

THE WEATHER.  
Maritime—Fresh west to north-west winds, fair, not much change in temperature.

# The St. John Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

OPERA HOUSE  
TODAY—2.30 and 8.15  
FELDMAN AND CHRISTIE  
Musical Comedy Co. in  
"THE GIRL QUESTION"

VOL. VII. NO. 802 TWELVE PAGES TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 21, 1916 PRICE TWO CENTS

## VERDUN AND NORTHERN RUSSIAN FRONT SCENES OF HARD FIGHTING

### FRESH TROOPS THROWN AGAINST FRENCH, BUT WITH DISASTROUS RESULTS

#### Division Brought Up from Remote Point to Take Part in New Thrust Swept Back by French Curtain of Fire and Suffer Heavy Casualties—Make Good Only at One Point—Russians Score New Gains.

Heavy battles have been in progress northwest and northeast of Verdun, and on the northern part of the Russian front, where the Russians are keeping up their strong offensive against the Germans. In all these zones the losses have been large, while the changes in position have been relatively unimportant.

Northwest of Verdun, in the sector of Avocourt-Malancourt, the Germans, after a terrific bombardment, drove a vicious infantry attack in which liquid fire was employed, against the French front. A fresh German division, brought up from a remote point, participated in the operation. The French, however, with their curtain of fire, aided by machine guns and infantry, put down the attack, with heavy casualties to the assaulting forces, except in the eastern part of the Malancourt wood, some ten miles from Verdun, where the Germans made slight progress.

Berlin reports the repulse, also with heavy losses, of the French who attacked the village of Vaux, northeast of Verdun. Elsewhere around the fortress there have been only intermittent bombardments, and a continuation of fights in the air between French and German aviators.

Although Berlin claims that the Germans have repulsed the Russians in repeated attacks, with strong forces around Postavy and between Lakes Narocz and Dzwirz, Petrograd reports a German check south of Lake Dzwirz and the capture of German batteries in the Lake Narocz region. Several villages in this district also have been taken by the Russians.

In Galicia the Russians have captured Austrian trenches and a bridgehead east of the village of Mikhalche. There has also been considerable fighting between the Austrians and Russians along the Dniester and Besarabian fronts.

On the Isonzo line the Italians have recaptured from the Austrians trenches on Santa Maria helights. Later, after having stopped Austrian counter-attacks, the Italians retired to another position from a portion of their advanced line in order to avoid being encircled by fresh Austrian batteries. Artillery engagements have been in progress on the remainder of the Austro-Italian front.

The Russians continue their pursuit of the Turks in the Caucasus region and have taken additional prisoners and guns. An attempt by the Turks to advance in the Black Sea littoral was stopped by Russian naval and land guns.

#### Hans Lost Heavily.

Paris, Mar. 20.—Another powerful German attack, this time between Avocourt and Malancourt, west of the Meuse, resulted today in heavy losses to the Germans, according to the official communication issued by the French war office tonight. A fresh division, brought up from a distant point, was used in this operation, which was characterized by the employment of jets of liquid flame. At one point, east of the Malancourt wood, the Germans made slight progress. The text of the statement follows:

"In the Argonne our artillery destroyed German machine guns to the north-east of Four De Paris and Haute Chevauchee. The shelling of German works was followed by the emission of considerable sulphurous vapors, indicating that reservoirs were destroyed by our shells.

"We energetically bombarded the sector of Avocourt-Malancourt and disposed of groups of the enemy reported assembling to the north of the Montfaucon wood.

"West of the Meuse the Germans, in the course of the day, after an intense bombardment with shells of large calibre, made an attempt to enlarge their front. An attack by a fresh enemy division, recently brought up from a point remote from the front, was directed with great violence and attended by the use of liquid flame against our positions between Avocourt and Malancourt.

"Our barrier fire and the fire of our machine guns and infantry inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, and broke down the efforts of the assailants, who were able to make only slight progress at a point in the eastern part of the Malancourt wood.

current at Hill 264, and in the region of the Bois Bourin.

"East of the Meuse, and in the Woivre, artillery activity has been intermittent.

"Last night our aeroplanes dropped twenty-five shells at Dun-Sur-Meuse, where important movements of troops had been reported. All the projectiles reached the objects aimed at.

"This morning one of our pursuit aeroplanes brought down, in the region of Verdun, an enemy machine which fell inside our lines."

"The Belgian official communication reads:

"The activity of the artillery was quite intense today on both sides."

#### Austrian Report.

Berlin, March 20, by wireless to Sayville.—The following official Austrian statement, under Saturday's date, was received here today:

"Russian front: Russian artillery was active on the Dniester and Besarabian fronts. The bridgehead at Uscio was attacked during the night by mine throwers. After artillery preparation the enemy blew up a mine and then undertook an attack with hand grenades. Owing to the mine explosion a trench was evacuated. All other attacks were repulsed and some Russians were captured.

"Hallan front: Relative calm prevailed along the lower Isonzo.

"Austro-Hungarian naval aeroplanes dropped bombs repeatedly on the Italian batteries at the mouth of the Bona. Gorizia was again shelled by heavy artillery.

"Austro-Hungarian troops continued their successful attacks at the Tolmino bridgehead. They crossed the road between Selo and Cincin and advanced to the west of St. Mark, repulsing the counter-attack against the positions captured. South of Urvirh the enemy was driven from fortified positions, fleeing as far as Gaborie. In these encounters more than 300 Italians were captured.

"On the Corinthian front there was increased activity on the part of artillery in the Pella sector.

### A CANADIAN STEAMER SUNK

#### The Port Dalhousie, which Sailed from Pictou, N. S., in January—Captain, a Halifax Man, Missing.

Halifax, March 20.—A Canadian steamer well known at this port and having a Halifax skipper, has been sunk in English waters and, according to today's despatches some of her crew, including the captain, are missing. The steamer is the Port Dalhousie, and her master is Captain W. F. Butler, of this city.

The Port Dalhousie had cleared at this port a number of times in coastal trading service. She sailed from Pictou early in January, for the United Kingdom with a cargo of lumber and has since been engaged in service in British waters. Mrs. Butler had a letter from her husband last week. He said that he had recently made a trip from England to Dunkirk, where he was at the time of writing.

When the steamer sailed from Pictou, N. S., she had on board as chief engineer one Levi MacMillan, of Isaac's Harbor, N. S., and, as far as is known here, he was still on the steamer, which was engaged in the English trade.

The Port Dalhousie is owned in Kingston, Ont. Her managing owner Mr. McLellan is now in England.

### NFLD MEN ON CRUISER WHICH WAS BLOWN UP

St. John's, Nfld., March 20.—The latest casualties in the Newfoundland region are: Private Heber Miles Bonaville, tubercular meningitis; Naval Reserve Alfred Andrews and John Tucker, wounded; Nathaniel Mercer and William Dawe, all of Port De Grave, missing. These casualties were caused by the blowing up of the armored cruiser Alcantara.

### BERNARD BEGGS, TROUT BROOK, DIES OF WOUNDS

Ottawa, March 21.—The casualty list issued at midnight contains the names of two New Brunswick men, Bernard Beggs, Trout Brook, N. B., a member of the 14th Battalion, is reported to have died of wounds. Blair O. Gibson, Moncton, N. B., a member of the 56th Battalion, is reported seriously ill.

### RALPH GONNOR AT FRONT AS CHAPLAIN

London, March 20.—Major C. W. Gordon, Winnipeg, better known under the pen name of "Ralph Connor," has been transferred from Shorecliffe to an infantry brigade at the front as chaplain. His place as senior chaplain of the Canadian forces in England has been taken by Rev. G. A. Wells, of Winnipeg, who has now been promoted to major.

### ATTEMPT TO SLAY PREMIER OF BULGARIA

#### Two Shots Fired by Postal Employee — Premier's Coachman Wounded Before Would-be Assassin was Disarmed.

New York, March 20.—A News Agency despatch from London published here today says:

"Premier Radolovoff, of Bulgaria, was attacked by a would-be assassin while riding in an open carriage in the streets of Sofia yesterday, according to despatches from Rome and Paris this afternoon.

"A postal employee named Ivanoff fired two shots at Radolovoff, it was stated. The first bullet went wild. The second wounded the Prime Minister's coachman. Before Ivanoff could fire again a student sprang upon him and disarmed him. The Premier himself escaped unhurt. The Bulgarian Premier is one of the dominating figures in Balkan politics. He occupied a particularly prominent position during the negotiation proceeding Bulgaria's entrance into the war."

#### Coachman Wounded.

Paris, March 20.—A Bucharest despatch to the Fourrier Agency says that the attack on Premier Radolovoff of Bulgaria was made by a postal office employee named Ivanoff, who fired two shots at the Premier while he was returning to his home in an open carriage. One of the bullets wounded the coachman in the arm and the other lodged in the carriage. Ivanoff was disarmed by a student.

### TAX REFORMS IN HALIFAX

#### Every Business House to Pay Tax on a Basis of Quarter of One Per Cent. of Rental.

Special to The Standard.  
Halifax, N. S., March 20.—The city council tonight adopted the recommendation of the Board of Control for the establishment of many new reforms in the system of taxation. The new system provides that every business house in the city for which practically no revenue is at present received shall pay a tax on the basis of one quarter of one per cent. of the rental. The stock carried by firms will not be assessed. At the suggestion of a delegation the council decided to refer back to the controllers the matter of amending the clause providing for a reduction of 25 per cent. on the assessment of improvements. The recommendation was that a reduction of 12 1/2 per cent. be made. Lands and buildings will be assessed separately.

#### Theatre Tax.

Halifax proposes to raise a portion of the annual appropriation for the maintenance of the poor asylum by a theatre tax of one cent for every time a person attends a performance. The yearly expenditure for the institution amounts to \$30,000 and the city administrators have concluded that those who can afford to enjoy themselves at the theatres should not object to paying an extra tax of one cent every time they attend a performance in a theatre, enabling the city to compel the managers of theatres to collect this tax and make weekly returns of the revenue received from it to the city. Managers failing to collect the tax will be liable to a fine of \$50 and imprisonment. Complimentary passes will not allow anyone to escape paying the tax.

### DROWNED IN HALIFAX HARBOR

Halifax, March 20.—Charles Hunkings, a Newfoundland sailor, was drowned and a colored man, Alexander Lewis, had a narrow escape from death tonight when a small boat in which they were crossing the harbor was struck by the Dartmouth ferry steamer, "Halifax," Captain Allan. The accident occurred during a thick snow squall.

### NOW IS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SOCIETIES OR FRIENDS OF SOLDIERS

The Brunswick Chapter wishes the public to understand that any society, club, or individual wishing to donate one or more instruments to the 140th Band will have the privilege of inscribing these instruments with their own or any chosen name. All money or cheques to be made payable to The Standard or to Mrs. J. B. Travers, Regent Brunswick Chapter, I.O.D.E. Two hundred dollars buys the highest priced instrument. Who comes first?

#### The 140th Band Fund Comes Along.

The Standard desires to acknowledge the following contributions to the fund for the purchase of instruments for the 140th New Brunswick Battalion Band:

Previously acknowledged . . . . .	\$130.50
W. J. Wetmore . . . . .	10.00
John Kimble & Sons, Ltd . . . . .	50.00
Fred R. Taylor . . . . .	25.00
Total . . . . .	\$215.50

### Laurier Government MUST SHOULDER BLAME

#### Failed to Build N. T. R. to St. John and Made Necessary Building of Valley Railway—Hon. Mr. Rogers Effectively Replies to Frank B. Carvell.

Special to The Standard.  
Ottawa, March 20.—Those two discredited politicians, F. B. Carvell and Hon. Wm. Pugsley, attempted to make a little political capital in the House today by bringing up the question of the St. John Valley Railway. However, they are not taken seriously by the House, especially since the exposure of Mr. Carvell's hay deals and theiasco Mr. Pugsley made of his shell charges. Both have rather lost their sting and were mild in their language.

Mr. Carvell could not refrain from a scurrilous and uncalled for attack on Hon. J. D. Hazen, it brought forth a stinging rebuke from Hon. Robert Rogers which was greeted with cheers by the Conservatives. Mr. Hazen was not present and Mr. Carvell insinuated he was absent because he was afraid to face him. "Since when has the Minister of Marine and Fisheries ever failed to meet the member for Carleton or any other gentleman opposite?" asked Mr. Rogers, who was speaking for Hon. Dr. Reid, who was absent. "I know that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is absent on instructions from the Prime Minister in the business of the country which could not be delayed. I assure him that he should not flatter himself with any statement that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries was not in his seat because this matter was to come before the House for consideration."

Mr. Rogers showed that the fact that the St. John Valley Railway had to be built was due entirely to the Liberals who had failed to build the N. T. R. to St. John. They had given no connection with that port, they had dangled the question of St. John connection before New Brunswick and then had not built it. An arrangement was made as to the building of the St. John Valley railway so as to make connection with the N. T. R. to St. John. This agreement was made on the expectation that the O. T. P. would take over the N. T. R. They had failed to do this and this had completely changed the situation.

The changed plan would save the country some two million dollars and would achieve practically the same results. It was a wise proposal. As the I. C. R. was now operating the N. T. R. and had connection with St. John at McElvey Junction to St. John there was no pressing need at the moment of construction of the line from and over to Grand Falls.

Ottawa, Mar. 20.—At the opening of the house Mr. J. G. Turfitt asked Hon. A. E. Kemp, acting minister of militia, whether Col. McBain had been appointed chief transport officer of the Militia Department. He was assured that such an appointment had not been made since Mr. Kemp had become acting minister.

Mr. J. H. Burnham reported to the acting minister that many soldiers were illiterate. In one class in King-

ston there were seventy-five soldiers who could not read or write, a condition which he thought undesirable.

"There's Ontario for you," said a Quebec member.

Mr. Kemp's reply was that no complaints of such a kind had so far been received by the department.

#### The Valley Railway.

Mr. F. B. Carvell then moved for correspondence and papers in connection with the operation of the Valley Railway, so-called in New Brunswick. The road, he said, had been a political football for years past and a frank, open statement from the government was now called for by the people of New Brunswick, who had already incurred liabilities of over \$6,000,000 in connection with the railway. As the result of an agitation in 1910 for a railroad from the National Transcontinental at Grand Falls to St. John an agreement had been made by the Laurier government and afterwards slightly varied by the present administration—with the New Brunswick authorities. The proposition was that the road should be built and that the Intercolonial Railway would enter into lease of operation of different sections after they were completed. The provincial government was to guarantee the bonds and was to receive in return forty per cent. of the gross proceeds of operation. 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