

# The St. John Standard

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WEATHER—FAIR.

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## SWEEPING BRITISH VICTORY; ARMED NEUTRALITY FOR U. S.

### BRITISH CONTINUE VICTORIOUS SWEEP

Advance Along the Ancre River Has Attained Depth of Two Miles and Extends Along Front of Eleven Miles from East of Guedecourt to South of Gommecourt.

**IN ADDITION TO VILLAGES OF SERREL STRONG POINT KNOWN AS BUTTE DE WARLENCOURT AND VILLAGES OF WARLENCOURT-EAUCOURT, PYS AND MIRAUMONT CAPTURED.**

London, Feb. 26.—The British advance along the Ancre river has attained a depth of 2 miles, and extends along a front of about eleven miles, according to the official report from British headquarters in France tonight.

The text reads: "The movement referred to in the communications Saturday and Sunday was maintained during the day on both banks of the Ancre. Our advance extends over a front of about 11 miles, from east of Guedecourt to south of Gommecourt, and has attained a depth of two miles.

"In addition to the village of Serre, reported yesterday, we now occupy the strong point known as Butte De Warlencourt and the villages of Warlencourt-Eaucourt, Pys and Miraumont. We have reached the outskirts of Lebarque, Irls and Puisieux-Au-Mont.

"A hostile attack, made early this morning on one of our posts south of the Somme was driven off with loss.

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### GLOUCESTER VOTES FOR THE OPPOSITION

Edward S. Carter's bosom friend and co-worker, Peter J. Veniot, had better luck than the gentleman from Rothesay, for Mr. Veniot and his colleagues easily carried Gloucester county yesterday, giving the opposition twenty-seven seats to twenty-one for the government of Premier Murray. The opposition candidates, Mr. Veniot, Mr. Byrne, Mr. Legere and J. G. Robichaud, were victors over Mr. Hachey, Mr. Young, M. J. Robichaud and A. P. Robichaud, by about 900 votes.

The result was not unexpected by the government, for the entire North Shore had some sort of grouse against the Frederick administration—whether because it thought the government could enforce conscription, or controlled the management of the Canadian government railroad, is not known. Perhaps parts of the North Shore did not like the government's prohibition ideas.

#### BY-ELECTIONS LATER.

The voting is not all through for there will be several by-elections when the new ministers are appointed. Then the new government will have a premier to select (possibly Mr. Robinson or Dr. Smith of Shediac) and to face a strong opposition in the legislature to keep a careful eye on the treasury.

#### SMITHS PLENTIFUL.

There will be five Smiths in the new house, Hon. B. Frank of Carleton, Dr. E. A. of Westmorland, Mr. Smith of Northumberland, Mr. Smith of Sunbury and Mr. Smith of Albert.

The voters of Gloucester must have had some trouble yesterday in marking ballots for there were three Robichauds on the ticket, M. J., A. P. and J. G. All three ran behind their respective tickets.

The government supporters last Saturday were elected in Kings, Albert, St. John county, St. John city (three), Charlotte, Sunbury, York and Carleton.

The opposition has Restisouche, Gloucester, Northumberland, Kent, Westmorland, Moncton, Queens, Victoria and Madawaska.

Early this morning, with several polls missing, which will probably increase the opposition majority, the figures stood:

	Hachey	Robichaud, M. J.	Young	Robichaud, A. P.	Robichaud, J. G.
Bathurst Village	141	136	130	127	156
Bathurst Mines	4	4	4	4	16
Upper Pokemouche	22	22	22	22	64
Stonewall	70	65	91	65	39
Carleton Place	112	113	113	107	163
Bathurst Town	135	117	126	113	265
Salmon Beach	34	38	39	27	14
Beresford Therese	41	38	40	38	179
Grand Anse	38	34	38	35	87
Upper Caraque	43	43	44	43	139
St. Simon	33	49	51	49	94
Lower Caraque	59	59	61	59	126
Paquetville	20	15	22	17	121
Miscou	41	44	29	29	130
Shippegan	124	126	123	123	144
Totals	937	913	993	896	1750

### YARROWDALE AMERICANS RELEASED

Washington, Feb. 26.—Ambassador Willard, at Madrid cabled today that the Spanish foreign office had notified him that 72 American sailors, taken on the prize ship Yarrowdale into Germany, had been released by Germany on February 16. Absolutely no details were given here as to the whereabouts of the men now, or the long delay in hearing from Berlin in reference to their release.

### 2 AMERICANS ON LACONIA DROWNED?

London, Feb. 27.—According to a Central News despatch from Queenstown Mrs. Foy and daughter, who were aboard the sunken steamer Laconia, are missing and are supposed to have been drowned. (It is probable that Mrs. Mary E. Hoy and Miss Elizabeth Hoy, of Chicago, are the passengers referred to. They were in the first cabin.)

### HUNS BOMBARD TWO PLACES IN ENGLAND

Woman and Child Killed and Two Persons Injured in Broadstairs and Margate—A Sea Fight.

London, Feb. 26.—German destroyers bombarded Broadstairs and Margate early this morning. One woman and one child were killed and two persons were injured. Two houses were damaged. This announcement was made in the Commons today by Sir Edward Carson.

Sir Edward said that one of four British torpedo boat destroyers on patrol duty in the English Channel last night encountered several German destroyers and a short engagement ensued. The British destroyer was not damaged though she was under heavy gun and torpedo fire. The German vessels were lost sight of the first Lord said, but in the darkness another force of German destroyers bombarded the undefended ports of Broadstairs and Margate.

British light forces in the vicinity closed in on the German warships which only remained a short time, he added, and were gone before the approach of the British vessels.

### WILSON'S PROPOSALS WILL BE CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE TODAY.

Washington, Feb. 26.—After conference with Democratic and Republican leaders, Chairman Flood, of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, introduced late today a bill authorizing the president to arm merchant ships and use "such other instrumentalities as necessary" to protect them on the high seas, and providing for a special bond issue of \$100,000,000.

The bill was referred to congressional committees which will meet tomorrow morning.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Insurance Commissioner Harrison, has applied for a receiver for the New England Equitable Insurance Co. The state insurance department found an impairment

### WILSON FAVORS A STEP TOWARDS WAR

President Appears Before Congress and Asks for Authority to Place United States in a State of "Armed Neutrality" to Resist the German Submarine Menace.

### BIG TRIUMPH FOR BRITISH GOVERNMENT

Announcement of Success of Third War Loan Causes Scene of Great Enthusiasm in Commons.

London, Feb. 26.—There was a scene of great enthusiasm in the House of Commons today when Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, announced the result of Great Britain's third war loan, which is by far the greatest voluntary contribution by the people of any belligerent nation. More than 1,000,000,000 pounds of new money, with more than 5,000,000,000 subscribers, are the stupendous figures which the chancellor of the exchequer confessed he would have thought it impossible to raise only a few days ago.

### IMPORTANT FISHERIES TRANSFER

An important fisheries deal is pending, which, when it is put into full operation, is expected to benefit New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Maine fishermen. The Booth Fisheries Co., an immense concern, which has numerous branches in Canada and the United States, contemplates the erection of a monster concrete fish storage plant at Eastport, to cost from \$100,000 to \$150,000. When the plant is complete it is expected many vessels from Maine and the provinces will call for bait.

The Booth Co. has taken over the sardine factory of George O. Grady & Co. at Eastport, and it is expected that four other business properties will be purchased to make room for the proposed big plant. It also has a large factory at Chamcook, this province.

### WOMEN OF MAINE CAN VOTE NOW

Augusta, Me., Feb. 2.—Gov. Carl E. Miller has signed the woman suffrage bill. A number of suffrage leaders witnessed the act. The corridors of the State House were thronged with spectators.

### IS THAW INSANE?

Philadelphia, Feb. 26.—Lunacy proceedings were begun in common pleas court here today to determine the sanity of Harry K. Thaw. The petition was filed on behalf of Thaw's mother. A commissioner was appointed and he will sit with a sheriff's jury of six men, to be chosen later, to pass on Thaw's mental state. The petition is returnable the first week in April.

### WILSON WANTS TO AVOID ACTUAL WAR—ASKS TO BE EMPOWERED TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY, WHICH INCLUDES ARMING OF SHIPS AND CONVOYING OF MERCHANTMEN BY WAR VESSELS.

Washington, Feb. 26.—President Wilson appeared before Congress at one o'clock this afternoon and asked for authority to place the United States in a state of "armed neutrality" to resist the German submarine menace. Continued invasion of the plain rights of neutrals on the high seas, further sacrifices of American lives and ships, the intolerable blockade of American commerce—almost as effectual as if the country were at war—have taken the place of a dreaded "overt act," which was expected to shock the world—and have forced the president into the next step toward war.

President Wilson, asking to be empowered to take whatever steps are necessary, which includes the arming of ships, the conveying of merchantmen by war vessels or what other steps are necessary, made it plain again that he wanted peace, but not at the price of American lives and rights or by driving the American flag from the seas.

#### To Use Armed Forces.

Congress is expected not only to authorize the president to use the armed forces of the country, but also to provide money.

Whether armed neutrality will mean war depends on whether Germany realizes that the United States is ready to protect its neutral rights by whatever means are necessary.

With a full realization of the solemnity of the occasion the president took his action today with the calm confidence that congress and the country will stand behind him.

News of the sinking of the Cunard liner Laconia with Americans aboard, was received here as the president was on his way to address congress. Although without details, its grave possibilities added emphasis to the president's words.

#### President's Address.

The president spoke as follows: Gentlemen of the Congress:

"I have again asked the privilege of addressing you, because we are moving through critical times during which, it seems to me to be my duty to keep in close touch with the house of congress, so that neither counsel

nor action shall run at cross-purposes between us.

"On the third of February I officially informed you of the sudden and unexpected action of the imperial German government in declaring its intention to disregard the promises it had made to this government in April last, and undertake immediate submarine operations against all commerce whether of belligerents or of neutrals that should seek to approach Great Britain and Ireland, the Atlantic coasts of Europe or the harbors of the eastern Mediterranean and conduct those operations without regard to the established restrictions of international practice, without considerations of humanity even which might interfere with their object. That policy was forthwith put into practice.

Commerce Suffering. "It has now been in active exhibition for nearly four weeks. Its practical results are not fully disclosed. The commerce of other neutral nations is suffering severely, but not, perhaps, very much more severely than it was already suffering before the first of February, when the new policy of the imperial German government was announced. (Continued on page 3)

### G. T. P. WILL STAY IN ALASKAN TRADE

Steamships Will Link Canada's Most Northerly Transcontinental Line with Alaska and Yukon.

#### Special to The Standard.

Montreal, Feb. 26.—Grand Trunk Pacific officials announce that the inauguration of their service to Alaska has been attended with such success that its continuance has been decided upon for 1917.

The route through Canada to Alaska and the Yukon offers so many advantages that there is an increasing demand for travellers in the United States, whence the big bulk of this travel comes, for particulars of the Dominion's transcontinental facilities. Last year marked the first entry of the Grand Trunk Pacific into the Alaskan business, and with the Western terminus of that line situated only a few miles below the Alaskan boundary, this new gateway to the Northland became popular immediately. The steamships of the company, the "Prince George" and "Prince Rupert," will therefore be employed on the Alaskan voyages again this summer.

### FREIGHT SITUATION FAILS TO IMPROVE

Toronto, Feb. 26.—Hardware and Metal says:

The freight situation has not improved during the week, as the number of points on which embargoes prevail have been added to. Complaints are coming in from retailers in small centres that the railway officials appear indifferent and do not seem to be exerting themselves to better conditions. Freight shipments have begun to accumulate in wholesaler's warehouses.

There have been a number of price changes during the week, all of which are in an upward direction. Wire nails have reached the \$5 base price in certain sections. Lead shot and lead products are all higher in price, owing to the situation in pig lead market. Paris green prices have been announced, which are higher than the opening prices of last season. New prices on next season's skates, hockey sticks, sleighs and kindred lines are out and advances up to 25 per cent. have been recorded in some lines. Other lines that have advanced during the week include soldering coppers, cabinet locks, glue, glaziers' points, plumbers' and painters' torches, aluminum ware. There is a firmness in the market for all Canadian makes of builders' hardware, owing to the recent advance that has been put into effect by American manufacturers. Axes and cross-cut saws are also in firm market. In spite of the handicaps to business there has been a good trade during the week.