

Storm Prevents Heavy Fighting on Western Front, but Italians Continue Drive on Austrians

The St. John Standard

VOL. IX, NO. 137

TEN PAGES

THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 30, 1917.

WEATHER—SHOWERY

PRICE: TWO CENTS.

CONSERVATIVE CAUCUS REFUSES TO ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF PREMIER

SIR ROBERT TO CONTINUE AS PREMIER

Tells Conservative Caucus He is Willing to Step Aside.

SUGGESTS FOSTER AS SUCCESSOR

(Western Liberals Favoring Union Wanted Premier to Leave Office.

BUT PARTY CAUCUS WONT HEAR OF IT

Resolution Adopted Heartily Endorsing Canada's War Premier.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Aug. 29.—The Conservative caucus of this morning resulted in a magnificent personal tribute to the Prime Minister. The ultimatum of the western Liberals that union was only possible with the elimination of Sir Robert Borden as leader, awakened such a strong revulsion and resentment amongst the members that they let loose their feelings to a degree never before experienced during the long leadership of Sir Robert and he was accorded ovation after ovation. The Premier was overcome by the magnificence of the tribute accorded to him and was unable to continue his speech of thanks for a few minutes.

Offered His Resignation. The caucus was called to hear the statement of the Prime Minister as to the message of the western Liberals and the terms upon which they were willing to consider the formation of a union government. Sir Robert followed this up by a clear and in his mind there was only one man who should be in charge of any government in Canada which sought to have the Dominion lined up with all that is best in her alongside the other allies and he stated emphatically that the man was Sir Robert Borden.

The hearty tribute of the Minister of Trade and Commerce and his point blank refusal to consider the question of his becoming leader instead of Sir Robert, kindled a flame of enthusiasm, the like of which the Conservative members have not known in many long years. No political leader ever received a finer tribute at Ottawa from his party.

On Solid Ground. It can be said with truth that prior to the caucus of today there had been some misunderstandings. There had been fears on the part of some members that the movement towards union might result in serious difficulties for them in their constituencies and might jeopardize their chances of re-election. Those illusions were swept away by explanations, the air was thoroughly cleared and the party placed on a sound and solid basis of understanding.

In the course of the Conservative caucus today the Prime Minister reviewed his negotiations for the formation of a union government and emphasized his earnest purpose in that endeavor. He had proposed to Sir Wilfrid Laurier a coalition government with equal representation of both parties outside of the Prime Minister. That offer having been refused he made it known that the same offer was open to that section of the Liberal party which supported compulsory military service and was prepared to sustain every effort for the winning of the war.

Negotiations had subsequently taken place with prominent Liberals in the east as well as in the west, and latterly he had an interview with four gentlemen from western Canada of whom two were in active public life and the other two were prominently connected with the agriculture interests of the prairie provinces.

(Continued on page 2)

LARGE STEAMER GOES ASHORE

Another Vessel Strands at Magdalen Islands.

Etang du Nord, Magdalen Islands, Aug. 29.—A large lumber laden, out-bound steamer ran ashore on Byron Island, the second vessel to hit within ten days. The tug Lord Strathcona has been sent for to make an attempt to float the vessel. The steamer is lying in a precarious position, but may be floated providing no heavy gale damage her.

The Strathcona recently hauled off another steamer.

CASUALTIES ARE STILL NUMEROUS

Eleven St. John Men Wounded as Well as More than Thirty Other New Brunswick Soldiers.

Ottawa, Aug. 29.—Extremely heavy casualty lists continue to pour in by cable to the Records Office, those announced from Saturday night to noon numbered approximately 2,700. It is understood the roll will be heavy for some days as a result of the prolonged and very fighting at Lens. That the percentage of fatalities is light is illustrated by to-day's figures, the noon list of 351 containing only fourteen fatalities.

ARTILLERY.

A. H. Munroe, Woodstock, N. B. Wounded. A. Barlow, Sussex, N. B. Wounded. L. H. Keith, Lower Ridge, N. B. Wounded. F. W. Walker, Sussex, N. B. Wounded. E. J. Heine, St. John, N. B. Wounded. J. A. Campbell, Sussex, N. B. Wounded. M. E. Kinsman, Kentville, N. S. Wounded. C. Weaver, Weymouth, N. S. Wounded. E. A. Bradford, Blacks Harbor, N. B. Wounded. C. A. Chapman, Landbrook, N. B. Wounded. W. H. Boyd, Truro, N. S. Wounded. J. G. Northrup, St. John, N. B. Wounded. H. J. Jones, Milltown, N. B. Wounded. J. F. Miller, St. John, N. B. Wounded. T. E. Taylor, St. John, N. B. Wounded. H. L. Grant, Pookloke, N. B. Wounded. H. L. Jones, River du Chate, N. B. Wounded. A. McGarran, St. George, N. B. Wounded. C. Bailey, Harcourt, N. B. Wounded. J. P. McDonald, Sunny Brae, N. S. Wounded. E. H. LeBlanc, Cocagne, N. B. Wounded. J. M. Cox, Sterling, N. B. Wounded. F. O'Brien, Amherst, N. S. Wounded. A. W. Dechamps, Shelburne, N. B. Wounded. G. G. Gentry, Campbellton, N. B. Wounded. W. Lohrer, Amherst, N. S. Wounded. S. B. Gidderson, Plaster Rock, N. B. Wounded. R. H. Sanford, Windsor, N. B. Wounded. G. Jones, Whale Head, N. B. Wounded. T. Robichaud, Digby, N. S. Wounded. A. Paul, Apohaqui, N. B. Wounded. M. E. Carter, Amherst, N. S. Wounded. E. T. Handspiker, Digby, N. S. Wounded. R. B. Fuller, Yarmouth, N. S. Wounded. G. C. Archibald, Truro, N. S. Wounded. C. G. Johnson, Upper Economy, N. B. Wounded. E. Crossman, Moncton, N. B. Wounded. Killed in action. Lieut. B. A. McLean, Campbellton, N. B.

23 BRITISH STEAMERS TORPEDOED

Eighteen of Number Were of More Than Sixteen Hundred Tons.

INCREASE OF THREE FOR LAST WEEK

Italians Lost Five Vessels During the Same Period.

STEAMER ASSYRIA SENT TO BOTTOM

Cunard Line Steamer Malda Also Victim of Hun U-Boat.

London, Aug. 29.—An increase in the number of British vessels sunk last week by mines or submarines is shown by the weekly admiralty statement issued tonight. Eighteen vessels of more than 1,600 tons were sent to the bottom, as compared with fifteen the previous week, and five vessels of less than 1,600 tons as against three the previous week. No fishing vessels were sunk. The summary of the statement follows: "Arrivals 2,629; sailings 2,680.

"British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine over 1,600 tons, eighteen; under 1,600 tons, including one previously, five. "British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked, including two previously, six. "British fishing vessels sunk, none." Most of the sinkings reported in today's totals occurred during the latter part of the week. The first part of the week was very favorable, but later British shipping had a streak of bad luck. Today's report runs only to mid-afternoon Sunday.

Italian Losses.

Rome, Aug. 29.—Italian merchant marine losses for the week ending August 26 comprised one large steamer, two small steamers and two small sailing vessels. One steamer was unsuccessfully attacked. Five hundred and eighty-eight vessels of all nationalities and of a tonnage of 388,565 arrived and 557 vessels of a tonnage of 363,765 left Italian ports.

The Assyria Sunk.

New York, Aug. 29.—The British steamship Assyria, a vessel of 6,470 tons, under charter to the Cunard line, has been sunk by a German submarine, according to advice received here by insurance circles.

The fate of the crew is unknown.

Steamer Malda Gone.

Boston, Aug. 29.—The steamer Malda under charter to the Cunard line, has been sunk.

STORM STILL HALTS WAR ACTIVITIES

London, Aug. 29.—The official report from British headquarters in France tonight reads: "Stormy weather continues. Early this morning enemy parties made a bombing attack on two of our posts east of Ostierville but were driven off with loss.

"There is nothing else of special interest to report." "Paris, Aug. 29.—Violent artillery fighting is in progress on the Verdun front, between Avocourt and Hill 304, and on the Alsas front, the war office announces. North of Carrière Wood, in the Verdun sector, German forces, following a heavy rain, were reported to be in the process of retreating.

PREMIER BORDEN GIVEN STRONG ENDORSEMENT

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Aug. 29.—This Conservative members of parliament today adopted the following resolution: "We the supporters of Sir Robert Borden's government in the parliament of Canada, record our emphatic approval of that government's policy and achievements during those three years of war.

"We endorse the earnest and patient efforts of the prime minister to bring about a union of all the war forces of Canada and to give to this Dominion in these days of ever-increasing stress, suffering and peril, the advantage of an administration which would typify that union and speak to the world the unwavering resolution of our people to see this war through to victory.

"For the purpose of such union we are one and all prepared to make any personal or party sacrifice that the occasion may demand.

"We record unanimously our profound and splendid leadership of Sir Robert Borden. We sincerely believe that no other man can discharge with like capacity the tremendous task of prime minister during this crisis and that now, of all times, his continuance in the premiership is indispensable to the nation, and to his support we pledge our unalterable devotion."

PUGSLEY HAS AMENDMENT TO R. R. BILL

Sir Robert Tells Silent Man of St. John He is Laboring Under Many Misapprehensions

Ottawa, Aug. 29.—(Eastern Press)—Shortly after nine o'clock tonight Sir Thomas White moved the third reading of the C. N. R. bill. Mr. Pugsley immediately moved an amendment providing that the bill should be reported back to committee and amended. Mr. Pugsley stated that the amendment was not any award as to the value of C. N. R. stock necessary before the acceptance. He urged that in the interest of the people, the government should not commit itself to the payment of the award reached by the arbitration until parliament had approved of the same. Mr. Pugsley disclaimed any intention on the part of the opposition to prolong the debate on this bill more than was necessary. He thought that the government had been ill-advised in resorting to the closure.

Pugsley is Sorry (7).

"Some regrettable scenes took place and I am very sorry for them," remarked the member for St. John amid laughter.

Dealing with the merits of his amendment, Mr. Pugsley said that the C. N. R. and other owners of stock would present the most favorable statement to the arbitrator. "Mr. Pugsley said he had received a telegram from a prominent business man of British Columbia, stating that the C. N. R. had made commitments aggregating twenty-five million dollars in that province for which the government would be responsible.

"Sir Robert Borden replying said that the member for St. John was laboring under many misapprehensions. What ever might be said in regard to lack of opportunity on the part of other Liberal members to discuss the bill, it was certain that the member for St. John had discussed it on all possible moments.

"After making a very full defense of the government's position and stating that the issue was plainly one of government or private ownership, Sir Robert Borden dealt with the whole question of Canada's future railway problem as it appeared to him. He said that when the government acquired the C. N. R. as far as he was concerned he would stand his best men to make the operation of the road efficient as any line in Canada. He regarded it as impossible for any department of the government to undertake the management of a great railway system; however, this was a matter for the next parliament to solve. He said he believed it was necessary for the railways and the government to get together in the immediate future and deal with the possibility of having a system of co-operative management of all the railways of Canada.

Sir Thomas White gave notice of closure on the third reading of the bill tomorrow.

AIRPLANES POWERFUL IN BATTLE

Italians Fiercely Attack Austrians on Bainsizza Plateau.

247 AIRPLANES IN ONE BATTLE

The Army of General Cadorna Captures Over a Thousand Prisoners.

SLAV ARMIES IN ROUMANIA RETREAT

Russian Division Shows the White Feather and Flees in Disorder.

Rome, Aug. 29.—The Italian troops, pushing forward on the Bainsizza plateau, have reached a powerful Austrian defensive line and are now attacking it, the war office announces. On the heights beyond Gorizia the Italians made gains. The announcement follows: "Fighting continued yesterday on the Bainsizza plateau. After having overtopped the enemy rear-guard our troops encountered and are at present attacking a powerful line of resistance which had been previously organized and which the enemy is defending with desperation. On the heights beyond Gorizia we made some gains.

"During the day we captured more than 1,000 prisoners and several machine guns. Altogether 247 airplanes participated in the battle. A squadron of forty Caproni machines, which took part in the action east of Gorizia, dropped more than 7,000 kilograms of projectiles on enemy batteries in the Panovizza Wood.

"In the Stelvio region, on the Trentino front, the enemy, at dawn Monday, attacked one of our advanced posts on the Glaciers in the upper Zehru Valley and succeeded in penetrating it. Our men, however, were able to occupy a higher summit from which they keep their old position under fire."

Russian Statement.

Petrograd, Aug. 29.—The official announcement follows: "Roumanian front: In the direction of Ocna, in the region north of Groceni and north of Soveia, the enemy made stubborn attacks all through the day. The battle was waged with varying success, in the direction of Pokshant at daybreak yesterday the enemy after artillery preparation, attacked our positions in the region of Mutchelina. One of our divisions did not show the necessary resistance to the enemy and, having abandoned its positions, fled in disorder. The enemy continued to advance throughout the day, and has reached the line of Trebitz-Deu-Varnitza-Pitonesti-Cherhanfchi. During the night, the enemy, continuing to develop his success, penetrated our positions in the region of Varnitza.

Boston Express Delayed.

The Boston express was delayed an hour and twenty minutes last night, arriving at the depot at 12:40. The delay was due to a hot box on one of the cars near Dover, Maine, as well as several minor delays along the route. The Halifax express waited for the Boston train.

Campbellton Chief Hears.

Fred Lucas, chief of police at Campbellton, is in the city on a vacation. He was a former valued officer on the St. John force and is receiving a hearty welcome from his many friends.

Arrested for Theft. Two boys were arrested yesterday afternoon on the charge of stealing four dollars from W. C. Wilson's store on Union street, West St. John. The youngsters will appear in the juvenile court this morning.

SCHOONER SUNK IN COLLISION

The Cyrene Cut Down in Northumberland Strait by Steamer Arranmore.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Aug. 29.—The S.S. Arranmore, while on her way from Pictou to Charlottetown, collided with the schooner Cyrene, 90 tons, owned by her master, Captain Frank Murphy, of Montague. The schooner was almost cut in two amidships and sank.

She was beating into Pictou harbor. The collision occurred near Pictou Light. There was no loss of life.

BORDEN ONLY LEADER NOW, SAYS GODFREY

Chairman of Win-the-War League Still Hopes for Union Government at Ottawa.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Aug. 29.—Mr. John M. Godfrey, Liberal, chairman of the Ontario Win the War League, was asked tonight for his opinion regarding the statement handed out by the Conservative caucus. He stated that in his judgment Sir Robert Borden was the only leader of a union government at present in sight. Sir Robert had made the proposal and for three months had earnestly and sincerely striven to bring about union. For that reason his elimination from the leadership was not only unpractical but undesirable.

Splendid Purpose.

He said that the Conservative party by its resolution had committed itself unequivocally to union and a non-partisan election. With the full powers given him by his party Sir Robert would undoubtedly accomplish his splendid patriotic purpose.

When asked as to the effect of the caucus on further negotiations, Mr. Godfrey stated that he did not understand that the suggestion of the western Liberals was an ultimatum. Negotiations were still going on and he believed ultimate success would be attained. Certainly something in the nature of a political revolution had happened in the west since the Winnipeg convention.

LEADING ST. STEPHEN MAN DROPS DEAD

Augustus Cameron Was Bidding Good-Bye to Son, Who Had Been Drafted in United States Army.

Special to The Standard. St. Stephen, Aug. 29.—Death came very suddenly this morning to Augustus Cameron, dry goods merchant and one of the most highly esteemed citizens of this town. His son Donald Cameron, the distinguished actor, who makes his home in New York, had been drafted for the United States army and had been at home for a brief farewell visit. He was leaving this morning to return when his father dropped dead.

The deceased had been for many years a valued member of the Presbyterian church. In politics he was an ardent Conservative.

BRITISH FOOD CONTROL.

London, Aug. 29.—Lord Rhonda, the food controller, has decided to take over, gradually, control of the entire provision trade in the British Isles.

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COMPULSION MACHINERY TO START

Minister of Justice Will Set Things in Motion in a Few Days.

BILL FINALLY ASSENTED TO

It Will Be New Years, Probably, Before Men Are in Training.

LAURIER WILL AID IN SUPPORTING LAW

St. John Harbor Improvements Again Before Commons.

Ottawa, Aug. 29. (Eastern Press).—The military service bill was given the final seal of law this afternoon when Justice Duff, acting as administrator of the senate this afternoon. The proceedings were purely formal and there was no demonstration of any kind by the comparatively small crowd of senators and commentators who attended in the red chamber. In addition to the military service bill assent was given to a score or more bills of a minor importance which have completed their passage through parliament this session. They include a dozen or so divorce bills, a number of private bills and the government legislation providing for aid to returned soldiers settling on land.

Conscription Machinery.

The work of setting the machinery in motion providing for the calling out of the first selective draft under conscription is now in the hands of the minister of justice. Hon. Justice Duff will be appointed within a few days to act as the central appeal judge and the regulations governing appeals, scientific grounds of exemption, defining the duties and areas of the local appeal tribunals, etc., will be approved by the cabinet council probably during the next week and promulgated. It is not expected that the bill will be actually put into the next step of motion and calling out the men of the first class.

Month May Elapse.

After that a month or more must elapse for the presenting and hearing of exemption appeals by the local tribunals, the latter stage probably requiring at least several weeks. Then more time must elapse for the hearing of appeals from the local tribunals by the central appeal courts. After that will come the actual calling to the colors of specified numbers and classes of those who have not been exempted. In all probability the final stage of getting the men out for training will not be reached until after the New Year.

Sir Robert Borden repeated in the Commons this afternoon the statement he made during the early discussion of the military service bill, that he thought it desirable half of the members of the board of selection should be named by the leader of the opposition. The board of selection, he said, would consist of 24 members, four being from Ontario, four from Quebec, two each from the other provinces and two from the Yukon. He intimated that if Sir Wilfrid Laurier would give him his recommendations for the appointments, he would be glad to revoke them. The local tribunals will consist of two members.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that the House would not be surprised that he found himself in a delicate position. It was not customary for a member to take part in the formation of a committee under a bill of which he did not approve, but the military service bill was of such importance that whether he approved of it or not, it had now become law and it behooved all subjects of the king to see that the law was carried out. Reminding the House that on the opposition side of the House there were members who (Continued on page 2)