

The St. John Standard

VOL. IX., NO. 302.

TEN PAGES

FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 15, 1918.

SNOW OR RAIN.

PRICE: TWO CENTS.

FRENCH REPULSE THREE ATTACKS ALLIES TO TAKE DUTCH VESSELS

HEAVY SHELLING ALONG ENTIRE FRENCH FRONT

Three German Raids Repelled by French Army—Turks Re-occupy Armenian City of Erzeroum and Renew Attacks on Native Population Which is Resisting Ottoman Troops.

On Major Battle Fronts Operations Are Mainly of Artillery Duels, Trench Raids and Intensive Aerial Activity by All the Opposing Forces.

Paris, Mar. 14.—There was shelling all along the front today, according to the war office announcement. Three German raids failed.

On the major battle fronts the operations continue, as for weeks past, mainly of artillery duels, trench raids and intensive aerial activity by all the opposing forces. In the operations on land the American troops continue to locate and blow to pieces with their artillery gas projectors in the Toul region which the Germans recently have been attempting to set up in larger numbers, in preparation, it is believed, for a gas attack on a huge scale.

American aerial observers have been doing splendid work in spotting out the gas tubes and reporting their whereabouts to the artillery.

Not alone are the gas throwing implements coming in for attention by the American gunners, but German batteries, trenches, wire entanglements and points of military concentration and munitions dumps also are being given practical demonstrations of the accuracy of aim of the men behind the American guns. Additional batteries have been silenced by them, trenches and wire entanglements have been torn to pieces and ammunition dumps blown up.

Airmen in Combat.

With the return of good weather, myriads of airmen daily are to be seen over the battle lines dropping bombs or in aerial combat. The British, French and German air services all are claiming numerous victories for their aviators in fights in the air. During the first ten days of March alone, British airmen are credited with accounting for seventy-nine German planes, while the German war office asserts that on Wednesday seventeen machines and three captive balloons were destroyed by German airmen along the Franco-Belgian front.

Russian Situation.

The situation in Russia and Siberia apparently is still far from being settled. Although the Germans and Austro-Hungarians still control territory from Finland to Odessa on the Black Sea, it is not certain that the Russians will not again take up arrangements against them. The Bolshevik foreign minister, Leon Trotsky, has asserted that he will oppose the ratification of the peace treaty with Germany and advocate the re-organization of the army for the defense of Russia. Meanwhile influential newspapers in Germany already are beginning to see the loss of Germany's prestige in the Far East because of her machinations in Russia and to point out that Germany's Russian policy has "played the game brilliantly for Great Britain, the United States and Japan."

Turks Take Erzeroum.

Meagre advices from Constantinople indicate that with the evacuation of the Russians of sections of Turkish Armenia, the Turks are again harassing the Armenians, but that the Armenians are offering resistance. Erzeroum, the principal city in Armenia, already has been re-occupied by the Turks.

Another case of "frithfulness" by German submarine commanders is chronicled in a report of an attempt to send the British hospital ship *Gullford Castle* with 450 sick or wounded soldiers on board, to the bottom.

Notwithstanding the plain markings of the ship, two torpedoes were launched against it. One of the missiles struck the vessel's bow, badly damaging it, but she was able to make port with difficulty.

DR. CONROY DEAD

Charlottetown, Mar. 14.—Dr. Peter Conroy, M. D., aged sixty-five, one of the best known physicians in the province, died here today from pneumonia. He was a graduate of Laval and practised at Charlottetown for forty years. He was Dominion quarantine officer, a governor of St. Dunstan's University and trustee of Falconwood Insane Hospital. He had two sons at the front.

England and U. S. To Take Million Tons From Dutch

One million tons of Dutch shipping, which will be used in sending supplies to the armies of the Allies or in transporting troops to the war zones, will be taken over by the United States and Great Britain next Monday, thus relieving, in great measure, a dire need of the countries at war with the Teutonic allies.

Holland's hesitancy to come into an agreement with the United States and Great Britain which would permit of the use of ships flying her flag, many of which are now lying in American and allied ports, no longer is to be tolerated, and next Monday, whether she be willing or not, the vessels will be taken over under the provisions of international law and put into uses which are highly essential to the success of the allied cause.

Holland yet has time to acquiesce in the demands of the United States and Great Britain and sanction the use of her shipping, but her plea of Germany's menace no longer will avail and there is to be no modification in the decision of the United States and the Allies to seize all Dutch vessels in their respective ports throughout the world and use them.

Liberal compensation is to be awarded owners of the vessels and all their rights will be safeguarded. In addition the export of foodstuffs to Holland will be permitted and coal by which Holland may resume her interrupted trade with her colonies will be guaranteed.

NO SOLDIERS SENT TO U. S. HOSPITALS

Government Denies Boston Story—No Men Will Be Sent There for Treatment.

Ottawa, Mar. 14.—The report that returned Canadian soldiers in need of medical treatment have had to be accommodated in hospitals in Boston, because of the overcrowded conditions in this country, as reported in Boston newspapers, is denied here. The secretary of the Invalided Soldiers Commission, Mr. Ernest H. Scammell, said it was news to him and at militia headquarters it was said there was absolutely nothing in the report and that if there were any Canadian soldiers in Boston hospitals they were absentees from the units of whose strength they are carried. It is also denied that there are any Canadian soldiers to be sent to America for treatment.

DYNAMITE FOUND IN BIG SHIPYARD

Enough Explosive to Blow Up Half of Hog Island Plant.

Washington, Mar. 14.—Enough dynamite to blow up half the great shipyard at Hog Island has been found during February, Dudley R. Kennedy, manager of the industrial relations department, told the Senate investigating committee and secret service men have been unable to find who placed it there. Two hundred and forty-five pounds of the explosive were found on the grounds, Mr. Kennedy said. Twenty pounds were found in one place, the remainder being hidden in different parts of the yard.

GRAFTING RAMPANT IN HUN EMPIRE

Revelations Cause Panic on Berlin Bourse and Prosecutions Will Follow.

Washington, Mar. 14.—According to a despatch today from Zurich, the German Socialist newspaper *Vorwarts* says the scandal in Germany connected with graft at the Daimler munitions factories, which the budget commission of the Reichstag is investigating has caused a veritable panic in the Berlin stock exchange. The Daimler stock fell two-thirds of its value, a large number of other war stocks suffered similar shrinkage, due to popular belief that the greater part of the war factories have been guilty of grafting and will be prosecuted by the German treasury.

It is further provided, however, that when the official statements are received by mail, new certificates based upon this information will be issued to the members.

SAY THE SOLDIERS PAINTED TOWN RED

St. Johns, Que., Residents Complain of Calgary Men—Draftees Who Do Rough Housing Will Be Disciplined.

Ottawa, Mar. 14.—The military department has asked for a report from the officer commanding in regard to the charge of Rev. Mr. Hughes of St. Johns, Que., that Calgary soldiers "painted the town red" when recently at St. Johns, Que.

A regiment from Calgary had been sent there in quarantine because of infectious diseases had developed. No details are known here as yet, but there have been a number of such disorders reported at different points. It would appear that the draftees are more inclined to "roughhouse tactics" than the regulars and a department is taking steps to see that a very strict discipline is strictly enforced by officers particularly fitted to do it.

A NAVAL COLLEGE FOR HALIFAX

Site of Old Martello Tower Selected as Suitable for Institution.

Halifax, Mar. 14.—The site of the old Martello Tower in Point Pleasant Park has been recommended to the naval authorities as the most suitable for the Royal Canadian Naval College, which is now located at Kingston. Prior to the Halifax disaster the students were housed in premises at the dockyards here, but these were considered too limited.

If the military authorities do not object to the proposal and the city, which holds a lengthy lease of the park from the imperial government, is agreeable, it is considered likely that the site recommended will be chosen for the new college.

MASS OF REQUIEM FOR REDMOND

Lord and Lady Aberdeen and T. P. O'Connor, M. P., Among Those Present.

New York, Mar. 14.—Cardinal Farley presided at a pontifical memorial high mass of requiem for the late John E. Redmond, Irish parliamentary leader, in St. Patrick's Cathedral today. Mgr. M. J. Lavelle, who preached the sermon, said Redmond's fame would rest in history chiefly because of his achievements in behalf of old age pensions, the Irish land purchase bill and home rule bill.

Dr. J. E. Power, son-in-law of the dead statesman, and four of Dr. Power's children were the chief mourners. Those present included Lord and Lady Aberdeen and T. P. O'Connor, M.P.

HARRY M. BLAIR WAS NOT NEGLECTED BY MR. VENIOT

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATORS MAY LEARN

At Present They Manifest Considerable Inexperience and Incapacity.

OPPOSITION GLAD TO FURNISH ASSISTANCE

Attorney General Byrne, the Legal Lion of the North, Makes an Error.

SUNBURY COUNTY MAN WANTS LESS HASTE

Former Speaker Burchill as Guardian Angel of the Treasury.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, Mar. 14.—It was painfully evident this afternoon that the government this session, as last session, must depend upon the assistance of the opposition to get their legislation before the house in proper shape. Although the session was a quiet one, only routine business being transacted, the incapacity and inexperience of the members on the government side was demonstrated in rather striking fashion. And some of the criticisms came from members of the opposition.

Mr. Burchill, former speaker of the house, who explained its provisions and forwarded to the government for enactment. Its purpose was to appoint commissioners to secure uniformity of legislation in Canada. It was introduced by Attorney-General Byrne, who explained its provisions and Hon. Mr. Baxter then announced that the measure was a good one and would prove beneficial.

Mr. Burchill said he did not like the bill as it gave the commissioners power to incur considerable expense. He thought there should be an additional safeguard.

Hon. Mr. Baxter said that there had evidently been a clerical error in the drawing of the bill as the copy before the house differed in some minor respects from the draft prepared by the Barristers' Society.

The bill pledged the province to appropriate a sum of money not exceeding \$500 to pay the proportionate share of the expense of the commission.

Mr. Burchill asked if the other provinces were making similar provision and Mr. Baxter replied that if they did not the province of New Brunswick was not bound to share the money.

Limit to Expense.

Mr. Magee thought there should be a limit to the expense to commissioners as well as the sum it was proposed to spend for printing and clerical assistance. Mr. Baxter raised a laugh from the opposition when he pleaded with the members on the government side to have confidence in their government a little longer. The members on the opposition side of the house felt that insofar as the measure was concerned it would be perfectly safe in the hands of the attorney general.

Continued on page two.

Hon. B. Frank Smith Endeavoring to Ascertain How Much Affidavit Hero Has Drawn from the Public Treasury Since Advent of Present Government—Blair Was Hard Worker for Fosterites After He Was Exposed by Murray Administration.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, Mar. 14.—The extent to which Mr. Harry M. Blair, one time secretary of the provincial department of public works, has drawn money from the provincial treasury since the advent of the Foster government will probably be shown by the answer to a question, notice of which was given today by Hon. B. F. Smith, and an answer to which is asked for Tuesday next.

It will be remembered that Mr. Blair was one of the parties concerned in the investigation conducted by Mr. M. G. Teed into certain matters affecting the department of public works while under the administration of Hon. John Morrissy. Mr. Blair was connected with a transaction by which stock in a company holding a contract with Mr. Morrissy's department was passed to Mr. Blair and Mr. Charles Morrissy, a son of the minister, while Mr. Blair was secretary of that department.

WAS \$150,000 HUNG UP FOR PROTECTION?

Claimed That Checks for This Amount Paid to Montreal Police.

STRONG EVIDENCE AT SAVARD HEARING

Captain Presented with Wine and Money by Ex-Dive Keeper.

Montreal, March 14.—The existence of checks to the value of \$150,000 which had been paid out to police officers for protection was alleged by Controller Villeneuve at today's charges of the civic probe into the case of Captain Savard had protected houses of ill fame and gambling dens. Mr. Villeneuve asked the board of control to take every possible means to bring a woman named Alice Campbell to the enquiry to prove that collections had been made among prostitutes, and Selma Robinson to prove that checks have been given to certain police officers for protection. The Robinson woman has so far not been found by the subpoena servers. Jacques Rousseau testified that he was a disorderly house keeper, and that he had given the officer \$30 to \$40 a month for protection.

Repeatedly Raided.

Rousseau also swore that when he refused to contribute to a fund to pay somebody to "get" Controller Villeneuve who has laid the complaints against Savard, he was repeatedly raided by the captain and put out of business.

Mrs. J. Rousseau, who admitted being 28 years of age, and said she had been keeping disorderly houses since she came to Montreal from New York, at the age of fifteen and a half years, and declared that she was a decent married woman, though her house had been raided twice since her marriage, said she had paid Captain Savard money for protection and had seen her husband pay Savard money.

She said that two days before Christmas, 1916, her husband put her in a sleigh and sent her to Savard's house with six bottles of Vermont, some good brandy, six bottles of champagne and a box of cigars. These she presented to Captain Savard, she said, and at the same time gave him \$50.00.

The investigation will continue tomorrow.

Doubtful Evidence.

Mr. Blair was a witness at the hearing and Mr. Teed in his finding said Mr. Blair's evidence was not to be believed under oath. Mr. Blair's term in the provincial service was short after that time until the advent of the Foster government to power. During the period of his unemployment he found time to take an active part in the Carleton county bye-election in the Autumn of 1916 and at the last provincial election was also active in the interests of the Fosterites. Despite the fact that Commissioner Teed indicated that Mr. Blair was not as trustworthy as government officials are supposed to be, the Fosterites, as understood, were not slow to reward his political services and it is understood that for a period last summer he was engaged in the collection of automobile license fees, a matter to which he gave considerable attention during his former employment.

Also it is reported that the present Minister of Public Works gave Mr. Blair a commendatory letter either since or before his appointment in which reference was made to his salary and expenses.

Interesting Situation.

Mr. Smith wants to know about this letter and it is expected the answer, as well as the answer to another question asked yesterday and relating to the number of temporary employes in the public works department will produce some interesting information from which light may be thrown upon the relations of Mr. Blair with the present minister of public works, Hon. P. J. Veniot.

In connection with this matter it is an interesting coincidence that the late secretary of public works who recently has been employed with a construction company in Halifax, appeared on the scene in Fredericton today. The coincidence is not only interesting but may be significant.

Other inquiries asked in the House today included one by Mr. Dickson of Kings regarding the Perry Point bridge the rebuilding of which was promised by the Foster party candidates at the last election.

Hon. Mr. Murray wants to know concerning the cost of the Brown Tail moth campaign, the number of persons employed and the results attained, and also as to the amount of revenue secured from automobile registration and the renewal of licenses and disposition made of such revenue.

Mr. Sutton, Carleton, asks as to the reasons for the dismissal of certain officials in his county, and Mr. Tilley asks concerning the amount paid to the province by the New Brunswick Power Co. for running rights over the bridge at the Reversing Falls, St. John.

NAVAL PRISONER KILLS HIMSELF

Young Man Ends Life by Hanging at Okalla Prison, British Columbia.

Burnaby, B. C., Mar. 14.—A naval short term prisoner named James Blades, committed suicide last evening by hanging himself by his belt in his cell at Okalla Prison. Deceased, who was 20 years of age, was sent to the prison a short time ago from a naval ship for a minor offense and no reason can be ascertained for his rash action.