

The St. John Standard

VOL. IX., NO. 288.

TEN PAGES

WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 27, 1918.

FAIR AND COLD.

PRICE: TWO CENTS.

The German Army Probably Close To the Gates of the Russian Capital

LONDON PAPERS ARE WITHOUT A HOPE OF PEACE

Can See Little Indication of It in Address of German Chancellor.

WILSON'S PRINCIPLES TRAMPLED UNDER FOOT

Von Hertling May Be Driving Wedge Between Britain and U. S.

London, Feb. 26.—The evening newspapers see little hope for peace in the speech of Count Von Hertling, the imperial German chancellor. "With what face, one wonders, can Count Von Hertling, who is old and religious, get up in the Reichstag and declare that his heart bleeds for humanity and profess his sympathy with President Wilson's appeal for justice, forbearance and respect for national rights at the very time when he is publicly engaged in one of the most cynical and callous transactions known to history," says the Westminster Gazette. This newspaper says it is obliged to say to Von Hertling quite frankly that the mind to peace among the western nations—"the mind which seeks peace on an abiding and honorable condition"—every day being chilled and alienated by the disclosures of the real Germany in her dealings with Russia.

Trampled Under Foot. "We see every one of the four principles defined by President Wilson, to which the German chancellor does lip service," the Westminster Gazette continues, "being trampled under foot." The Globe says: "Von Hertling's present duty is to supply the cannon flag behind which the real sovereign power of Germany, the great general staff, carries on its operations. It is Von Hertling's business to entangle some or all of the Allies in negotiations, as Von Kuehlmann (the German foreign secretary) entangled the deluded Russians and then Von Hindenburg and Ludendorff, the real sovereign power, will settle the terms and policy on the admirable principles of Brest-Litovsk."

Unhappy Russia. The Evening Standard in an editorial treats the chancellor's address as follows: "When the German chancellor speaks peace we know what kind of peace he means. We have seen a specimen of it in the case of unhappy Russia."

This newspaper then parallels excerpts from Von Hertling's speech and the report of Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, on the attitude of American workmen as regards conferences with German labor and adds: "This clear vision of the American people, labor included, sees that the only effect of a conference with the German people in their present mood would be a weakening of our moral case, the encouragement of the national wills, the discouragement of governments."

NFLD. CONSECRATION IS POSTPONED

Florizel Disaster Dislocates Communication and Canadian Prelates Cannot Arrive in Time.

St. John's Nfld., Feb. 26.—Owing to the dislocating of communications as a result of the Florizel disaster the consecration of Rev. Canon White, Anglican bishop-elect, of Newfoundland, previously fixed for Friday March first, is postponed until Sunday, March 10, when it is hoped to have it take place in the cathedral of St. John's as already arranged. The bishops for the ceremony are expected to leave Halifax via North Sydney

BOLSHEVIK GOV'T MAKES READY TO QUIT PETROGRAD

German Army Rapidly Marching on Capital and Only Eight Hours Advance Between it and Petrograd Late Monday—Enemy May Be at Gates of City—United States, Japanese and Chinese Diplomats Abandoning City.

Germany Formally Refuses to Grant Armistice—Government May Attempt to Re-Establish Itself in Moscow or Another City—One Report Says Bolshevik Headquarters Transferred from Smolny Institute to a Military Camp—Some Opposition to Advancing Enemy.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The state department was advised by Ambassador Francis today that on yesterday the German army was only eight hours' march from Petrograd and that he was preparing to leave the Russian capital with his staff.

The message, which was dated yesterday and sent by way of Peking, said Mr. Francis would join the Chinese and Japanese diplomats, also preparing to leave. It did not refer to plans of the European diplomats.

No Armistice. Petrograd, Feb. 26.—(British Admiralty per wireless press)—"Germany has formally refused to grant an armistice, and German detachments continue to advance," says an official statement issued today. "Resistance thus becomes the principal task of the revolution."

"Russia's greatest strength lies in her wide territories and the government can, and if need be, will retreat. If the threat against Petrograd increases, the government will remove to Moscow or another city."

Germany Move Hastily. London, Feb. 26.—A Petrograd despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company, dated Monday, says: "That resistance to the German advance is growing is shown by the reports of fighting which continues in the vicinity of Pskov. This town has changed hands several times. The German detachments which first entered Pskov were very small, but they have since been reinforced. "There is a general belief that the Germans are moving forward hastily because supplies of ammunition worth four hundred million rubles are concentrated in the neighborhood of Pskov. The Russians, however, are taking measures to guard the railway and are sending more soviet troops to Pskov."

Later advices say that the soviet armies are now everywhere resisting the invaders. At Narva the garrison and workmen have formed an army of ten thousand and some to Rerval. There are similar reports from Walk. Great activity is manifested at the Bolshevik headquarters in Petrograd and arms and ammunition are being distributed.

Transfer Headquarters. London, Feb. 26.—The Bolshevik headquarters have been transferred from the Smolny Institute in Petrograd to a military camp, according to an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Petrograd dated Monday. At this camp the despatch reports, the workmen of the city are assembling en masse, carrying red banners and fighting detachments are being formed continually.

Fall of Pskov. Petrograd, Feb. 25.—Blaring sirens awoke sleeping Petrograd last evening signifying to the inhabitants that the Germans had entered Pskov. The blast of the whistles also served as a summons to begin digging trenches for the defence of the capital. "There are varying reports of what happened at Pskov when the Germans occupied the city. One account has it that a small German detachment entered Pskov and subsequently retired. Another report says German armored train came from Ostrov which had been previously occupied, while a third speaks of street fighting. Regarding Ostrov, it is stated that an armored airplane acted as a scout for German cavalry advancing along the railway. When the airplane hovering over Ostrov signalled that the evacuation had begun, the cavalry rushed up at full gallop.

next Saturday, and if railroad conditions are unfavorable they will be brought by steamer from Port Aux Basques to Piacentia, and thence to St. John's by train.

DISORDER AT TEMPERANCE CONVENTION

Returned Soldiers Interrupt Hon. Mr. Calder and Are Ejected.

OBJECTED TO THE "TEMPERANCE CRANKS"

Hon. Mr. Calder Declares There May be Conscription for the Farms.

Toronto, Feb. 26.—Emphatic declarations that the government has every intention of fulfilling the pledges made in the recent campaign in connection with temperance and civil service reform and the abolition of the patronage evil were made by Hon. J. A. Calder, Minister of Immigration and Colonization at the mass meeting at Massey Hall tonight which brought to a close the first day's proceedings of the annual convention of the Ontario branch of the Dominion Alliance. Mr. Calder also urged the practicing of thrift and greater production of foodstuffs to avert a famine in the allied countries.

Farm Conscription. He hinted that the time was not far distant when the government would enforce a measure conscripting men for farm work in an effort to increase production following this up by stating that Canadians must be ready with their money in order that the country could finance its war expenditures. He announced that civil service reform would be completed at the next session of parliament.

At this point a number of returned soldiers who had interrupted Mr. Calder earlier in his speech, became noisier than before, one of them calling out "The men who drink beer are the ones who are fighting at the front not a bunch of temperance cranks." Refusing to stop shouting, they were finally forcibly ejected and Mr. Calder continued his speech.

THE GOV'T GOT 27,702 VOTES OF SOLDIERS

Men in Khaki in Canada Gave Only 3,702 to Laurier Opposition—15,981 Ballots Rejected.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Feb. 26.—Of the total soldier vote polled in Canada nearly 80 per cent was recorded in favor of the government. The total number of votes cast was 54,500 but as 15,981 envelopes containing ballots were rejected because misdirected the actual number of ballots counted was 38,539. Of this number no fewer than 3,702 ballots were rejected because spoiled, making the total number of ballots accepted 34,837.

Of this number the government received 27,702 and the Laurier opposition 3,702, the balance going to independents and laborites. Following is the vote by provinces:

Province.	Govt.	Opp.
Ontario	13,611	1,146
Quebec	2,650	987
Nova Scotia	1,615	417
New Brunswick	1,271	180
Manitoba	2,980	140
British Columbia	3,882	454
P. E. Island	374	110
Saskatchewan	1,767	129
Alberta	1,644	125

ELEVEN BODIES

St. John's Nfld., Feb. 26.—Four more bodies from the wreck of the Florizel were brought to this city today. Two were identified as Spanish stokers, the third as a seaman named Molloy. The identity of the fourth was uncertain. The bodies were picked up last night, making eleven of the 21 lost which have been recovered.

HUN CHANCELLOR SEEKS TO DIVIDE BRITISH OPINION

Von Hertling Would Like to Create Greater Demand for Peace in England—Says General Peace is Possible of Discussion on Basis of President Wilson's Four Principles, But Hedges by Qualifications—Says Britain's War Aims Imperialistic.

Although Russians Have Accepted Germany's Proposals for Peace Germans Are Continuing Inroads Into Great and Little Russia—Considerable Fighting Takes Place Around the Town of Pskov, Which Has Changed Hands Several Times.

The German imperial chancellor again has told the Reichstag that a general peace is possible of discussion on the basis of the four essential principles laid down some time ago by President Wilson in an address to Congress.

Almost in the same breath, however, the usual qualifications were entwined about his utterances, leaving the suspicion that the Central Powers, if they are desirous of peace, still have their old ideals of a victorious peace to the fore.

Conditional upon the acceptance even of the principles of President Wilson was the declaration by Chancellor Von Hertling that they must not only be proposed by the president but actually be recognized by all states and peoples. In addition there was no court of arbitration in which Germany could place her trust, he said. The old accusation that Great Britain's war aims are imperialistic was reiterated by the chancellor.

As if endeavoring to divide the sentiment of the people of Great Britain, the spokesman for the German government declared that the world is longing for peace, but that the governments of countries enemy to Germany were inflaming the passion for war. "There are," he added, "dramatically," other voices to be heard in England. It is hoped these voices will multiply."

Devoid of Rancor. As a whole the chancellor's address was devoid of rancor, the speaker seemingly having as his purpose to paint a picture to those at home who are dissatisfied with the war in general and the resumption of hostilities against Russia, how generous Germany is inclined to be. To this end he went to the point of declaring that Germany had no desire to retain conquered territory in Courland, Esthonia, Lithuania and Livonia within her grasp. In fact the broad assertion was made that Germany's present operations in Russia were being carried out solely to secure the fruits of the peace she had signed with the Ukraine.

More Trouble in Ireland. Additional Soldiers Dispatched to Aid Police.

London, Feb. 26.—The outbreak of lawlessness in County Clare, Ireland, is announced officially, rendered necessary Sunday the sending of additional troops to the county to assist the police.

County Clare has been declared a special area under the Defence of the Realm Act.

TRACTORS FOR NOVA SCOTIA. Agricultural Department Prepares for Increase Production Campaign.

Halifax, Feb. 26.—Principal Cumming, secretary for agriculture for Nova Scotia, has returned from Ottawa where he is attending meetings, at which increased production was the subject under consideration, some of the provincial premiers taking part in the conference. Premier Murray will arrive back tomorrow.

Mr. Cumming says he obtained six Ford tractors for the government of Nova Scotia which can be given to farmers in this province in accordance with a promise made by Henry Ford who was in Halifax some months ago, at something less than half the market price. Mr. Cumming adds that several additional cars of these tractors will be available for Nova Scotia at the same figure.

WEALTHY HUN IS ARRESTED IN NEW YORK

Alleged Attempt to Corner the World's Wool Market.

WOULD SAVE TRADE FOR GERMAN EMPIRE

Arrested Wool Merchant Also Maintained Boston House.

New York, Feb. 26.—Alleged to be agent in the United States for German interests who have been seeking to corner the world's wool market, Eugene Schwerdt, a wealthy wool merchant of New York and Boston is under arrest here as an enemy alien and will be interned.

According to Deputy Attorney General Alfred L. Becker, Schwerdt was in correspondence with H. F. Albert, former financial agent here for the German government.

Although claiming to be a Belgian citizen, Schwerdt was in fact born in Muenster, Germany. He resided in Belgium but came to the United States in 1914 at the time of the German bombardment of Antwerp.

The Bolo Case. Schwerdt's alleged activities were disclosed to the fuel authorities by the attorney general of New York state, Schwerdt's name having appeared in the correspondence of Hugo Schmidt, banker, and alleged paymaster in the Bolo Pasha case, which the attorney general investigated.

The plan of Schwerdt and his associates, according to the attorney general was to minimize the effects of a possible British economic embargo against Germany after the war by making it possible for German interests in America to ward their great stocks which it was intended to send to Germany when peace came.

Schwerdt's son, Eugene, Jr., employed by Charles E. Webb, of Philadelphia is said by the authorities to have travelled throughout Southern America apparently for the purpose of purchasing wool. What connection, if any, this has with his father's arrest was not disclosed.

Schwerdt said he did not know why he had been arrested unless it was in connection with a shipment of wool he made to Germany, but this was made two years ago, he said, with the permission of the American and British governments. Schwerdt has relatives in Germany, according to his wife, who is American born.

Have Been Investigating. Boston, Feb. 26.—Leon Brin, who is manager of Boston office of Eugene Schwerdt, a wool merchant, arrested in New York, said that Schwerdt's affairs had been under investigation by government authorities some time, but so far as he knew no books and papers had been seized here. Copies had been made of some of the papers, he said.

PLUMBERS TO AND HALIFAX

Will Forego Advance on Work of Emergency as Result of Explosion.

Halifax, Feb. 26.—Since the disaster in Halifax the relief commission and the committees engaged in providing temporary houses and repairing those capable of being made habitable, could not obtain the service of Halifax plumbers for work beyond their eight hours a day without paying a fifty per cent advance on week days and a hundred per cent advance on Sundays. J. W. Bruce of Ottawa, general organizer of the United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters of Canada, came to Halifax to arrange the difficulty if it were possible to do this.

He has succeeded and an agreement has been effected under which the Plumbers' Union of Halifax will allow its members to work without these advances in cases of emergency for the relief commission until May 1st. At that date a new arrangement will be considered for the future.