

Italians Begin Big Offensive Against the Austrians in the Isozo Region on Front of Thirty-Seven Miles

The St. John Standard

VOL. IX, NO. 125

TEN PAGES

MONDAY MORNING, AUGUST 20, 1917.

FAIR AND WARM

PRICE: TWO CENTS.

CANADIANS IN FULL POSSESSION OF BATTLE GROUNDS BEFORE LENS

COMPULSION WILL BE A LAW SOON

House of Commons Agrees to Accept the Amendments of the Senate.

LEGAL QUESTION IS DISCUSSED

Premier Borden Explains That There Will Be No Abuse of Act.

NORTHWEST POLICE AND PATROL WORK

Explanations by the Premier Accepted and Amendments Agreed To.

Ottawa, Aug. 19.—(Canadian Press)—The military service bill was finally disposed of by the Canadian parliament on Saturday afternoon on the motion of the Prime Minister, the house after a short discussion concurring in the Senate amendments. The bill will now become law as soon as it receives the assent of His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire.

Some exception was taken to the Senate amendments providing that no conviction for an offence against the act shall be had until the prosecution has the approval of the Minister of Justice. Opposition members feared that this might lead to the institution of many prosecutions which would not be followed-up.

No Serious Abuse. Sir Robert Borden maintained, however, that there could be no serious abuse of the act, and pointed out that no one arrested by summary process could be kept in confinement for any considerable period of time.

Replying to a question by Mr. Knowles as to the delay of nine days in commencing the Senate amendments the Prime Minister said that there had been no real delay because the act would not come into force until it had received the assent of the Governor General.

There was an interesting debate on an additional vote for the maintenance of the Northwest Mounted Police force.

Hon. Frank Oliver and W. E. Knowles maintained that since the force has been relieved of ordinary police duties throughout the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, the members of the force have not enough to do to keep them busy, they said that many of the men found their work irksome and would be glad to be relieved for service at the front.

Danger Lessened.

Sir Robert Borden explained that it had been considered advisable to restrict the policy to patrol work because of the fear of untoward developments in the west, since the advent of the United States into the war, this danger had been lessened. Sir Robert offered to send to Commissioner Peery the observations made in the house with the request that he should make a report on present conditions.

Some headway was made with the voting of the supplementary estimates before the house rose for the day at six o'clock.

When the house met, Mr. E. M. MacDonald, Liberal, Pictou, asked the Prime Minister whether a Canadian soldier who enlisted in the British forces was entitled to a Canadian pension. Cases of this kind had been brought to his attention and it was desirable that there should be a statement of the government policy.

The Prime Minister replied that he could not say off-hand whether the act applied in such cases or not. He was of the opinion that a Canadian who enlisted in the Canadian forces and was later promoted or transferred to the Imperial forces would be entitled to a Canadian pension, but in such a case as that cited by Mr. MacDonald, he was not sure, but would get the information and give it to the house later on.

Continued on page two.

SOCIALIST ON WAY TO THE LOYALIST CITY

J. C. Watters Advised to Quit Halifax—Misrepresentative of Union Labor Attempting to Win Votes.

Special to The Standard. Halifax, Aug. 19.—J. C. Watters, whose meeting in Sydney was broken up by returned soldiers and who cancelled the meeting he was to have held in Halifax on Friday night, is to leave the city tomorrow morning for Moncton and St. John.

During the stay of Mr. Watters in the city he has had frequent conferences with certain officers of the Trades and Labor Council, some of whom it is understood, were in favor of his going ahead with a meeting either last night or today.

The Longshoremen's Union promised to support him with 300 men. Chief Detective Kennedy after discovering the feeling that existed among the people and among the returned soldiers became convinced that the holding of a meeting in Halifax after what Mr. Watters had said in Sydney having become known would lead to a disturbance of the peace and probably have serious consequences, the detective made an appointment to meet Mr. Watters and after a brief conference obtained his assurance that under no circumstances would he hold a meeting and that when Monday morning came he would leave the city.

HUNS BOMBARD CITY OF VENICE

Rome, Aug. 19.—Austrian airplanes which bombarded Venice last Tuesday dropped explosives on civil hospitals which form a part of the famous school of St. Mark. This school with its neighboring statue of General Barolomeo Colonna and celebrated church of Santa John and Paul, containing monumental tombs of the Doges, is considered one of the greatest wonders of the world.

The chief ward in St. Mark's school with its magnificent fifteenth century coffered ceiling, was struck with a bomb. One-third of the ceiling was destroyed, the falling fragments causing injuries among the patients under treatment. Fortunately the damage was done either in the hall below or to the facade. The latter is decorated with irreplaceable sculpture and has reliefs. All the fragments of the ceiling were carefully assembled and will be preserved for reconstruction later.

BRITISH WIN ON SUNDAY

London, Aug. 19.—The official report from British headquarters in France tonight reads: "By a successful minor operation early Sunday morning in the neighborhood of the Ypres-Poelcapelle road our line advanced to a depth of about five hundred yards on a mile front, and all our objectives, including a series of strongly fortified farms, were captured with very slight loss to us. The enemy's losses were considerable. We took several prisoners."

ROSENDAHL DEAD

Amsterdam, Aug. 18.—Rear Admiral Rosendahl of the German Navy is reported to have died Thursday while sitting in the Trenton. He was the first German governor of Kiao Chau China.

THE FRENCH DEFEAT ALL HUN ATTACKS

Germans Violently Bombed French Positions But All Assaults Repulsed.

HEAVY GUN FIRING ON MEUSE

Six Hundred Shells Thrown on City of Rheims by German Gunners.

Eleven Teuton Airplanes Fall in Flames or Completely Destroyed in Action.

RAILWAY POINTS ARE BOMBARDED

French Airmen Drop Bombs on Munitions Depot at Bantheville.

Paris, Aug. 19.—After violently bombarding the French positions, German troops last night made consecutive attacks on the French trenches in the Priest Wood, west of the Muerthe and Moselle river, and in the Vosges mountains to the east of Badonviller and north of Celles-Sur-Plane. The French official report issued today says all the German assaults were repulsed, and that the Teutons suffered heavy casualties. German surprise attacks on our advanced positions north of Braye, in the region of Bernarcourt and at Pompeille failed.

"On both banks of the Meuse (Verdun sector) the artillery duels continued very active.

"In the Bois Le Pretre, and in the regions east of Badonviller and north of Celles-Sur-Plane, we repulsed successive German attempts made under violent artillery bombardment. The enemy suffered important losses and left some prisoners in our hands."

(Continued on page 2)

FRENCH MAKE MORE GAINS IN BELGIUM

Capture Strong Position East of the Stenebeke River—German Attacks on Aisne Repulsed.

Paris, Aug. 18.—The French last night made further progress in Belgium, north of the road between Birschoote and Langemark. It is officially announced. They captured a strong position of support east of the Stenebeke river. German attacks on the Aisne front were repulsed. On the Verdun front the French in a brilliant attack recaptured positions recently taken by the Germans, completely re-establishing their lines.

The announcement follows: "In Belgium our troops continued to make progress north of the road from Birschoote to Langemark, and carried a strong enemy point of support east of Stenebeke.

"North of the Aisne we repulsed several attacks, especially east of the Froimont Farm. In Champagne our artillery fire prevented an attack which the enemy was preparing in the sector of Massiges.

"On the right bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) our troops made a brilliant counter-attack near Caurieres Wood and recaptured elements of trenches taken by the enemy on August 16 and 17. Our line was re-established completely. Heavy artillery fighting continued in the sector.

"In Alsace a German attack near Stenebeke was repulsed by our fire. Elsewhere the night passed in quiet."

GRAND DUKE MICHAEL WILL STAY IN RUSSIA

Rejects Suggestion That He Should Go to England to Live.

Petrograd, Aug. 18.—Grand Duke Michael, according to the Bourse Gazette has rejected the suggestion that he go to England to live, declaring he could not leave Russia until the constituent assembly has determined the future form of government. It will be remembered that Grand Duke Michael made at the beginning of the revolution a provisional renunciation of his claim to imperial succession declaring he will only accept the throne if called by the people.

The Bourse Gazette says there were persistent rumors a few days before the transfer of Ex-Emperor Nicholas from Tsariko-Selo that Grand Duke Michael had departed for England. Investigation proved he had been given the option of going there but returned to do so until the question of regime was settled.

"These gentlemen took no action in the matter and I decided myself to leave things in abeyance until after the provincial elections, for obvious reasons."

"The main grounds of my decision in April were that my health was suffering from the strain of three years awful work and overwork, and that the absence of three sons on the fighting line made it imperative that I should look after personally my increasing farming interests. My health."

Continued on page two.

DR. CLARK ABANDONS LAURIER

Sturdy Englishman of Red Deer Declines to Be Candidate Again.

CANNOT SUPPORT HIS OLD CHIEF

Disagrees with Conservatives, But Believes in Winning the War.

HAS THREE SONS IN DEFENSE OF CANADA

Party Led by the Province of Quebec Obnoxious to Him.

Ottawa, Aug. 18.—Dr. Michael Clark of Red Deer, one of the best known figures in Canadian political life, has decided not to be a candidate in the next general election. He has so written in a letter to Mr. G. W. Smith, chairman of the Red Deer Federal Liberal Association. Dr. Clark has retired from politics, first on the grounds of ill-health, and second, that he cannot support the Liberal party at the present time and does not see how as a life long Liberal he can run as a Conservative candidate. He announces in the letter that in the coming election "I shall give general support to the government which is unanimous in its deadly earnest with the winning of the war in which the world's freedom and democracy is staked."

Dr. Clark's letter to Mr. Smith announcing that he will not be a candidate is as follows:

"I wrote to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Senator Talbot early last April informing them that I would not be a candidate in the general election.

"These gentlemen took no action in the matter and I decided myself to leave things in abeyance until after the provincial elections, for obvious reasons."

"The main grounds of my decision in April were that my health was suffering from the strain of three years awful work and overwork, and that the absence of three sons on the fighting line made it imperative that I should look after personally my increasing farming interests. My health."

Continued on page two.

NICHOLAS SENT TO TOBOLSK IN WEST SIBERIA

Ex-Emperor and His Wife Sent Under Guard for Reasons of State and "Safety."

Petrograd, Aug. 19.—It was officially announced today for the first time, that the new residence of the deposed Russian Emperor, Nicholas, is at Tobolsk, a western Siberian town which recently achieved a certain dubious publicity in revolutionary Russia as the birthplace of Gregory Rasputin, the Mystic Monk, who wielded a remarkable influence over the ex-Emperor's family up to the time of the priest's assassination in Petrograd last December. The official announcement says:

"Owing to reasons of state, the government decided to transfer to a new residence the ex-Emperor and the ex-Empress, who are detained under guard. The place selected was Tobolsk, where they were taken after requisite measures were completed to ensure their safety. With them went of their own free will, their children and most of their entourage."

According to some newspapers the ex-Imperial family will reside permanently in the former governor's palace at Tobolsk, which is a large house without modern improvements, built in the eighteenth century for a local speculator. Nicholas spent one night there in 1891, when returning from his visit to the far east. Other newspapers say the former Emperor will stay at the ex-governor's palace only one week, and then will be sent to the Apalatsk Monastery, in a forest 20 miles outside the town.

Tobolsk, years ago, was the administrative centre for exiles banished to Siberia. It is on the western side of the Ural mountains and about 1,500 miles from Petrograd.

Petrograd, Aug. 17.—Telegrams from Viatka, on the northern route to Siberia, report the passage of two special trains with lowered blinds and no one was allowed to approach. The trains which are going eastward are assumed to contain the former Emperor Nicholas and his family.

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, Aug. 18.—(By Stewart Lyon, Special Correspondent of the Canadian Press)—The most fierce engagement of the Canadian front since the beginning of the war is gradually coming to a triumphant end by the exhaustion of the enemy. Since the capture of Hill 70 and St. Laurent on Wednesday morning the men defending these newly-won positions have been compelled to stand by almost without cessation to meet the counter-attacks. The leaders of the German troops are utterly regardless of the lives of their men, and as soon as one division has spent itself in a frantic and futile effort to recover the lost ground another is sent forward to the sacrifice.

Guards Cut to Pieces. The Fourth Guards were cut to pieces in yesterday's counter-attack. During the night a new division the Two-Hundred and Twentieth, was brought up. Passing through their own lines without stopping, these fresh troops attacked at 4.30 o'clock this (Saturday) morning on the Bois Hugo sector, north of Hill 70. The attack was accompanied by a projection of enemy liquid fire and gas. Our watchful artillery turned upon the Germans an effective barrage fire, which caused heavy losses, but they continued to advance with the utmost determination. At a distance of only seventy yards from our line the machine guns were turned upon the attacking groups, and they broke and ran for cover.

Again Driven on. Better luck initially, but no greater eventual success, attended their effort to break through north of St. Laurent. There the enemy penetrated our first line trenches, but were driven out again as the result of a counter-attack at once organized. In these desperate struggles there has been much use of the rifle bayonet and bomb. The losses steadily mount up, but all the competent authorities give the assurance that those of the Germans are far greater than ours. The prisoners now number over 1,100.

(Continued on page 6)

ITALIANS BEGIN BIG OFFENSIVE

Vienna, Aug. 19, via London, Aug. 20.—The Italians have begun another offensive against the Austrians in the Isonzo region of the Austro-Italian theatre where fighting is in progress over a thirty-seven mile front, running from the region of Tolmino near the head of the Adriatic Sea on the Carso plateau. This information is contained in the war office communication issued today, the text of which reads:

"Eastern theatre: There is nothing of importance to report.

"Italian theatre: The Italians have attacked the coastal territory on the Isonzo, which has belonged to Austria for centuries past. After the strongest of artillery preparation, lasting a day and half, which was followed yesterday afternoon by reconnoitering raids, the enemy intently early Sunday morning attacked between Mraz and the sea.

"The struggle is raging with the greatest bitterness on almost all the sectors of this sixty kilometre front, near Tolmino, northeast of Canale, between Dosela and Monte San Gabriele, south of Gorizia and on the Carso plateau. The reports received up to this time are entirely favorable.

"In the Balkans the situation is unchanged."

AIR RAID ON THE CITY OF GHENT

Entente Airmen Drop Bombs on Belgian Towns.

Sas Van Gent, Holland, Aug. 19.—Terrific explosions of bombs dropped by Entente Allied airmen in a raid shortly before midnight on Sas Van Gent, a Belgian town on the Dutch frontier, eighteen miles north of Ghent, awakened all the inhabitants of the town. German anti-aircraft batteries were very active, some of their shrapnel bursting over Sas Van Gent.

Ghent, which in normal times has a population of 170,000, also was raided by the Entente Allied aviators.

CANADIANS EXHAUSTING THE ENEMY

Most Fierce Engagement Since Beginning of War on Canadian Front.

HEAVY ATTACKS ON FAMOUS HILL 70

The Leaders of the German Troops Sacrifice Many Men in Vain.

FLOWER OF HUNS CUT TO PIECES

Germans Pour More Troops in Mass Attack Against Hill 70.

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, Aug. 18.—(By Stewart Lyon, Special Correspondent of the Canadian Press)—The most fierce engagement of the Canadian front since the beginning of the war is gradually coming to a triumphant end by the exhaustion of the enemy. Since the capture of Hill 70 and St. Laurent on Wednesday morning the men defending these newly-won positions have been compelled to stand by almost without cessation to meet the counter-attacks. The leaders of the German troops are utterly regardless of the lives of their men, and as soon as one division has spent itself in a frantic and futile effort to recover the lost ground another is sent forward to the sacrifice.

Guards Cut to Pieces. The Fourth Guards were cut to pieces in yesterday's counter-attack. During the night a new division the Two-Hundred and Twentieth, was brought up. Passing through their own lines without stopping, these fresh troops attacked at 4.30 o'clock this (Saturday) morning on the Bois Hugo sector, north of Hill 70. The attack was accompanied by a projection of enemy liquid fire and gas. Our watchful artillery turned upon the Germans an effective barrage fire, which caused heavy losses, but they continued to advance with the utmost determination. At a distance of only seventy yards from our line the machine guns were turned upon the attacking groups, and they broke and ran for cover.

Again Driven on. Better luck initially, but no greater eventual success, attended their effort to break through north of St. Laurent. There the enemy penetrated our first line trenches, but were driven out again as the result of a counter-attack at once organized. In these desperate struggles there has been much use of the rifle bayonet and bomb. The losses steadily mount up, but all the competent authorities give the assurance that those of the Germans are far greater than ours. The prisoners now number over 1,100.

(Continued on page 6)

JUDGE RICHARDSON OF ST. STEPHEN ILL

Special to The Standard. St. Stephen, Aug. 19.—J. W. Richardson, attorney and police magistrate, and one of the most prominent citizens of this town, has been critically ill for several days with heart trouble and complications. His condition today has been somewhat improved but still causes anxiety to his family and friends.

THE MYSTERY OF THE BLOODY KEY—NO. 7



Edmonton Frank: "Gee, 'Slippery,' ain't the boss a genius? Miss Canada thinks he'll back up C. E. F."