

It Is the Duty of All Good Citizens to Come to the Aid of the Red Cross Today in Campaign for Funds

# The St. John Standard

VOL. IX., NO. 259.

TEN PAGES

THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 24, 1918.

FAIR AND COLD.

PRICE: TWO CENTS.

## NEARLY NINETY COAL MINERS LOSE LIVES AT STELLARTON

### Japan Will Loan Great Britain Forty Million Dollars, Buying Notes

Transaction Will Work to the  
Advantage of the Two  
Governments.

LOAN WILL DRAW  
6 P. C. INTEREST

Japanese Government and the  
United States Also Make  
an Arrangement.

RUSSIAN BONDS  
CAUSE TROUBLE

Bolshevik Government Seizes  
Ural Mt. Mines with Capital  
of \$1,600,000.

Special to The Standard.

New York, Jan. 23.—Arrangements  
are being perfected by which Japan  
will lend to Great Britain the sum of  
\$40,000,000, the funds being available  
in New York. The transaction con-  
templates the purchase by Japan of  
short term 6 per cent discount notes  
of the government of Great Britain.  
The loan is said to be attractive to  
Japan by reason of the fact that Japan  
has unusually large banking balances  
in the United States at the present  
time, and because of the war embargo  
is unable to ship gold to Tokio.

An interesting feature in connection  
with the latest triangular operation  
between London and Tokio and New  
York is that the British treasury is  
paying some high rates of interest to  
the Japanese government as is paid in  
New York on weekly issues of the  
British treasury bills by J. P. Morgan  
and Co.

Bankers pointed out today that the  
transaction works to the advantage of  
both governments. It provides the  
British government with \$40,000,000  
banking credit in New York, while at  
the same time the Japanese govern-  
ment is able to obtain 6 per cent in-  
terest on its investment in treasury  
bills.

This is not the first time that finan-  
cial operations of this character have  
been arranged between London and  
Tokio. In the summer of 1916 Japan  
bought \$30,000,000 of British treasury  
bills, paying for them in New York  
funds. Another transaction of this  
kind was made in the fall of the same  
year.

Protest on Russians.

London, Jan. 23.—Holders and ac-  
ceptors of Russian treasury and com-  
mercial are protesting against the  
government scheme of giving British  
twelve year three per cent exchange  
bonds at par in exchange. These  
bonds being quoted at present around  
82, the holders of Russian treasury  
bills are assured against loss at the  
cost of 18 per cent. The objection is  
of course to sacrifice 18 per cent. until  
the twelve year exchange bonds mature.  
The amount involved is £17,500,000.  
Russian securities are weak on  
confusion by the Bolsheviks of the  
important Kysym mining prop-  
erties in the Ural mountains.

The capital involved, £1,200,000, is  
entirely British and is held in small  
lots.

New Japanese Plan.

New York, Jan. 23.—Negotiations re-  
cently concluded between the Japan-  
ese financial and economical mission  
to the United States and the federal re-  
serve board have resulted in the es-  
tablishment of mutual relations with  
the Bank of Japan for the transaction  
of such business as may develop from  
time to time, it was announced at  
the federal reserve bank today.

This action is in line with a policy  
of the reserve board which already has  
led to the establishment of similar re-  
lations with the governmental banking  
systems of other countries, among  
them the Bank of England.

IRISH REBELLION?

Dublin, Jan. 23.—Declaring they  
wanted weapons "for the next rebel-  
lion," twenty heavily armed and dis-  
guised men raided several houses  
near Galway and seized all arms and  
ammunition, according to reports re-  
ceived here today.

### WITHDRAWS SECESSION RESOLVE

J. W. Francoeur Decides Not  
to Trust Motion to  
Vote.

DEBATE IN QUEBEC  
LEGISLATURE ENDS

Sir Lomer Gouin Announces  
That He is Believer in  
Confederation.

SAYS NOVA SCOTIA  
VOTED TO QUIT

Premier Says English-Speak-  
ing Minority Never  
Molested.

Quebec, Jan. 22.—After Sir Lomer  
Gouin stopped speaking in the legisla-  
ture this afternoon, Mr. J. N. Fran-  
coeur commented briefly on the var-  
ious speeches of the debate and with-  
drew his motion, expressing the readi-  
ness of the province to retire from  
the confederation pact if other sister  
provinces regarded it as an obstacle  
to the unity and development of the  
Dominion.

It has been said, Sir Lomer Gouin  
stated in his address, that Quebec felt  
spite as a result of the recent federal  
elections. It had been claimed that  
there was disloyalty in Mr. Fran-  
coeur's motion. He thought the  
charge of disloyalty was unjust.

Quotes Fielding.

Sir Lomer Gouin then recalled that  
on April 8, 1886, Hon. W. S. Fielding  
proposed in the legislature of Nova  
Scotia a resolution that meant noth-  
ing less than the separation of that  
province from the Canadian federa-  
tion. Mr. Fielding had justified his  
proposal by showing that the finan-  
cial embarrassment of Nova Scotia as a re-  
sult of its union with the rest of the  
Dominion. Mr. Fielding said he had  
concluded that it was an absolute nec-  
essity for Nova Scotia to secede that  
it might promote provincial railway  
enterprises and industries.

The Fielding resolution was adopt-  
ed by a majority of fifteen votes to  
seven.

Conscription Issue.

When the conscription issue came  
up, said Sir Lomer, it became a crime  
for Quebec to discuss it and to vote  
against it. Why was it not a crime  
for the Maritime provinces to take  
similar action?

The premier said that the stand  
taken by the Dominion against Que-  
bec on the conscription issue was un-  
just. It was not giving the province  
fair play.

Discussing his refusal to introduce  
the motion presented to him by Arthur  
Sauve, leader of the opposition, in  
which the imperial authorities were  
to be petitioned to repeal the military  
service act, Sir Lomer said Mr. Sauve  
did not dare introduce it himself and  
had not treated him fairly. He (the  
premier) refused the amendment be-  
cause it would have been out of order  
and because he was not in the habit  
of giving the people of Quebec hopes  
that could not be fulfilled.

Favors Confederation.

The province of Quebec went on  
record against conscription at the last  
election. That was sufficient.  
(Continued on page 2)

### FEARFUL DISASTER AT ACADIA MINES, STELLARTON, N. S.

Indications at Early Hour This Morning Were That Upwards of Ninety  
Coal Miners in No. 4 Allan Shaft Had Lost Their Lives in Explosion  
Which Occurred Shortly After Five o'clock Yesterday Afternoon  
When Night Shift Went into the Mine—Eleven Men Who Were on High-  
er Level Than the Others Escape in Safety.

In All There Were About One Hundred Men in the Colliery—Draeger Men  
up to Early Hour this Morning Able to Bring Out Eight Bodies—Judg-  
ing from Condition of Latter it is Believed All Others in Pit Perished  
—Many Harrowing Scenes by Moonlight at Pit's Mouth.

Stellarton, N. S., Jan. 24.—(Special)—Indications at an early hour this (Thursday)  
morning are that upwards of ninety miners perished in an explosion which occurred  
shortly after five o'clock yesterday afternoon at the Allan shaft of the Acadia Coal Com-  
pany's collieries here. About one hundred men were in the pit at the time of the disaster  
and had just relieved the day shift. Eleven of the men, who were on a level higher than  
that on which the others were working, were able to emerge from the mine in safety, but  
no person on the 1,200 foot or lower level escaped.

Draeger men, physicians and others from Stellarton, New Glasgow and Westville are  
at the scene and with emergency apparatus worked all night.

The relatives of the victims of the disaster flocked to the mouth of the pit, in the  
moonlight and the scene was a harrowing one. It is thought that the explosion was a re-  
currence of the trouble which occurred at the Allan shaft some time ago.

Special to The Standard.

One Hundred in the Pit.

New Glasgow, N. S., Jan. 23.—An explosion occurred at the  
Allan shaft of the Acadia Coal Co. in what is known as No. 4 pit  
this afternoon about five o'clock. Definite details are as yet meagre, but it is supposed that about one hundred men were in the pit  
at the time the explosion occurred. It is reported that only eleven  
men have been brought to the top. Experienced miners say that it  
is possible that this explosion may be followed by another in the  
course of a few hours, but late tonight nothing further in the way  
of an explosion has occurred. The entire staff of the Allan shaft  
are working with might and main to rescue every man possible.  
This is the first explosion of any consequence to occur at this mine  
for over two years.

New Glasgow Sends Help.

New Glasgow doctors and two Stellarton doctors are at the  
scene of the explosion in readiness for any victims that are taken  
from the mines. Late tonight only eleven men out of ninety-eight  
had escaped from the mines and three of these were dead. The  
draeger men and the entire staff of the Allan shaft together with  
all outside available help are doing everything in their power to  
bring the men to the surface. It is not yet definitely known just how  
many are killed or injured as the draeger men can only remain  
down a short time each trip. The work of rescuing the men is still  
in progress.

The cause of the explosion can probably be traced back to  
the old trouble which occurred at the Allan shaft mine some time  
ago. There is intense excitement in New Glasgow, Stellarton and  
Westville over the awful affair.

Fearful Disaster.

New Glasgow, N. S., Jan. 23.—The  
Allan shaft, midway between Stellarton  
and New Glasgow were the scene  
at 5.45 this afternoon of a terrible  
explosion which it is now feared may re-  
sult in one of the most disastrous ex-  
plosions in the coal mining industry of  
Nova Scotia. Over 100 men were said  
to be in the mine. Eleven of these es-  
caped from a higher level and accord-  
ing to estimates at midnight 89 men  
were entombed with but faint hope  
that any of them will ever be rescued  
alive.

Up to midnight eight bodies had  
been recovered. Most of them were  
singed by fire and some of them were  
badly mutilated. The first body to be  
recovered was that of Fred MacKenzie,  
blacksmith. He had gone down half  
an hour before the explosion occurred  
to shoe a horse and was killed at the  
bottom of the shaft. His body was not  
found until 9.30 o'clock. He was a  
married man with a large family.  
The eleven men who came out alive  
were on the 500 foot level. They did  
not hear the explosion, but smelling  
smoke they ran for the cage. When  
the cage was lowered, with a lighted  
lamp on it, these men entered it at the  
500 foot level and were hoisted to the  
surface. The only other person to  
come out alive up to this hour was a  
Belgian boy, Joseph Lahey, who was  
found at the bottom of the shaft, the

explosion blew the boxes into the bot-  
tom of the shaft and for some time  
the cage did not get beyond the 500  
foot level. It was after nine o'clock  
before the bottom of the shaft was  
reached. Fred MacKenzie's body was  
first recovered and then the draeger  
crew, who went promptly to work  
brought up Lahey. The pulmotor kept  
him alive but he died shortly after be-  
ing brought to the surface.

Violent Explosion.

That the explosion was of a violent  
character is indicated by the fact that  
it blew the bottom of the cage up the  
huge shaft and drove mine timbers  
200 feet along the levels.  
The night shift had just gone below  
and started work when the explosion  
occurred.

From the nearby homes of the min-  
ers, women and children ran in frantic  
haste to the mine head, mad with  
anxiety for the safety of husbands and  
fathers trapped below.  
The underground manager of the  
night shift was Robert Whinton and he  
is among the missing. Of the men en-  
tombed, 67 belonged to Stellarton, 13  
to Westville and 4 to New Glasgow.  
The rest are Belgians.

The draeger crew worked in shifts  
and made heroic efforts to reach the  
imprisoned men. On the last trip be-  
fore midnight five of the ten men of  
the crew went down without masks, in

### Greater Activity On The Western Front By Belligerents

### LABOR PARTY SUPPORTING WAR POLICY

Small Encouragement for Ger-  
man Emperor and Central  
Powers.

SUPPORT OF WAR A  
MEANS OF PEACE

President Wilson Figures as  
One of Labor Party's  
Prophets.

LABOR EXPECTS  
ENORMOUS VOTE

An Important Amendment  
Moved by Mr. Arthur  
Henderson.

Nottingham, Jan. 23.—There has  
been small encouragement for the Ger-  
man Emperor and the Central Powers in  
proceedings of the British labor  
party thus far. The leaders of the  
party show a determination to take a  
strong line in support of the war as the  
only means of obtaining a democratic  
peace, and in this they appear to have  
the loyal support of a majority of the  
delegates.

Each delegate as he arrived at the  
convention yesterday or today was  
handed a circular entitled "British  
labor's war aims" which was a copy of  
the message sent to Russia in the  
name of British labor a few days ago.  
This message is the keynote of the  
whole present policy of the labor  
party. Its war aims show no very  
great divergence from the statements  
by President Wilson, Premier Lloyd  
George and other allied statesmen.

President Wilson Quoted.

The pacifist minority will make  
strenuous efforts to win over the con-  
ference during the discussion of the  
Russians dealing with the question of  
peace, but there is no reason to believe  
that the conference will go any dis-  
tance with them.

President Wilson figures as one of  
the labor party's prophets at this  
year's convention. In the opening  
session today his name was mentioned  
no less than six times, in each case in  
connection with his recent war aims  
speech, which was described as essen-  
tially the same point of view as the  
British labor party's.

The fraternal delegate of the French  
Socialists gained hearty applause  
when he said: "President Wilson has  
declared on behalf of the common peo-  
ple of the whole world the terms  
which the common people want. This  
statement has now been agreed to by  
every allied government, including the  
Russian Bolshevik. In the face of this  
unanimity of opinion the central gov-  
ernments are silent, but their peoples  
are restless and disturbed and before  
long they, too, must come into agree-  
ment."

Ask For War Aims.

The conference unanimously adopt-  
ed a resolution welcoming the state-  
ments of Premier Lloyd George and  
President Wilson, and calling upon the  
Allies to formulate their war aims at  
the earliest possible moment.  
President Purdy in his address said:  
"Will Germany agree to evacuate  
Belgium, northern France and the  
other territories over which she holds  
sway?" There were cries "Yes and  
Ireland." German people and the Ger-  
man government," Mr. Purdy contin-  
(Continued on page 2)

Manoeuvres Now in Progress  
Preliminary to a Mighty  
Struggle.

BIG GUNS ROAR  
ALL ALONG LINE

Germans Gain Footing in the  
French Trenches East  
of Neuport.

FIGHTING GREATER  
IN LENS VICINITY

Austro-Germans Fail to Im-  
prove Their Positions in  
Italy.

With the reported amelioration in  
the political unrest in Austria-Hungary  
and a continuation of silence as re-  
gards the internal situation in Ger-  
many, the notable feature in the world  
war is the apparent resumption, and  
on a somewhat larger scale, of the  
military operations on the western  
front in France and Belgium.

Although for the moment these op-  
erations, viewed from the cold facts as  
announced by the various war offices,  
do not transcend in importance the  
usual small operations by raiding and  
reconnoitering parties which have  
been in progress since the severe win-  
try weather began, reading between  
the lines of the communications it is  
not difficult to see that the manoeuvres  
now in progress on various sectors are  
in the nature of trying-out processes  
of a marked character.

Are Getting Ready.

From the North Sea to the Swiss  
frontier, the lessening in the rigors of  
winter has permitted the belligerents  
again to send forth their men in enter-  
prises which seemingly forecast the in-  
tension shortly to resume fighting  
activity more extensively.

For weeks the big guns along the  
entire battlefield have been roaring  
in intensive duels on numerous sectors,  
but the infantry has lain idle owing to  
the deep snows and later to the moras-  
ses which formed as a result of the  
thaw.

On their extreme right in northern  
Belgium the Germans have carried out  
an "important raid" and gained a foot-  
ing in French advanced trenches east  
of Neuport, while along nearly all of  
the front in Flanders the artillery  
Continued on page 3

### ONLY 6 SHIPS SUNK IN WEEK

Germany's Submarine Cam-  
paign Falls Down During  
Present Month.

London, Jan. 23.—Again the sink-  
ings of British merchantmen by mine  
or submarine have been held at a  
low point. Only six vessels of 1,600  
tons or over and two under that ton-  
nage were destroyed in the past week  
according to the admiralty report to  
night.

The sinkings of British merchant-  
men for the past week duplicate the  
sinkings for the previous week—six  
large ships and two small ones. In  
the previous week two fishing vessels  
also were sunk; in the past week the  
fishing craft escaped entirely.  
The admiralty reports of January  
23 and January 9 gave the sinkings as  
21 merchantmen, of which eighteen  
were over 1,600 tons in each case.  
Arrivals 2,555, sailings, 2,542.

British merchantmen of 1,600 tons  
or over sunk by mine or submarine,  
6; over 1,600 tons, 2; fishing ves-  
sels, none.  
British merchantmen unsuccessfully  
attacked, 6.