

THE WEATHER.

Maritime—Strong winds and gales, northeast and north, with snow.

The St. John Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

OPERA HOUSE

TONIGHT

"ALIAS JIMMY VALENTINE"

By I. L. and B. Association.

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PRICE TWO CENTS

RUSSIANS COVERING GROUND AT RAPID PACE WILL SOON LINK UP WITH BRITISH AT KUT-EL-AMARA

Moving Rapidly Over Bad Roads in Mesopotamia and Beating Down Enemy's Resistance—Expect Soon to Get Behind Turkish Bagdad Army, Cut Enemy's Communication and Co-operate With British Expedition Against Bagdad—Making Progress on Road to Trebizond.

"POSITION ANXIOUS ONE," EARL KITCHENER SAYS IN APPEAL TO MARRIED MEN

NUMBER WHO HAVE JOINED FOR GENERAL SERVICE DISAPPOINTING, BUT NO STEP WILL BE AVOIDED TO FIRST GET EVERY SINGLE MAN NOT NEEDED FOR NATIONAL WORK.

Derby Believes Enough Unmarried Men Can Be Secured, but to Disorganize Munitions Works Would Be Injustice to Married Men in the Trenches.

London, March 15 (6.40 p. m.)—Speaking on recruiting in the House of Lords this afternoon Secretary of War Kitchener earnestly appealed to the married men to come forward and join the ranks. "The position is an anxious one," he said, "owing to the disappointing numbers which have joined for general service."

the minister of munitions and the Admiralty were considering the revision of the list of munition workers. "The cabinet is taking the matter so seriously," he continued, "that I think they will secure all the single men they require for the army."

Derby Confident. The Earl of Derby, in replying to a question in the House of Lords today, dealt with the recruiting situation. He admitted that as time progressed it was evident that the reserved occupations were the cause of the shortage in enlistments of single men, and he said he was authorized to state that

SAW BRITISH WARSHIPS (SINK HUN SUBMARINE OFF COAST SCOTLAND

Mobile, Ala., March 15.—Captain Burgess, of the American schooner, Gypsum, in today from Shiloh, England, said he witnessed the destruction of a German submarine by British warships off the coast of Scotland, while his vessel was lying at anchor near the mouth of the Clyde. The submarine was in pursuit of a passenger liner, the name of which Captain

Burgess did not learn, and had almost overhauled her when two British destroyers came out from port, and after a battle lasting several minutes succeeded in destroying the submarine. Captain Burgess said his vessel narrowly missed striking a mine, and reported the mine to a British patrol boat and they were destroyed.

LIFE OF B. C. PARLIAMENT EXTENDED

Victoria, B. C., March 15.—At four-thirty o'clock this afternoon the Lieutenant Governor came to the house, in session, and assented to the bill passed between midnight and one o'clock this morning extending the life of parliament until June 1. This bill, which was designed to correct a technical error in the date of the return of the writs of the election of four years ago, was passed, in spite of the strenuous opposition of the two Liberal and two Socialist members of

the house. Nearly all the writs four years ago were returnable June 1, and on that showing it was this date on which the term of the legislature will expire, but in one case at least the date had been as early as March 14. The opposition, when the clock struck midnight, claimed the life of the present house had expired. At 12.15 this morning the reading of the extension bill was passed to cover up any possible defect and make the dates for all members June 1. The bill became law this afternoon.

J. L. DALEY, OF ST. JOHN, SLIGHTLY WOUNDED

Ottawa, March 16.—The only New Brunswick man in the midnight casualty list is James L. Daley, St. Patrick street, St. John, N. B., who is reported slightly wounded.

BANKS OFFER WAR CREDIT OF 75 MILLIONS

To Finance Additional War Orders Placed in Canada During Next Two Months.

EPOCH IN FINANCIAL HISTORY OF EMPIRE.

Offer Outcome of Conference Called by Minister of Finance — Hon. Mr. White Writes Appreciation.

Ottawa, Mar. 15.—A war credit of seventy-five million dollars for the purpose of financing additional munition orders placed by the imperial government in Canada during the next two months has been offered by the chartered banks. With the credit of fifty million established last fall from proceeds of the domestic war loan, the total is thus brought up to \$125,000,000. New munitions orders amounting to twenty million dollars have reached the Imperial Munitions Board during the past two weeks in anticipation of the creation of this new credit. The arrangement simply means that the banks will advance the money required from time to time for the purchase of munitions and will be repaid in due course out of the imperial treasury. Negotiations to this end have been proceeding for some time past between the Canadian Bankers' Association, Mr. J. W. Flavell, chairman of the Imperial Munitions Board, and the Minister of Finance. Several conferences were held during the past three weeks.

The proposals now made by the Canadian bankers date back to a conference called by the Minister of Finance in December last when the Dominion government placed to the credit of the imperial treasury fifty million dollars for the Canadian war loan. At that time the banks were engaged in financing the crop movement but it was understood that in the spring the matter would be taken up again with a view to establishing a credit such as has now been arranged for.

The Minister of Finance has written the president of the Bankers' Association expressing the appreciation of the government and of the minister of the patriotic spirit actuating the members of the association in making the offer, which will mean so much to the successful prosecution of the war by reason of the added supply of munitions, to the industries of Canada and to the cause of imperial unity and solidarity. In his letter the minister observed that it was a matter of great pride to him that the banks of Canada find themselves able to contribute so large a sum to assist in imperial financing in the Dominion. The two transactions, namely, the establishment of the credit of fifty million dollars by the Dominion government and the present credit of seventy-five million dollars, making a total of one hundred and twenty-five million dollars, mark an epoch in the financial history of the empire.

Murto Occupied by French. London, March 16.—French troops have occupied the island of Murto, which lies to the north of Paxo island, off the coast of Epirus.

FRENCH RECOVER PART OF THE GROUND THEY LOST

Crown Prince's Army Pauses for Breath While Big Guns on Both Sides at Verdun Keep Up Violent Bombardment.

Huns in Latest Assault Won Important Positions Between Bethancourt and Cumieres — French Partially Lost by Series of Fierce Counter-Attacks.

CLAMOR FOR PEACE GROWING IN GERMANY SPIRITS OF PEOPLE DROPPING RAPIDLY

New York, March 15.—A news agency despatch from Paris today says: That the desire for peace is rapidly increasing throughout Germany was the information brought to Paris today by Dr. Sidonia Paes, former Portugal minister to Germany, who was recalled when Germany declared war on Portugal.

"The spirits of the people are dropping rapidly," said Dr. Paes. "Economic conditions are very bad. The recent issue of potato cards shows the desperate food situation. Prussia is the hardest hit of all the German states. The situation there is positively painful."

The German Crown Prince's army has apparently paused to take breath, or bring up reinforcements for a continuation of the advance against the Verdun fortress and its outlying defenses. Meanwhile the big guns are exchanging shells at various points along the entire line from Belgium to the Vosges mountains. The latest assault by the German infantry between Bethancourt and Cumieres resulted in the winning of important positions, but by counter-attacks the French succeeded in retaking a portion of the ground, and, according to the official statement of the French war office, hold Bethancourt, the height of Le Mort Homme, the village of Cumieres, and the southern boundary of Cumieres wood, all positions of great strategic importance.

To the east of Verdun there has been considerable activity around Vaux and Demouilly, the fighting at close range is still in progress around the eastern slopes of Fort Vaux, which for days past has been the object of the hardest fighting.

The French have taken a German trench south of St. Souplet, which indicates that in the Champagne region the contending forces are still endeavoring to take advantage of every opportunity to strengthen their lines.

Advices from Petrograd describe remarkable progress in Persia of the Russian troops, who are moving swiftly over difficult roads and in the face of considerable opposition towards the Mesopotamian frontier, where shortly they expect to be in touch with the British forces at Kut-el-Amara and the relieving column under Generals Lake and Aylmer. The Russians are now said to be within fifty miles of the last difficult pass, which will place them in the rear of the Turkish Bagdad army, and their object is to cut the railway to the north, thereby preventing the Turkish army from receiving supplies, and co-operate with the British against Bagdad.

In their advance against the Turks along the Black Sea littoral towards Trebizond the Russians have captured additional Turkish officers and men and two machine guns. A British column has attacked an advanced position of the Turks at Mesopotamia, bayoneted a considerable number of the Turks and captured others.

In the Austro-Italian zone the Italians are vigorously shelling Austrian positions, and here and there throwing their infantry into the fray. No marked change in the lines has occurred, however.

1,000 Prisoners Taken, Berlin Says. Berlin, March 15, via London, 3.50 p. m.—Important gains for the Germans in the Verdun fighting west of the Meuse were announced today by the war office. It is said the Germans pushed forward their lines west of

SOLLUM, MEDITERRANEAN PORT, FALLS TO BRITISH

Retreating Army Overtaken and Cut Down While Victors Find Large Quantities of War Supplies in Captured Town.

Mushi Taken by British Under Gen. Smuts, Army Advances on Arusha Which is Reported to Have Been Evacuated by Terror Stricken Germans—A Striking Success.

GRITS FOUND IN CARVELL A BROKEN REED

Relied on Him to Make a Case and He Failed Them.

HIS CHARGES BUILT MOSTLY ON RUMORS

Ottawa Free Press Declares Carvell's Attack on Shell Committee False and Ridiculous.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, March 15.—That F. B. Carvell, in his attack upon the shell committee was inaccurate and false, and that his statements were ridiculous, is the statement of the Ottawa Free Press tonight.

The Free Press is the Liberal organ in Ottawa. It says:

"It is not difficult even for a layman to imagine the feelings of a barrister of high reputation who discovers in court that the brief which he has prepared last night with similar feelings when it was brought home to them that a very considerable part of the brief prepared by Mr. Carvell in connection with the attack upon the Bertram Shell Committee had no foundation in fact."

"A parliamentary party it must be remembered operates like any business organization. When in caucus or in other conferences it is decided to take up a certain line of policy, individuals are named to prepare the brief—to dig up evidence. To avoid wasted energy and duplication, this work is concentrated. The material thus provided is then at the disposal of all who subsequently take part in the debate. Or, necessity, they often have to rely on accuracy of that material. In the matter of the Bertram Shell Committee, the original accusations in parliament were founded almost entirely upon statements that had appeared from time to time in the newspapers and an analysis of these various statements went to show that they had one common source. Newspapers in Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal made assertions in varying form, but all founded on information sent out by journalists in Ottawa more or less in touch with each other. Then Mr. Carvell was assigned to provide further and more detailed evidence, and with his characteristic energy and party zeal, he went at the task. Upon the evidence he produced presumably the party decided to press for an investigation and Sir Wilfrid Laurier moved the resolution. Sir Wilfrid's speech was general in character, moderate in tone and expression. He had been provided with evidence that seemed to him and his party to demand an immediate enquiry which the Prime Minister refused. Then came Mr. Carvell with his details. In a speech of much power, he made a series of detailed charges that were warranted to shake the confidence of those who had

London, Mar. 15.—Further progress for the British expeditionary force in the campaign against German East Africa was officially announced this evening. The statement said that Gen. Jan Christian Smuts, in command of the force, had reported the occupation of Mushi, and that the British were pushing on to occupy Arusha, which was believed to have been evacuated.

Arthur H. Steel-Maitland, colonial under-secretary, at a meeting of the Overseas Force Club this evening, characterized Gen. Smuts' advance as another striking success. He said the Germans, demoralized, were retreating southward.

The text of the statement reads: "General Smuts reports: 'Our troops occupied Mushi the thirteenth of March, and are pushing on to occupy Arusha, which is believed to have been evacuated by the Germans. The enemy appears to be retreating rapidly southward. His movements are greatly assisted by the Tanganyika railway. Numerous rivers in the area of operations have somewhat hindered our pursuit. Further evidence as to the severe defeat inflicted on the enemy at Kirovo is still being received. A search of the slopes of the hills, which are covered with brush, has brought to light a great number of dead. Three machine guns and one gun which the enemy abandoned in his retreat were found.'

Egyptian Port on the Mediterranean Captured.

London, March 15.—The secretary of war tonight issued the following announcement:

The force under Major Gen. Peyton yesterday re-occupied Sollum, the Egyptian frontier port on the Mediterranean, near the Tripoli frontier, which was evacuated by the British last December. The enemy, on the thirteenth, blew up their ammunition stores, and on the fourteenth only offered slight resistance.

The retreating enemy was successfully pursued by armed motor cars and cavalry and camel corps, with the result that twenty-six prisoners, including three officers, and three guns and nine machine guns, were captured. About fifty of the enemy, including three officers, were killed. Their camp is now in our hands.

"A quantity of gun ammunition and over a quarter of a million rounds of rifle ammunition and nearly one hundred rifles were destroyed."

In Mesopotamia. London, March 15 (7.55 p. m.)—The following British official communication concerning the Mesopotamian operations was issued tonight:

"General Lake reports that on March 10 information was received by the Tigris Corps that the Turks had occupied an advanced position on the Tigris. A column was sent before dawn on the eleventh to turn the enemy out. Infantry assaulted the position and bayoneted a considerable number of Turks. The column then withdrew with two officers and fifteen men prisoners. There have been no further developments."

Resting on Broken Reed. "But last night, Hon. Arthur Meighen, speaking from the facts supplied him by the Imperial Munitions Board, the successors of the Bertram Shell Committee, was able to prove beyond peradventure that a great deal of the information presented by Mr. Carvell was inaccurate and false, some of it so inaccurate as to make Mr. Carvell's statements thereon appear ridiculous. True, the Solicitor General did not

(Continued on page 2.)