

THE WEATHER.  
Maritime—Fresh northerly to westerly winds, fair, not much change in temperature.

# The St. John's Standard

OPERA HOUSE  
TODAY  
Afternoon 2:15 and 5:45  
Evening 7:15 and 9:45  
MAY MURRAY IN  
TO HAVE AND TO HOLD

VOL. VIII, NO. 58. TEN PAGES THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 1, 1916. PRICE TWO CENTS

## ASQUITH GIVES PEACE TALK QUIETUS; FRENCH NOW ATTACKERS AT VERDUN

### GEN. HUGHES FIGHTS HIS ENEMIES TO STANDSTILL

Opposition Counsel Haven't Word to Say After Minister of Militia Finishes Evidence Before Meredith-Duff Commission—Charges Enemies with Hiring Agents to Steal Documents in New York—Carvell Silent as He Sees His Schemes Shattered and Himself Discredited.

Special to The Standard.  
Ottawa, May 31.—With the conclusion of the evidence of General Sir Sam Hughes, this afternoon, there was brought to an end one of the most spectacular exhibitions that has been staged for many a year in any Canadian court. For a soldier, General Hughes made a great witness, and though faced by one of the keenest legal minds in the Dominion, Mr. Johnston, K. C., a discriminating audience gave the verdict to the soldier. A significant feature was that when Mr. Johnston had finished not one of the remaining quartette of opposition lawyers headed by Mr. Carvell had a single question to ask. The Minister of Militia had fought them all to a standstill.

**CARVELL SILENT.**  
All eyes were turned towards Mr. Carvell, but he sat still in his place. He had no questions to ask and nothing to say. His fighting inclinations all seemed to have vanished and the crowded court-room was surprised. Mr. Carvell had threatened General Hughes in the House of Commons with what he was going to do to him in the way of exposure. In fact he had hinted that he would no longer be Minister of Militia when he would have done with him. But the member for Carleton, N. B., failed to make good his threats.  
The Minister of Militia lived up to his reputation of courage and fair fighting. Mr. Johnston trained all the big shot at his command on Sir Sam, but the latter never flinched. In fact he had Mr. Johnston on the defensive many times. He told his lawyer opponent that one of his questions was "trifle" and insisted on him straightening out and revising many of the questions before he would answer them.  
Sir Sam plainly showed his impatience at being compelled to sit in a witness box and hearken back in memory to dates and incidents of nearly two years ago. He was chafing at the bit and it was very evident that he wished to be back again at his work, organizing, equipping and transporting Canadian soldiers to the theatre of war.  
Standing room was at premium during all the time that Sir Sam was in the witness box, and the atmosphere was at tension point all the time. Sir William Meredith and Mr. Justice Duff seemed to enjoy and appreciate the situation as much as any spectator in the court and while the Minister of Militia needed no protection, it was evident that the commissioners would not allow opposition counsel to take any advantage of the minister's desire to tell all he knew about the matters under investigation.

**NO DESIRE TO WITHHOLD FACTS.**  
In fact Mr. Justice Duff was objecting to Mr. Johnston placing certain correspondence on file but the Minister of Militia stated that he had no objection to its being read and put on file as far as he was concerned and that he had nothing to fear.  
The climax to his evidence came when Sir Sam charged his enemies with hiring men to steal documents in New York and while Sir William Meredith was indignant at such tactics being employed the minister seemed to regard it as part of the game. He gave and took no quarter, and was thus true to his whole career as a fighting man.  
It is plain that the inquiry cannot last much longer as there are very few more witnesses to call and another four or five days should see the conclusion of the investigation. Unless Mr. Johnston and Mr. Carvell spring something sensational, it is not probable that much new ground will be broken until the end. The chief feature of the whole investigation has been the striking evidence of General Bertram, Colonel Carnegie and General Hughes which revealed for the first time to the Canadian public the magnificent and patriotic work performed by the old shell committee who in return received abuse and have been attacked on all sides. The work of Mr. Helmuth, K. C., as government counsel has been the subject for praise on all sides, and much of the cross examination has lost its sting by the complete manner in which Mr. Helmuth conducted the direct examination.

Ottawa, May 31.—It was a quiet afternoon with the Meredith-Duff case inquiry. Sir Sam Hughes' evidence was concluded after two sessions brimful of warm exchanges between the minister and counsel, and some sensations in the way of evidence. The general was apparently undisturbed as he quit the stand.  
The commission resumes tomorrow.

**T. A. Russell on Stand.**  
Mr. T. A. Russell, of the Russell Motor Car Company, of Toronto, followed and was in the witness box all afternoon. His evidence consisted largely of repetitions of that given by Mr. Lloyd Harris, his associate in business, but covered less ground, and the cross-examination had not been reached on adjournment for the day.  
Russell dwelt on the unsuccessful efforts of his company to secure a fuse contract about the time the orders were placed in the United States, but said that later his company had secured a contract for fuse fuses. On this order there had been a time extension, the witness said, partly owing to a change in the gauges by the war office. Figures were introduced showing the deliveries on the amended order. About \$70,000 worth of the work had been done outside of Canada, Russell said, and the "loading" is to be done in the plant of the Imperial Munitions Board at Montreal.  
Mr. Russell stated that his understanding was the same as his partner's in regard to Col. Carnegie's statement that no advances had been made to the American contractors, but said that he and the colonel had had a conversation last November and had agreed to "bury the hatchet." He accepted Col. Carnegie's denial that advances had only been given on the cartridge case contract.

**ALL-CANADIAN FLYING CORPS MAY BE FORMED**  
London, May 31. (Montreal Gazette cable)—Canadian aviators with the Royal Flying Corps are advocating the formation of an all-Canadian flying corps. They say that over sixty would join at once, and that the strength of the corps would be largely increased from the graduates of the aviation schools in Canada and the United States, where a large proportion of the pupils are Canadians training for war service.

### CHURCHILL'S CRITICISM ANSWERED

Speech on Military Matters Last Week Dealt with in Commons.

**ASQUITH'S GLOWING TRIBUTE TO "K. OF K."**  
Premier Backs Up Grey's Statements on Peace Question and Sounds Death Knell of Premature Peace Idea.

London, May 31.—Premier Asquith stated in the House of Commons today, in answer to a question put by Sir Arthur B. Mackinnon, Liberal member for the Mansfield Division of Nottinghamshire, that there was nothing in the statement made by Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German imperial chancellor, that indicated Germany was prepared to consider terms of peace which would safeguard the interests of the Entente Allies and the future peace of Europe.  
The premier said he did not think he could usefully say anything to the speech made last week by Sir Edward Grey.  
Sir Arthur's question apparently was designed finally to set at rest any suggestion that the Allies were prepared to accept intervention in putting his question he referred to the fact that in the German reply to the latest American note it was pointed out that Germany had twice announced her readiness to make peace. He then asked whether the Allies were prepared to avail themselves of the good offices of a neutral state in order to communicate to the German government definite terms on which they would be willing to make peace, provided the German government were prepared to make in the same way and at the same time a communication to the Allies of definite terms on which Germany was willing to make peace.  
The premier's reply was received with cheers.  
The vote for the salary of Earl Kitchener as secretary of war, being before the House of Commons today, the members had an opportunity to discuss the general conduct of the war. In introducing the vote Harold J. Tennant, parliamentary secretary for war, replied to the speech made last week by Winston Spencer Churchill, in which he said the post-Continued on page two.

**GERMAN AND BULGAR CAMPS AT GIEVGLI BOMBED BY ALLIES**  
New York, May 31.—According to a Journal desceit from Saloniki today, French aeroplanes have bombed the German and Bulgarian encampments at Gievglis. There were numerous casualties. There are important movements of Bulgarian troops in Greek Macedonia, but the military authorities state there has been no further fighting in the region of Demir Hisar.

**Attacking Columns of Austrians Mowed Down by Italians**  
Rome, via London, June 1.—The official statement from general headquarters, issued today, reads: "On the heights north of the Valley of the Ledro and in the Riva some numerous enemy movements were evident, with unaccounted activity in defensive work."  
"In the valley of Lagarina violent enemy attacks were renewed with great bravery, after intense artillery preparation with guns of large calibre, but were repulsed, with the annihilation of the attacking columns. The fighting was of the fiercest around Col Di Buole, where the gallant infantry of the sixty-second Regiment, Sicilian brigade, and the two companies and Seventh Regiment, Taro brigade, repeatedly made sallies from their trenches, pursuing the enemy with the bayonet."  
"In the Passubio sector there was an artillery duel. An enemy attack in the direction of Foral Alti was repulsed."  
"Between Postina and the Upper Astico the battle is developing, the enemy concentrating particularly in the Astico Valley. We repulsed a morning attack in the Campiella zone."  
"Further east the concentration of the enemy artillery fire compelled us to evacuate a position on Monte Prial-Fo-A, but a desperate counter-attack regained the position for us. Nevertheless, owing to the violent enemy artillery fire, our troops withdrew slightly on the southern slopes of the mountain."  
"On the plateau of Asiago we evacuated Punta Corbin, but continue to withstand the enemy pressure along the remainder of the front."  
"In Carnia and on the Isonzo there has been intermittent artillery activity, more intense in the Upper and in the San Martino zone. Our infantry made a bold raid into the enemy's lines."

**Count Tisza ON THE PEACE PROSPECTS**  
"Strong Man" of Dual Monarchy Makes Hair-splitting Distinctions.

Berlin, May 31, via London, June 1.—Count Tisza, the Hungarian premier, known as the "strong man" of Austria-Hungary, in an interview accorded to a correspondent of the Berlin Tageblatt, expressed himself very cautiously with regard to the prospects for peace and on the situation so far as the readiness of Germany and Austria-Hungary is concerned.  
"But," said Count Tisza, "the Entente is yet unwilling to draw the consequences from this situation."  
The premier made a sharp distinction between subjective and objective pre-conditions for peace conditions, saying: "The objective pre-conditions for peace conditions, which I have been existing for the Central Powers, have undoubtedly been strengthened during recent months. The final event which we could desire to happen before embarking on peace negotiations is now occurring—the expulsion of the Italians from Austrian soil."  
"An improvement in the objective premises is also registered in the enemy camp, where there is no longer talk of smashing up Germany and that subjective pre-conditions of peace exist, although I fall to see whereon our enemies still base their hopes. The expectations they based upon the entrance of Italy into the war, the attitude of Roumania and the United States and upon the Balkan adventure, have proved erroneous. Now, as before, it depends solely upon our enemies when peace is restored."  
"From the moment when we destroyed the aggressive intentions of our adversaries, we made no secret of our willingness for peace. Like Von Bethmann-Hollweg and Grey I, too, desire a peace which will assure to Europe permanent quiet. The history of this war shows where Austria-Hungary must seek security for such a peace, and it is unnecessary for me to express myself upon the extent of the guarantees necessary for this."

**GENERAL SUP'T OF G.T.R. DIES SUDDENLY IN PRIVATE GAR**  
Hugh F. Coyle Passes Away While Returning After Visit to Son at Meadville, P. A.

Jamestown, N. Y., May 31.—Hugh F. Coyle, general superintendent of the Grand Trunk Railway, died suddenly on his private car, attached to an Erie train for Buffalo, near Kenady station, about six o'clock this afternoon. Death was due to heart trouble. He had been visiting his son, E. B. Coyle, chief dispatcher of the Erie, at Meadville, Penna. Mr. Coyle was formerly an Erie official at Meadville, but had been with the Grand Trunk many years.

Berlin, May 31, via London, June 1.—The following official communication was issued today: "A submarine has just returned from the Atlantic, where it was pursued and fired upon by two freighters it had attempted to halt. The first steamer was a 3,000-ton vessel, without neutral distinguishing marks, which the submarine tried to stop, May 2, near Ushant (Department of Finistere, France), by firing a warning shot. After a few minutes the steamer opened fire from a five centimetre gun. The U-boat escaped by putting on high speed."  
"The afternoon of the following day the same submarine pursued a big steamer and fired a warning shot at a great steamer, whereupon the steamer opened fire from a 10 or 15 centimetre gun. The U-boat escaped by putting on high speed."

**GERMAN "U" BOAT CHASED BY FREIGHTERS**  
Back in Home Waters After Thrilling Experiences in the Atlantic.

**BELIEVE AUTO BANDITS ON WAY TO CANADA**  
Wanted for Murder of Two Policemen in St. Louis—Authorities Expect they Will Try to Enlist in Ontario.

London, Ont., May 31.—The London police department is in receipt of a communication from the chief of police at St. Louis, Mo., warning the local authorities to be on the watch for three auto bandits, wanted in St. Louis for the murder of two policemen there.  
It is believed by the St. Louis police that the men, whose names are given as Frank Lewis, Ora Lewis and Roy J. Lewis, and are alleged to be brothers, have escaped to Ontario and will endeavor to enlist in some of the overseas battalions preparing to depart for the front.

**AMHERST GIVES MEN OF 193RD FINE SEND-OFF**  
Special to The Standard.  
Amherst, May 31.—Marching through streets gay with flags and bunting, B Company of the 193rd Battalion, who have been quartered at Amherst for the past winter, entrained at noon today for Aldershot. The 160th French Canadian Battalion acted as a guard of honor and lined the streets while the company of "Amherst Best" paraded for the final time. Mayor Moffatt read Major McLean, officers and men of the company a farewell address, to which the officers replied with a few words. All along the line, the Amherst company will be joined by detachments from Cumberland.

The Springhill detachment, numbering seventy in all, entrained for the Nova Scotia military camp this morning and met the Amherstonians at the Junction.

**DECLARES ENTENTE HAVE MISCALCULATED**  
Convinced to Own Satisfactory Past is Willing for Peace.

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**FRENCH DEAL HEAVY BLOW ON ENEMY AT MORT HOMME**  
In Spirited Attack Drive Hun's from Strongly Organized Positions, Capture Seven Machine Guns and 225 Prisoners—Hill 304 Again Under Fire—British Push Still Further into Interior of German East Africa.

The French troops northwest of Verdun, in the region of Le Mort Homme, have turned on the offensive against the Germans, and in a spirited attack have captured a strongly organized position on the slopes southwest of Le Mort Homme. Seven machine guns and 225 prisoners were taken in the attack, which was the only infantry fighting on Wednesday reported in the latest French official communication.  
The towns of Avocourt and Hill 304, in this immediate vicinity, are under a heavy bombardment, and shells of large calibre are being used. Bombardments also are in progress north of Verdun, from the Meuse river to Fort Vaux, and up in the Vosges mountains, in the Hartmannsweller-Kopf region.  
On the Asiago-Arlesio sector of the Austro-Italian front the Austrians have taken additional points of vantage from the Italians, and put down attempts by King Emmanuel's men to recover lost ground. According to the Austrian communication during the present offensive the Austrians have captured 31,083 Italians and 293 cannon. The Italian war office admits the occupation of positions at Monte Pralora and Puntocrocin, on the Asiago plateau.  
The lake region south of Drivack, on the Russian front, is again the scene of heavy bombardments, probably the prelude to more infantry fighting. Farther south, on the Volynian front and along the Besarezian border, there is increased activity by the Teutons and Russians.  
Petrograd reports the capture of a Russian position in the region of Diarbekr, but says the Russians, in a counter-attack, ejected the invaders.  
Nothing new has come through concerning the invasion of Greek Macedonia by the Bulgars and Germans, but on the extreme western part of the Balkan front the Austrians along the Vovussa river, in Albania, have pursued Italian patrols.  
The British invasion of German East Africa continues, and has reached a strongly entrenched German position between the Eszara mountains and the Banagi river, where a fight seems probable.

**Hill 304 Still Under Fire.**  
Paris, May 31.—The official communication issued tonight by the war office reads: "On the left bank of the Meuse there was a violent bombardment with shells of large calibre in the region of Avocourt and Hill 304."  
"In the afternoon in a spirited attack, our troops gained possession of a German work strongly organized on the slopes to the southwest of Le Mort Homme. We took 225 prisoners, including 5 officers and captured seven machine guns."

**WILL TAKE AN INVENTORY OF WOOL SUPPLY**  
Merchants and Manufacturers Must Furnish Government with List of Supplies of Over 5,000 lbs.

London, May 31.—The war office has issued a notice ordering merchants and manufacturers to furnish it with a list of all wool and wool products in quantities exceeding 5,000 pounds in weight in their custody or control. The information must be furnished before June 6, under penalty of a violation of the defence of the realm act.  
It is understood that the result of the census will influence a decision on pending questions concerning the control of the exportation of wool from South Africa and the United Kingdom to the United States.

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**RUSSIAN COUNTER-THRUST SUCCESSFUL**  
Petrograd, via London, May 31, 9:02 p. m.—The following official communication was issued today: "In the lake region south of Drivack the enemy artillery has been active at many points. Enemy aerial reconnaissances are increasing in activity over the whole front. One of our aeroplanes fought an enemy Albatross with a machine gun. The Albatross was brought down northwest of Baranovitch, enveloped in smoke."  
"In the Caucasus region, in the direction of Diarbekr, on Sunday the Turks opened an offensive from the direction of Gghnote on Marghabzar, and a portion of their forces occupied Geniret. Our troops then took the offensive and ejected them."

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