

**THE WEATHER.**  
Maritime—Strong winds and  
gales from eastward with snow  
or sleet in southern districts.

# The St. John Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

**OPERA HOUSE**  
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## FRENCH LINE UNBROKEN WHILE CROWN PRINCE SACRIFICES MEN AND AMMUNITION

### PEACE BUT NOT AT COST OF HONOR, WILSON SAYS

**BELIEVES APPARENTLY INSUPERABLE OBSTACLES WILL BE REMOVED, BUT SEES DUTY CLEARLY AND TO FORBID AMERICANS TO TRAVEL ON BELLIGERENTS' VESSELS WOULD BE ADMISSION OF FEAR AND ABDICATION OF NATION'S PROUD POSITION OF SPOKESMEN FOR THE LAW AND THE RIGHT.**

Washington, Feb. 24.—President Wilson, at the end of two days of agitation in Congress for some action warning Americans of armed merchant ships of the European belligerents tonight wrote Senator Stone, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, that he could not consent to any abridgement of the rights of American citizens in any respect.

"February 24, 1916.  
My Dear Senator:  
I very warmly appreciate your kind and frank letter of today, and feel that it calls for an equally frank reply.  
You are right in assuming that I shall do everything in my power to keep the United States out of war. I think the country will feel no uneasiness about my course in that respect. Through many anxious months I have striven for the object, amidst difficulties more manifold than can have been apparent upon the surface, and so far I have succeeded. I do not doubt that I shall continue to succeed. The course which the Central Powers have announced their intention of following in the future will regard to the question of their good faith or their ability to keep their promises in the past, and I, for one, feel confident that we shall have none in the future.  
Peace, but not at the cost of honor. But not at the cost of honor. No nation, no group of nations, has the right white war is in progress, to alter or disregard the principles which all nations have agreed upon in mitigation of the horrors and sufferings of war, and if the clear rights of American citizens should ever unhappily be abridged or denied by any such action, we should, it seems to me, have in honor to choose as to what our own course should be.  
For my own part, I cannot consent to any abridgement of the rights of American citizens in any respect. The honor and self-respect of the nation is involved. We covet peace, and shall preserve it at any cost, but the loss of honor, to forbid our people to exercise their rights for fear we might be called upon to vindicate them would be a deep humiliation indeed. It would be an implicit, all but an explicit, acquiescence everywhere, and of whatever nation or allegiance, that it would be a deliberate abdication of our hitherto proud position as spokesmen, even amidst the turmoil of war, for the law and the right. It would make everything this government has attempted, and everything that it has achieved during this terrible struggle of nations, meaningless and futile.  
It is important to reflect that if, in this instance, we allowed expediency to take the place of principle, the door would, inevitably, be opened to still further concessions. Once accepted, a single statement of right and many other humiliations would certainly follow, and the whole fine fabric of international law might crumble under our hands, piece by piece. What we are contending for in this matter is of the very essence of the things that have made America a sovereign nation. She cannot yield them without conceding her own impotency as a nation, and making virtual surrender of her independent position among the nations of the world.  
I am speaking, my dear senator, in deep solemnity, without heat, with a clear consciousness of the high responsibilities of my office, and as your sincere and devoted friend. If we should, unhappily, differ, we shall differ as friends; but where issues as momentous as those are involved, we must, just because we are friends, speak our minds without reservation.  
Faithfully yours,  
Woodrow Wilson.  
The president's letter was in answer to one written late this afternoon by Senator Stone, outlining the situation existing at the capital, where since yesterday morning, persistent demands had been made for some action which might lessen the possibility of war between the United States and Germany. The president's statement will be repeated tomorrow morning to Speaker Clark, Representative Kitchin, majority leader, and Representative Flood, chairman of the house foreign affairs committee, who last today asked for an engagement in order to explain the position in which the house found itself and ask the president for a statement of the administration's views.  
The president wrote his letter during the afternoon, shutting himself in his study while congress leaders vainly attempted to get him on the telephone to tell him of developments at the capital, and to arrange for the call of the house leaders. He began to write after telephone conferences with cabinet members and other close advisers. His decision was to end all speculation over what the position of the government was, and to let congress and the country know that the administration believed the United States could do nothing but stand behind the right of its citizens to the freedom of the seas.  
The president's letter was necessary for a new complement of officers for that company to be supplied.  
Lt. J. C. McFadden, who recently completed his qualifying course at Halifax may return there as one of the officers. Appointments will be made, it is expected, within a comparatively short time.

### Derby Heads Joint Board To Control Air Defences

London, Feb. 24.—Lord Derby's acceptance of the chairmanship of a joint naval and military board to control the British air service was announced in the House of Commons this afternoon by Premier Asquith. The position is not a salaried one.

**CALL THE MARRIED MEN IN GROUPS.**  
All the groups of married men who attended for service in the army under Lord Derby's scheme will be called for service in batches, according to the Central News.  
Beginning April 29 with the younger groups, the men of 24 to 33 years old will be called on, and subsequently the men will be summoned as follows:  
May 13, men of 34 to 35 years; May 27, men 37 to 39; June 10, men 40 to 42, and June 24, men aged 43 to 45. The oldest group, men 45 years of age, will be called on July 8. These arrangements are provisional.

### "Scrappy" Talk From German Newspaper

The Hague, Feb. 23, via London, Feb. 24.—Berlin newspapers publish a despatch from the United States press of Ambassador von Bernstorff on the ground that he has misused his diplomatic position by attempting to influence public opinion. His position is described in this despatch as shaken.  
The Cologne Gazette has published an editorial on this subject, denouncing the ambassador. It attributes attacks upon him to the exigencies of the party politics in America, and continues:  
"Germany must go ahead in the course chosen without regard to the changing currents of American politics. Otherwise her head will grow dizzy and her feet will slip."  
"If England succeeds in influencing the American government to enter a protest," the Gazette adds, "we shall prefer to let the breach come, rather than to yield to the protest; and that is the will of the entire German people. We have reached the limit of our patience as far as America is concerned."

### BRITISH ISLES STORM SWEEPED, 10 LIVES LOST

Extensive Damage Along Water Fronts—Steamer Sunk and Crew Drowned.

London, Feb. 25.—Ten lives were lost and extensive damage was done to shipping, as a result of yesterday's snowstorm which swept the British isles. Nine men of the steamer Carlton were drowned when the vessel sank during the gale of Deal. In Birmingham, where eight inches of snow fell, a woman died in the streets as a result of the intense cold.  
Reports from the provinces show snow falls in various parts of England, varying from five to ten inches in depth. Only two inches fell in London, but traffic was greatly hampered because men were unavailable to clear the snow away. The need of men for the same purpose also was felt in the provinces.

### ALLIED FLEET SUPREME IN ADRIATIC

Paris, Feb. 24.—According to a Rome despatch to the Havas Agency, Royal personages, Italian or foreign, have on six occasions since the middle of December, been transported from one side of the Adriatic to the other under escort of Allied warships, notwithstanding constant enemy activity with aeroplanes, mines, squadrons of destroyers, together with nineteen attacks by submarines.  
In the same period, under similar conditions, 360,000 troops and a large number of animals have been transported in 256 steamers.

### SHELL FOR SHELL FRENCH GUNS ANSWER GERMAN FIRE

**Huns Hurl Masses of Men at French Line, at Cost of Thousands of Lives, but So Far Fail to Make Breach—Defenders Confident and Serene—Hinted That Dynastic Reasons Led to Stab at Verdun.**

### WANTS FRIENDLY ASSURANCE FROM ROUMANIA

**Austro-Bulgar Combine Fears Roumania's Recent Movements Spell Danger to Teutons.**

### PARIS WAITS IN VAIN FOR ZEPPELIN RAID.

**Huns on Eastern Front Give Women Posts of Danger—Russian Submarine Twice Escapes Aircraft.**

Paris, Feb. 24.—The lights of Paris were lowered at eleven o'clock tonight the military governor having issued a warning of the threatened approach of an airship. As the airship did not appear the lights were turned on again at 11.40, when all danger was declared over.  
Roumania Has Them Worried.  
Zurich, via London, Feb. 24.—The Premier Lloyd says that a joint Austro-Bulgarian note to Roumania, presented last Monday, invites amicable assurances regarding the constant strengthening of troops and fortifications near the Bulgarian frontier.  
German Cowardice.  
Petrograd, via London, Feb. 24.—The following official communication was issued today:  
"In the region of Riga and the Drina, on the Oger sector, German aeroplanes dropped bombs. In the region of Oger the enemy developed violent night firing, which was followed by a movement toward our trenches of scouts who were clad in white raiment, and who were repulsed by our fire."  
"On the Drinsk sector, near the Poneviesch railway and north of Cartorysk, our detachments checked the enemy and made some prisoners."  
"In the region of Peliu, southwest of Olyka, the enemy sent women, probably Russian, to work in the positions most exposed to our fire."  
"In Galicia, northwest of Ternopol, and near the villages of Ghidshi and Vorobievka, the enemy dug a small mine and occupied the crater. The enemy vainly bombarded the scene of the explosion with mines and trench mortars, throwing projectiles which made, in their flight, a noise like that of a revolving propeller."  
"In the Black Sea, near the Bosphorus, one of our submarines was twice attacked by two aeroplanes, but without result. The submarine destroyed a sailing ship loaded with coal."  
"On the Caucasus front we continue to press the enemy successfully."

### ST. JOHN MAN IS KILLED IN ACTION

Ottawa, Feb. 24.—The names of two New Brunswick men and one Nova Scotia man on the midnight casualty list issued tonight.  
Twenty-sixth Battalion  
Killed in action—Nelson McEgan, 22 March street, St. John, N. B.  
Thirtieth Battalion  
Wounded, returned to duty—Lance Corporal W. A. Gordon, Penniac, N. B.  
Fifty-fifth Battalion  
Died—Lance Corporal A. R. Foster, Springhill, N. B.

### MAURETANIA IS RELEASED FOR TRANS-ATLANTIC SERVICE

London, Feb. 24.—The government has decided that the steamship Mauretania can be released from hospital duty and returned to her owners. This statement was made in the House of Commons today by Thomas J. MacNanara, financial under secretary.

### SHELBOURNE CO., N.S., VOTES OUT SCOTT ACT

Halifax, Feb. 24.—Shelburne County today voted the Scott Act out with a majority of about 900; vote was 1,300 to 300. About fifteen hundred votes were polled. Every polling district voted against the old act. The votes polled in this county at the local election in 1911 were 2,367.

inspired by the presence of their Emperor, and led by Crown Prince Frederick William, the German troops are engaged in one of the greatest battles of the war on the front centering around the fortress of Verdun. Attack has succeeded against the French line after bombardments, incessant and terrific, continuing for several days.  
While the Germans have not been able, despite the rain of shells and furious onslaughts by the infantry, to break the French lines, nevertheless the French, on their right and left wings, have been compelled to withdraw their lines, respectively to the south of Ornes and behind the town of Samogneux, six miles north of the fortress.  
Only between Malancourt and the left bank of the Meuse has there been any diminution in the intensity of the artillery fire. With Brabant, Haumont and Samogneux and the wooded sections north and northeast of Beaumont in their possession, the Germans from the Meuse eastward in Fromezey are forcing the fighting, seemingly regardless of the cost of life.  
The French guns have answered the German guns shell for shell, and the casualties on both sides are very great. The French official report describes the battlefield between the Meuse and Ornes as piled with German dead.  
In Champagne at several points and in the Argonne Forest German works have been pounded by the concentrated fire of the French guns, while in Lorraine the French repulsed a German reconnoitering party which attempted to capture a French post north of St. Martin.  
On their end of the line, near Hully, the British exploded a mine and occupied the crater and also bombarded German trenches near Freilinghion and Bosinghe.

French Confident of Power to Hold Line.  
London, Feb. 25, 3:01 a. m.—The great Verdun battle, which is being watched in England with keen interest, but thus far without anxiety, is regarded here as the long expected big German spring offensive. It is pointed out that the French, profiting by their earlier experiences in the war, now rarely hold their advanced trenches strongly, and that therefore their withdrawal at some points to the second line is no sign of weakness.  
On the other hand, it is believed that the French generals are pursuing the tactics of allowing the enemy to assault in masses, which involves enormous sacrifices to the Germans. The military critics point out that after three days of desperate assault the French second line defences are still intact everywhere.  
It is presumed here that the Germans began preparations for this attack at about the time of the Turkish defeat in Armenia, which sealed the fate of Erzerum.

The Times says it has information that the French are more than usually confident and serene, and are inclined to contemplate the German onslaught with considerable satisfaction. The Times correspondent at Paris hints that dynastic reasons led the Germans to attack Verdun. He expresses the belief that Gen. Von Bothmer has been brought from the eastern front to conduct the operations, and admits that the Crown Prince's army has been heavily reinforced from Metz.

"Fortunately, however," says the correspondent, "the element of surprise was totally missing from the Crown Prince's operations. The French had been long preparing to meet a move toward Verdun. All that is feared is some fresh scientific device, such as the first surprise gas attack. There are indications in this offensive leading to the theory that the war is reacting against the stagnation imposed upon it by the trench."  
"It is argued that artillery fire has become so terrific that the trench becomes at moments of no value as a defense, and consequently there has been a necessary partial return, for the moment, to a war of movement. Even should the unexpected happen and the whole first line fall into the enemy's hands, he would be confronted by five other lines, increasing in strength as they approach the fortress itself."

Ten Men to Every Three Feet of Ground.  
Paris, Feb. 24.—The Temps in its military review estimates that the Germans are employing on the average ten infantry men to every three feet of the front where the attack is fiercest north of Verdun—that is over an eight miles in length between Brabant and Ornes.

The reviewer maintains that the operations are not necessarily preliminary to an attempt to besiege Verdun, but comprise an attack upon a wide part of the front of which Verdun forms a part of the rear support.

### ASK PREMIER TO TRY ADJUST ONTARIO BI-LINGUAL TROUBLE

Delegation of French-Canadians Waits on Sir Robert Borden—Want Law Passed in Ontario Last Year Repealed.  
Ottawa, Feb. 24.—Over a thousand French-Canadians of Ottawa, accompanied to Parliament Hill tonight a small deputation which waited on Sir Robert Borden, the prime minister, and endeavored to enlist his good offices in the adjustment of the Ontario bi-lingual trouble. They presented a petition to the premier which is addressed to the lieutenant-governor in council of Ontario, asking that the legislation of last session which nullifies the famous Regulation 17 be repealed.

The object of submitting the appeal to the federal premier was said to be in order that he might use his good offices in securing from the Hebert government the repeal of the enactment, and if this were not done to disallow the legislation. The premier emphasized that the government is not in a position to take any official action, as the subject is within the purview of provincial jurisdiction alone.

The attacks, he declares, are still held within the first line works, while there are three other lines at strategic intervals behind the first. These lines are more solidly constructed and more elaborate in their nature than the first lines, as work on them could be done at leisure without the workers being within the reach of the German fire.

Russians Keep Up Pursuit of Turks.  
On the Russian front, from the Riga region to East Galicia, there have been engagements at various points, but no great results have been attained by either side. In the Caucasus Petrograd reports that the Russians continue successfully to press back the Turks.

The usual activities by the Austrians and Italians on the Austro-Italian front continue.  
A French air squadron has dropped a large number of bombs on the outskirts of Metz, a big fire being observed after the attack.

### WILL ACQUIRE YARDS

The Standard. To will construct or acquire shipyards in order to create a merchant marine to handle its foreign business.

### MAJ. STERLING GIVEN APPOINTMENT WITH THE 132ND BATTALION

Special to The Standard.  
Frederickton, Feb. 24.—Major A. Sterling, of Stanley, who has been officer commanding 71st Regiment composite battalion, on garrison duty at Halifax, is going overseas.  
He has, according to word just received from Halifax, been given an appointment with the 132nd Battalion which Lt. Col. G. W. Morsereau of Dorchester is raising on the North Shore, and will probably have command of a company.

### WANTS FISHER AGAIN AS HEAD OF THE NAVY

London, Feb. 24.—(Montreal Gazette cable)—The British Weekly, which recently suggested Lord Northcliffe as air defence minister, now cries for Lord "Jockey" Fisher to resume the naval command, "lacking whom," says the Weekly, "England will lack the greatest war brain she has bred since Nelson. The greatest war ever waged has produced very few war brains. Only one man has beaten the Germans in brain power, and that man is Lord Fisher."