

# The St. John Standard

VOL. IX. NO. 82

TWELVE PAGES.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 27, 1917.

WEATHER—SHOWERY

PRICE: TWO CENTS.

## BRITISH CLOSING IN ON LENS; CANADIANS TAKE LA COULETTE

### THE ENEMY FIGHTS TO SAVE LENS

Loss of That Ruined City Will Mean Abandonment of Important Sector.

### GERMANS PROMISED SEPTEMBER PEACE

Teuton Losses in Lens Salient Are Heavy, Says Headquarters.

British Headquarters in France, via London, June 26.—(By The Associated Press)—Realizing his danger, the German commander is fighting for Lens like a wolf in a corner. Lens gone means that a large sector will have to be abandoned. So, inside a salient somewhat resembling the shape of a dog's head, the Germans are hanging on, apparently determined to hold until the last hope goes glimmering.

The Canadians took La Coulette this morning at seven, their patrols pushing on eastward towards Avion, while other British troops advanced down the eastern slope of Hill 65.

Lens in Ruins.  
The Germans have extended the floods with water from the river Souchez until the plain between Avion and Lens is well covered. The mill city on the western fringe of Lens has been razed by order of the German higher command, so that the machine guns may sweep at the British as they approach. Lens, itself, is a mass of ruins. The German losses in the Lens salient are heavy. Prisoners say that they had been promised peace definitely by September.

British Official.  
London, June 26.—The official report from British headquarters in France tonight reads:  
"Further information regarding the operations carried out by us last night northeast of Fontaine Les Croisilles shows that all our objectives were gained with little loss. Twenty-seven prisoners were taken. Two hostile counter-attacks, delivered with considerable strength were successfully driven off.  
"During the day our progress south of Lens continued. Our troops extended their gains. Enemy positions astride the Souchez river, on a front of two miles to a depth of one third yard, passed into our hands. We have occupied the village of La Coulette."

### HEARST'S EDITOR BUYS NEWSPAPER

Arthur Brisbane Purchases Munsey's Washington Times.

Washington, June 26.—Arthur Brisbane, the New York editor, has bought Frank A. Munsey's Washington Times. Wilton J. Lambert, attorney for the Times, said here today that Mr. Brisbane had bought the paper individually; that the price would not be divulged, and the purchase did not include the Munsey Trust Company, or the Washington Times building. The Times is an evening paper.

### "CROSS-COUNTRY FOX CHASE" IN TOWNS OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Conditions for Fugitive's Capture: The St. John Standard Pays Rewards when Captured Admitted by Fox, made according to conditions. Ten Dollars each in Fredericton, Woodstock, St. Stephen, Sussex and Moncton.  
Five Dollars in any other New Brunswick Town.  
Capture admitted by Fox only to resident of town where caught.  
1st—Lay Hands on Him.  
2nd—Buy to him: "You are Fox, The St. John Standard's Fugitive. Do you deny it?"  
3rd—Present Fox with copy of The St. John Standard of date.

### TWO MORE PROMINENT LIBERAL MEMBERS WILL SUPPORT CONSCRIPTION

Dr. Michael Clark, of Red Deer, Upholds Premier Borden's Compulsion Policy and A. K. MacLean Will Also Support Bill.

### F. J. ROBIDOUX, KENT, ELOQUENTLY ADVOCATES CONSCRIPTION

Probable That Division Will Be Reached by Friday, But Measure Will Not Be Effective for a Month.

Ottawa, June 26.—This was another bad day for the Liberals in parliament as it saw more defections from their ranks and the acquisition of three of the strongest members of the Laurier party to the ranks of those favoring compulsory military service. Of themen who today placed the cause of Empire ahead of their party allegiance the most notable were Dr. Michael Clark of Red Deer, and A. K. MacLean of Halifax. Dr. Clark was exceptionally outspoken in his advocacy of the government measure and merciless in his scolding of the attempted political shilly-shallying by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his Quebec lieutenants aided and abetted by Dr. Pugsley and Hon. Frank Oliver.

Mr. Robidoux in Favor.  
F. J. Robidoux of Kent, N. B., an Acadian member, spoke eloquently in favor of the bill. Mr. Robidoux said New Brunswick under voluntary enlistment had done well. The Acadians had rendered splendid service. They had a good appreciation of the rights and privileges of citizenship and also did not desire to see the success of Prussian militarism. In this connection he quoted a recruiting appeal by Bishop LeBlanc of St. John. If England falls, Canada will fall with her. England did not wish this war but now that she is in it it is the duty of all patriotic Canadians to help her. Chief Justice Landry and Senator Poirier had also spoken eloquently for recruiting and good results had followed. He read a letter from Chief Justice Landry to the mayor of Shediac in which he advocated the enlistment of at least one member of every Acadian family in New Brunswick. Canada was face to face with a serious situation and must cope with it or get out of the war. He strongly favored the adoption of conscription. Such sentiments as those carried by Gauthier of St. Hyacinthe did not represent the real opinion of the people of Quebec.

F. B. Carvell moved the adjournment at 12.15 and will speak tomorrow. (Continued on page 5)

### REVELATIONS APPALL ALL OF NORWAY

Latest Development in German Plot to Blow Up Vessels Bound for U. S.

Christiania, Norway, June 26.—Discovery of the German plot to destroy Norwegian steamers by explosives, unearthed late last week, has appalled the whole nation. The newspapers demand publication of all the facts in the case and of the steps which are being taken to bring the matter to the attention of the German government.

In all, a ton of explosives have been discovered, concealed in artificial lumps of coal, which presumably were to be placed in ships' bunkers and in bombs fitted with the most ingenious mechanism.  
It has developed that a trunk full of explosives was brought to Christiania in February by a courier of the German foreign office, whose official seal was on the trunk. The trunk was addressed to the German embassy here, and, according to international usage, it was admitted without examination.  
After the discovery of the explosives the German embassy declared that the trunk was destined for Finland, but no explanation was given as to why it had remained here so long.

At the examination of Aron Rautenfels, a German citizen, and others arrested in connection with the case, it was admitted that explosives were also to have been placed on steamers bound for America.

Ormondo, June 26.—The parishioners of the Anglican parish of Burton have elected unanimously Rev. D. J. McDonald of the Church of the Holy Apostles, New York city, rector. Rev. Mr. McDonald is a native of Prince Edward Island.

### BRITAIN NOT TO ATTACK HUN TOWNS

Government Will Not Imitate Devilish Work of German Baby-Killers.

London, June 26.—No intention of yielding to the widespread demands for reprisals on German towns for the German air raids on England was shown in a debate on the subject today in the House of Lords. The question having been raised by Lord Strachey, Baron Sydenham, former chairman of the air board, deprecated the policy of reprisals. He said he felt sure that in future years the British would be thankful they had not lowered themselves to the level of the Germans. Furthermore, it was not generally realized that bombing reprisals of a military nature were a systematic and daily occurrence behind the German lines.

In behalf of the government, the Earl of Derby, minister of war, expressed the belief that the whole country would associate itself with the suggestion that England should not try to imitate German brutality. He added, on the authority of the head of the aircraft service in France, that for every bomb the Germans dropped behind the British lines the British dropped a hundred behind the German lines.

### SMALLPOX IN YORK COUNTY

Special to The Standard.  
Fredericton, June 26.—The village of Lake George has a smallpox scare and one house is quarantined.  
It is thought that the disease was brought here by a lumberman from Bangor where it prevails.

### MYSTERIOUS MURDER IN PICTOU CO.

Man Found Near Evansville With Head Nearly Severed From Body.

### WAS A QUIET AND PEACEFUL MINER

Revolver Found in Hand of Deceased—Unknown Suspect on Train.

Special to The Standard.

New Glasgow, N. S., June 26.—Pietro Marabito, an Italian, aged forty-three years, and residing at Evansville, was found murdered some time between eight o'clock Monday night and six o'clock Tuesday morning, when the body was found lying beside an old roadway, which leads from Evansville to the Foster Pit, near Stellarton, by two boys. The head was nearly severed from the body, and it is evident an axe or similar tool was used, for the wound is wide, deep and ragged and the spinal column is severed. Who the murderer is and what was the motive is a mystery which may require the skill of the ablest men of the law and detective force to unravel.

Quiet Workman.

Marabito was married but had no family. He came here on April 26, 1914, and entered the employ of the Acadia Coal Co. as a miner. Later he was joined by his wife, who came here from New Waterford. Pietro lived here all this time and so far as could be learned was a peaceful and quiet citizen who attended to his labors faithfully.

He left his home at Evansville last night for the purpose of procuring medicine for his wife, which is the story she told this morning. That is the last time she saw him alive. It is evident he never reached the town of Stellarton, for Druggist Aikens, who knew the deceased well, stated that he was not in the drug store last night. That is all that is known of Pietro until about six o'clock this morning when two lads who worked in the mine went in search of their horse along an old roadway between Evansville and the Foster pit and found the body lying beside the road. When the place was examined, it is evident the murder had been committed elsewhere and the body afterwards carried there for there was practically no blood found near the body.

In the hand of the deceased was a 22-calibre hammerless revolver; the fingers barely closed around the handle. That it may have been placed there so that if captured he might plead self defence which would be rather hard for him to do for the only empty shell in the revolver was at least two shells away from the discharge pin and on the opposite side of the barrel from which it naturally revolves.  
Chief of Police Watters visited the home of Marabito this morning and the locality where the murdered man was found but no evidence was procured which would lead to the arrest of the murderer. It is said that an Italian left this morning on the early express which leaves Stellarton for Truro about 4.30 o'clock.

### THE SITUATION IN RUSSIA HOPEFUL

Root Mission, Encouraged at Moscow, Leaves for Petrograd.

Moscow, June 26.—The Root mission left Moscow for Petrograd tonight with a distinct sense of encouragement. After their conferences with leaders of industrial and political life in Moscow Mr. Root and his associates are disposed to view the Russian situation with greater optimism.

The different political atmospheres of Moscow, marked cordiality of their welcome and the ready response, representative of all classes, to the appeals by Mr. Root have established the fact that between the characteristically national viewpoint of Moscow and that of the Root mission there is no important difference as regards conduct of the war.

### GERMAN FORCES RETIRE BEFORE PERSISTENCE OF THE CANADIAN TROOPS

Brave Boys from Dominion Force Teutons to Retire and the Wearers of the Maple Leaf Occupy Village of La Coulette.

### ENEMY EVACUATES POSITIONS CLOSE BY THE CITY OF LENS

Canadian Artillery Exceedingly Active — Germans Build Numerous Craters Towards Lens Within Past Few Days.

British Headquarters in France, June 26. (By The Associated Press.)—The British are closing in about Lens. After the capture on Sunday of Fosse Three, and enemy trenches west from the hill and from the lines immediately south of the Souchez River several new positions have been occupied in this region nearer Lens.  
Patrols are advancing across the front in an easterly direction. Thus the great mining centre is being slowly encircled.  
For weeks Lens has not been exploited economically by the Germans and now it is directly menaced by the military.

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, June 26.—(By Stewart Lyon, special correspondent of the Canadian Press)—Canadian troops entered the village of La Coulette, one mile south of Lens, this morning. The Germans have withdrawn in this neighborhood, from a line about one and three-quarters of a mile.

The retirement of the Germans ceased during the night. Patrols sent out on that part of the front opposite Mericourt and to the south found the enemy's front line strongly held. The Germans used many fuses throughout the night, and threw rifle grenades which our patrols observed. In the vicinity of La Coulette machine guns were in action all night. The night was wild and pitch dark. The torrential rain which fell was accompanied by a high wind, which held up the advance towards the village until daylight.

### GEN. H. H. McLEAN FOR CONSCRIPTION

Another Patriotic Liberal Has Courage to Put Country Before Party.

Montreal, June 26.—The Montreal Daily Star quotes Brigadier-General Hugh H. McLean, M. P. for Sunbury and Queens, N. B., who was in this city today on his way to Ottawa, as saying:  
"Any man in Canada who opposes the military service bill today has a yellow streak in him." Gen. McLean said he was on his way to Ottawa to vote for conscription. He is a Liberal.

### CASUALTIES

Ottawa, June 26.  
Infantry.  
Killed in action:  
Chas. Farria, Wolfville, N. S.  
Acting Corporal F. M. Palmster, Middleton, N. S.  
Gas poisoning:  
L. E. Kloss, Bear River, N. S.  
O. Crowell, Clarke's Harbor, N. S.  
Wounded:  
M. H. Mason, Head of Millstream, N. S.  
Capt. W. T. Ruggles, Middleton, N. S.  
J. H. Thompson, Glenivest, N. S.  
Infantry.  
C. H. Besley, St. John, N. B.

### WHO LEADS SOLDIERS OF UNITED STATES?

London, June 26.—Asked by Joseph Kings, Liberal member for North

### CANADIANS LOSE BUT FEW MEN

La Coulette Occupied Without Single Fatality Among Our Men.

### LITTLE FIGHTING EXCEPT NEAR LENS

Austrians Making Desperate Efforts to Recapture Their Lost Positions.

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, June 26.—(By Stewart Lyon, special correspondent of the Canadian Press)—Today was spent in consolidation of the captured ground. The enemy remains in Avion, and from its ruined houses has kept up steady sniping. Further to the south his machine guns also were extremely busy.

Our casualties, the people at home will be glad to learn, are remarkably few. La Coulette was occupied without a single fatality. The German artillery fire has been far below normal. It has been directed chiefly on his former front line trenches. Between our shelling and his very little is left of them.

More Successful Work.  
London, June 26.—"There was a successful operation last night northwest of Fontaine Les Croisilles, resulting in the capture of a number of German prisoners," says today's official statement.  
"A hostile raiding party was repulsed in the night west of La Bassée."

Rheims Again Shelled.  
Paris, June 26.—"The day was calm, save in the region of Moulin De Laffaux, where the artillery fighting was quite active, and in the region of Rheims, which was violently bombarded," says the official statement issued by the war office tonight.  
"Eastern theatre, June 25: Quite intense cannonading on both sides took place in the region of the Vardar and the Cerna bend, where a strong Bulgarian reconnaissance, which attempted to enter our trenches, was dispersed with rifles and grenades. The British troops carried out to the east of Lake Doiran a successful raid."

Italian Statement.  
Rome, June 26.—Austrian troops are making desperate efforts to recapture the positions recently taken by the Italians in the sector of Monte Orsara, in the Trentino. The war office announced today that the Austrians, notwithstanding heavy losses, have continued since last night their violent attacks, which were being met by Italian counter-attacks.

### ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD



The St. John Standard will pay One Hundred Dollars to any person or persons producing evidence which will lead to the conviction of those responsible for the murder of Robert Harris.