

# The St. John Standard

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FRIDAY MORNING, JANUARY 25, 1918.

FAIR AND COLD.

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## RUSSIA DECLINES HUN TERMS; STELLARTON DEAD ABOUT 100

### ACADIA COLLIERY DISASTER NEAR STELLARTON, N. S., IS GREATER THAN THE FIRST REPORTS INDICATED

**Estimated that Nearly One Hundred Miners Lost Their Lives in Allan Shaft — About One-Fifth of Bodies Have Been Recovered — Little or No Hope That Anyone in the Mine Will Be Found Alive.**

**Gas All Out of Mine and Work of Bringing Out Bodies Proceeding Night and Day — Fire Breaks Out in Shaft—Families of Dead Miners in Need of Assistance—Disaster Will Seriously Aggravate Coal Shortage.**

Special to The Standard.

New Glasgow, N. S., Jan. 24.—That nearly one hundred persons perished in the disastrous explosion at the Allan shaft of the Acadia Coal Co.'s collieries between here and Stellarton late yesterday was the opinion of practically every person on the scene tonight. It is known that 105 men were in the mine at the time of the disaster and that seven miners on an upper level escaped injury. Seventeen bodies have been recovered, a dozen being those of Stellarton and Westville men. The bodies are badly disfigured.

There is now no gas in the mine and the work of clearing away the debris is proceeding. A few small falls at the bottom of the shaft have been cut through but there appear to be heavy falls ahead and officials are unable to say when they will be able to reach bodies still in the mine. They have given up all hope of any of the men being alive, maintaining that all who were not crushed to death by the debris must have died of suffocation many hours ago.

The clergy of New Glasgow, Stellarton and Westville held a joint meeting this afternoon to arrange for the burial of the victims. (Continued on page 7)

### CABINET WILL HEAR IRISHMEN

**Premier Lloyd-George Invites Members of Convention to Conference.**

London, Jan. 24.—Premier Lloyd George has invited the leading members of the Irish convention to confer with the cabinet. The following communication dealing with the Irish convention was issued this evening: "At today's Irish convention a letter from the premier was read, stating that before the convention arrived at a decision on certain issues under discussion he and his colleagues in the cabinet would be happy to confer with the leading representatives of different sections of the convention should they desire to follow such a course."

"Thereupon it was decided to adjourn the convention and certain members were selected to meet the premier and his colleagues. "Sir Horace Plunkett, the chairman, was authorized to arrange the conference at the earliest possible date and immediately thereafter to summon the convention."

### GIRL A PRISONER IN LONELY HUT

**Man Held for Trial for Carrying off Seventeen Year Old School Girl.**

Portland, Conn., Jan. 24.—After Esther Strickland, 17 years old, had testified that Sylvester Rivoli, 35, had kept her a prisoner by force for a week, Justice Howard held the man under \$2,500 bonds for trial in the superior court. The girl was found in a hut in South Glastonbury in company with Rivoli after the pair had dropped out of sight as the young woman was on her way home from high school. She swore that Rivoli had threatened her and her father if she made any attempt to send word of her plight. Rivoli was unable to secure bail and was taken to jail.

### THE JAPANESE WILL ACT

**Should Russians Make Trouble in East Japan Will Step in.**

Tokio, Tuesday, Jan. 23.—"Japan holds herself responsible for the maintenance of peace in this part of the world and consequently in the event of that peace being endangered, to the inevitable detriment of our interests, the government of Japan will not hesitate a moment to take the proper measures."

Thus Count Terauchi, the Japanese premier, spoke at the opening of the Diet today in referring to the internal disorders in Russia spreading to the Russian possessions in Eastern Asia. The premier declared that the situation in Russia was causing him the greatest measure of anxiety. "As the true friend of Russia," he said, "Japan earnestly hopes that country may successfully settle its difficulties without much further loss of time and establish a stable government."

Count Terauchi said also that Japan joined unreservedly with the allied powers in the determination not to desist the sword until an honorable peace is secured.

### MONCTON LOSS BY FIRE WAS \$25,522

**Three Insurance Companies Will Stand Loss on Victoria Block.**

Special to The Standard. Moncton, Jan. 24.—The appraising of the damage to the Victoria block in which the disastrous fire occurred last week was concluded today. The loss was fixed at \$25,522 and was divided among the National Union Fire Insurance Co., Halifax; National of Paris and Mount Royal Assurance Co. of Montreal.

H. H. Mott, architect, of St. John, represented L. Higgins, the owner of the building, in adjusting the loss.

### Food Controller W. J. Hanna Tenders His Resignation

**Successor Will Be H. B. Thomson of Vancouver, Who Has Been Deputy Food Controller for Some Time—Understood He Has Been Appointed to Post—Change No Surprise at the Capital.**

**Mr. Hanna in Official Statement Given Out in Connection with Letter of Resignation Stated that He Quits Place to Give Necessary Attention to His Many Private Duties.**

Ottawa, Jan. 23.—The Hon. W. J. Hanna handed to the prime minister his resignation as food controller for Canada.

The resignation has been accepted and it is understood that Mr. H. B. Thomson of Vancouver, who has been associated with Mr. Hanna as deputy food controller for some months has been appointed as his successor.

Mr. Hanna in his letter of resignation, explained that he could not continue to exercise the duties of food controller without serious impairment of his private interests. The prime minister in accepting the resignation expressed regret that Mr. Hanna had found it necessary to relinquish his duties and paid a tribute to the ability and devotion he had brought to the administration of his office.

Was No Surprise.

In an official statement given out in connection with the letter of resignation and the prime minister's reply, it is explained that Mr. Hanna's decision occasioned no surprise on the part of those who are conversant with his many other duties and activities. The statement continues: "The work of the food controller has grown to such proportions that it was impossible for him to carry it on without prejudice to his other interests. Mr. Hanna has built up a large organization and the work which has been accomplished in the far less than of tremendous importance. The public is not yet in a position to realize the amount of food which has been conserved for the use of our soldiers overseas and the requirements of our allies. Nor have they a full appreciation of the value of the work which Mr. Hanna has accomplished in other directions. Perhaps a large share of his success is due to the fact that he refused to be stampeded into spectacular action."

Believes in Leading.

Mr. Hanna took the position that men and women can be led better than they can be driven, although he did not hesitate to drive where the public interest demanded it. His regulations, so far as they refer to hotels, clubs and restaurants, have had the effect of reducing the consumption of food in Canada by 50 per cent, bacon 57 per cent and other essential commodities in proportion. In private homes, where compulsion could not be successfully enforced without the engagement of a host of inspectors, he used to the fullest extent the power of persuasion, education, and patriotic appeals. Statistics, when published, will undoubtedly show that a tremendous saving has thus been effected of exportable goods."

### REVOLUTION IS BREWING IN AUSTRIA

**Conditions in That Country Apparently Most Serious.**

### AUSTRIA BOUND TO BE LOSER

Washington, Jan. 24.—Conditions in Austria promise a revolution of far-reaching consequences, representatives of the Central Powers win, Austria today, commenting on the significance of foreign news despatches of the last four days.

A student of history, he said, he interpreted beneath the words of the despatches that there was unrest and dissatisfaction because of industrial and economic conditions in Austria, which is never free of revolution. "If the Central Powers win, Austria loses; if the Entente Allies win, she loses no more than if Germany wins," saying the differences between Germany and Austria on religious questions always have been acute and that Germany furnishes today all the brains and money of Austria.

He said that out of twenty-eight million people in Austria only ten

### RUSSIAN NATION MAY BE FORCED TO ENTER WAR AGAIN

### NINE U-BOATS OFF COAST OF SO. AMERICA

**Vessels Warned to Watch for Submarines off Coast of Brazil.**

**STEAMER SENDS CALL FOR HELP**

**American Steamship Owasco Sunk by German U-Boat.**

**HUN DESTROYER IS SENT TO BOTTOM**

**Allied Shipping Losses Fully Estimated at 6,000,000 Tons.**

Boston, Jan. 24.—Captains of several ships reaching here from South America say that a fleet of nine U-boats is off the coast of Brazil and that vessels have been warned to look out for them. The report first came from the skipper of a large Argentine liner plying between Buenos Aires and Rio Janeiro, who said that he had been told of the fleet by the captain of a Norwegian steamer. The latter asserted that he had sighted the submarines off Cape Frio, and that he believes they have a base in that vicinity. A steamship now in Boston was preparing to leave the River Plate late in December when a ship reporting the presence of U-boats was brought in. The captain mounted two guns and shipped a crew of expert gunners. The vessel then made a wide detour and reported seeing nothing.

Call for Help.

An Atlantic Port, Jan. 24.—A call for help from the British steamer Baykerran, badly damaged as the result of a storm, was received by radio here today. The message said the steamer had lost all of her boats and was in need of assistance. The Baykerran's position was not revealed.

Owasco Sunk.

At Atlantic Port, Jan. 24.—The American steamship Owasco, formerly the German steamer Allemania and seized here when the United States entered the war, was sunk by a submarine the early part of December while in Mediterranean waters near the Spanish coast, according to survivors of the ship who arrived here today. It was said that two members of the crew lost their lives.

Copenhagen, Jan. 24.—Seventeen men from a German destroyer which was struck by a mine or torpedo have been landed on the west coast of Jutland.

Allied Losses.

Washington, Jan. 24.—William Denman, former chairman of the Shipping Board, gave 6,000,000 tons as "a hopeful estimate" of allied shipping losses this year, in testifying today before the senate commerce committee. He said an estimate of 7,000,000 tons production during the year was a "scientific dream."

Mr. Denman said that nothing could be learned from British official reports of shipping sunk, because they included only British vessels, and only a part of the loss to shipping was due to submarine or mines.

### MANPOWER BILL

London, Jan. 24.—The House of Commons tonight passed the third reading of the man-power bill. The vote was unanimous.

**After Weeks of Vacillation the Germans at Last Make Their Demands at Peace Conference at Brest-Litovsk and Russians Decline to Accede to Them—Teutons Threaten to Occupy Great Seaport of Reval Unless the Russians Come to Terms.**

**Fall of Reval Might Mean Capture of Petrograd—Austrian and German Internal Situations Still Serious — Austro-German Armies Withdraw Along Italian Front from Piave River Westward—Heavy Bombardments on Other Fronts**

After weeks of vacillation the Germans at last have made their demands at the peace conference at Brest-Litovsk and the Russians have declined to accede to them.

Notwithstanding the fact that the imperial German chancellor in his many times postponed speech to the main committee of the Reichstag announces that he still holds the hope that an early and satisfactory conclusion of the Brest-Litovsk conference will be reached, the terms of the Germans as enunciated by General Hoffmann, one of their chief delegates to the peace conference, so far form an insuperable barrier for the Bolshevik government, which has expressed a determination to carry out a policy of no annexations and no indemnities.

Courland, in its entirety, and all of Russia's Baltic provinces are to be retained by Germany, according to General Hoffman, what is termed as Germany's last proposal to the Russians and the added threat was given that if the Russians failed to acquiesce with the demands further inroads into their territory would follow and the important port of Reval, near the mouth of the Gulf of Finland, would be occupied. (Continued on page 2)

### ST. STEPHEN SHOE STORE DAMAGED

**Stock of John R. Buchanan Well Wet Down and Building Scorched.**

Special to The Standard. St. Stephen, Jan. 24.—The store of John R. Buchanan on King street was damaged by fire which started at about nine o'clock this morning and his stock of boots and shoes damaged to the extent of about \$500. The fire started from a stove in the store adjoining occupied by Geo. Dinmore, a defective chimney lighting the woodwork in the Buchanan store. The stock in the Dinmore store was not damaged.

The building is owned by Miss Annie Kelley, and is but slightly damaged. All loss is covered by insurance. For a time the fire was very threatening but good work by the firemen prevented it from spreading.

### SCOTIA STEEL CO. SHUTS ITS WORKS

**Serious Coal Shortage in Nova Scotia and Allan Shaft Explosion Will Add to It.**

New Glasgow, Jan. 24.—Notices were posted at the Nova Scotia Steel Co.'s works today announcing that the entire plant will be shut down until next Tuesday because of a coal shortage.

The explosion at the Allan Shaft has cut down the Pictou county coal output by five hundred tons daily and there is now a serious coal shortage.

### MYSTERIOUS DEATH

Quebec, Jan. 24.—C. J. O'Regan, who conducted an ale bottling plant on Palace Hill, died in his office here this evening, under peculiar circumstances. Coroner Jolicoeur will hold an inquest tomorrow afternoon.

### FORT TO SAVE HIS LIFE FUTILE

**St. Andrew's Man Taken to Hospital on Sled Dies in Calais.**

Special to The Standard. St. Stephen, Jan. 24.—George Mearns, a well known and respected citizen of St. Andrews, died today at the Calais hospital, following an operation for intestinal trouble. He was brought from St. Andrews last night, making the trip on a sled and reaching the hospital at four o'clock this morning.

The body will be taken to St. Andrews for interment Friday morning.

### FIVE YEARS FOR NOT ENLISTING

**Two Men in Alberta Go to Penitentiary for Refusing to Enter Army.**

Calgary, Alta., Jan. 24.—Five years with hard labor in the Edmonton penitentiary was the sentence given by Magistrate Davidson today at the police court to Christopher Kinzel and Robert Oswald Knags, charged with evading the Military Service Act. Both men positively refused to "don the King's uniform." Knags refused on religious grounds, although he is not a conscientious objector, while Kinzel did not state his reason for refusing to enlist, but a great deal of I.W.W. literature was found in his possession at the time of his arrest.

Kinzel was born in the United States but is naturalized. Knags is about 23 years old and was born in Owen Sound, Ont.

### N. S. MEN TO REPORT

Halifax, Jan. 24.—The men of the first draft in Nova Scotia under the military service act are now being notified by Registrar Nicholls to report at the first depot, Colonel Flowers, at the armories in this city, commencing on Monday, February 4th.