higgins.

The block was owned and erected by Mr. L. H. Higgins whose loss will be heavy. Mr. Higgins states that he had \$22,500 insurance on the building which will not nearly cover his loss. Those occupying the ground floor were Bleakney & Son, coal and ice merchant; P. M. Davison, insurance; Donald & Macmurdo, tailors; the Green Lantern, cafe; Harold Cole, tobacco store; the Red Front Shoe Store, conducted by Mr. Higgins; H. M. Gross, book store; Bleakney & Cormier, barbers; Cumberland Piano; a shoe shop; a parlor conducted by a Greek, a tailor shop conducted by Mr. Nugent.

On Second Floor.

On the second floor were A. T. Grilley, optician; the office of the Dominion Sugar Company of Montreal, manager Mr. Lewis, and a number of apartments. The greater part of the stock of these stores on the ground floor were ruined by smoke and water. Donald & Macmurdo place the value of their stock at \$15,000, insurance \$5,000. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is thought that the blaze started in a hallway where waste paper was kept in barrels. It is presumed that a match or cigarette butt was thrown amongst the paper. The block was practically a new one, being erected in 1916.

WANT TO KNOW ABOUT SURPLUS

Member Declares Dominion Government Had No Right to Restrict Bond Issues.

London, Jan. 15.—The Reuter correspondent at Serbian headquarters reports that the Bulgarians are making vain efforts at fraternization and that the Germans are sending leaflets into the Serbian lines devoted to efforts to detach Serbia from the Allies. "The correspondent says he learns on good authority that Austria-Hungary a short time ago proffered the Serbians through a private channel the surrender of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with an outlet to the Adriatic, if they would cease fighting and sign a peace.

Train Out of Control Races Sixty Miles An Hour Down Mountain

Thirty Cars Pile Up on Curve Near Railroad Station, Killing Engineer and Injuring Fireman and Brakeman—Rails Were Icy and It Was Impossible for Driver to Control Heavy Train.

Many Cars Plunge Over Embankment into Meadow, Bordering Brook, or Pile Up on Either Side of Track—Train Was Bound for Portland—Engineer and Fireman Stick to Post.

Bemis, N. H., Jan. 15.—After racing uncontrolled at the rate of 60 miles an hour down grade through nine miles of the famous Crawford Notch in the White Mountains, a locomotive and thirty freight cars piled up on a curve just below the railroad station here, killing the engineer and seriously injuring the fireman and a brakeman. Frederick Powers, of Bartlett, N. H., the engineer, was killed outright. Reno P. Pinard, of St. Johnsbury, Vt., the fireman, was taken to the Memorial hospital at North Conway seriously injured. Oscar Clements, of Bartlett, a brakeman, jumped from the top of the forward freight cars just before the crash and was removed to his home badly cut and bruised. Another brakeman named Barrott was on the roof of the cars in the rear of the train and was not injured. The conductor, James Sullivan of Portland, Me., who was in the caboose, was unhurt.

NO ALTERATIONS IN PEACE PLAN

Baron Von Dem Busche-Haddenhausen Makes Announcement in Reichstag.

Berlin, via London, Jan. 15.—Baron von Dem Busche-Haddenhausen, under-secretary for foreign affairs, informed the Reichstag main committee today that there had been no alteration in the instructions given to Foreign Secretary Von Kuehlmann, for the peace negotiations at Brest-Litovsk.

BRITAIN HAS NOT RECOGNIZED FINNS

Will Consult with Russia Before Taking Formal Step.

London, Jan. 15.—Arthur J. Balfour, secretary for foreign affairs, was asked in the House of Commons today whether Great Britain knew that France and the Russian government had recognized the republic of Finland, and if so, why there was delay on the part of Britain in doing likewise. Mr. Balfour said the British government was aware of the recognition accorded Finland by France and the Russian government, but it was the government's view that before taking the formal step of recognition, it would be desirable to ascertain what the Russian people think of the situation.

FOUR INDUSTRIAL PLANTS CLOSED

Six Thousand Men Thrown Out of Work in Buffalo by Coal Shortage.

Buffalo, Jan. 15.—Four industrial plants, employing more than 6,000 men, closed today because of lack of bituminous coal. It was announced by the industrial fuel department of the Chamber of Commerce. One concern, it was said, was working on ship frames for the Emergency Fleet Corporation and the others were engaged wholly or in part on government work.

MURDERER EXECUTED IN PICTOU

Natali Neri Hanged for Complicity in Murder of Marilblito.

DEATH OCCURS IN FEW MINUTES

Execution Was First One in Pictou County in 52 Years.

ONLY FEW WERE IN ATTENDANCE

Woman Who Was to Have Been Hanged Died Three Weeks Ago.

Special to The Standard. Pictou, N. S., Jan. 15.—The first hanging in Pictou county for a period of fifty-two years took place at Pictou at an early hour this morning, when Natali Neri was executed for slaying Marilblito. When McPhail was hanged 52 years ago the scene was at Hospital Point, near the lazaretto. The hanging on that occasion took place in public and was witnessed by an immense throng of people from all parts of Pictou county. The hanging this morning was strictly private and morbid curiosity and malwisk sentiment cut no figure.

The crime for which Neri paid the penalty was committed at Evansville, near St. John's, on June 25th last. A woman, Carmelo, who was also sentenced to be hanged this morning died three weeks ago. It was the husband of this woman who was so brutally murdered. The condemned man paid the penalty for his misdeeds at 6:05 a.m. (Continued on Page 2)

SHORT CROP OF BABIES IN GERMANY

Kaiser Worried Over Situation and is Urging More Marriages.

Special to The Standard. Washington, Jan. 15.—The Kaiser is deeply concerned about the short German baby crop, according to official government advices here today, but according to the same source he doesn't care much about what happens to the mother after the babies get to growing up and their daddies are fighting at the front.

It's this way. Just before the recent holidays there was a great hue and cry Kaiser-inspired, all over Germany and Austria about how very much the fatherland was interested in seeing its young folks married.

Premise More Food. "But" replied the young folks, "while it is possible for us to be married how are we going to keep on being married with nothing to eat?"

This gave the Kaiser's brain department experts slight pause, but in a little while they came back with the announcement that "the marriage food vouchers for newly married persons. The first fortnight of the honeymoon is thus to be gloried by their food rations being doubled." And, one newspaper blandly added, "It is presumed that this measure will stimulate the inhabitants' desire to marry." But turning rapidly to the next page of that same day's papers was found this announcement: