

# The St. John Standard

VOL. IX., NO. 241.

TEN PAGES

THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 3, 1917.

CONTINUED COLD.

PRICE: TWO CENTS.

## Germans Preparing Big Offensive; United States Will Rush Troops

### CONSTANT AND SPEEDY DISPATCH OF TROOPS BY UNITED STATES

This is Principal Recommendation Made to American Government by United States Delegates Who Recently Returned from Inter-Allied War Council at Paris—Speeding Up of Merchant Shipbuilding Programme and Closer Co-Operation With Other Principal Belligerents Also Urged.

Definite Plan Formed for More Active Utilization of American Naval Forces and Agreement is Made with British Admiralty to Effect Certain Plans for Anti-Submarine Warfare — United States to Arrange for Complete Co-operation with Other Entente Allies.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Constant and speedy despatch of American troops to the European battle front is the principal recommendation made to the government by the American delegates who recently returned from the international war council at Paris.

Speeding up of the merchant shipbuilding programme and closer co-operation with the co-belligerents are the other principal recommendations.

This was disclosed today by the state department which made public a summary of the result of the conference.

A definite plan was formed for more active utilization of American naval forces and an agreement was made with the British admiralty to effect certain plans for anti-submarine warfare.

The contribution of the United States to the pooling of war resources was agreed upon. The arrangement guarantees full equipment of every kind will be available to all American forces sent to Europe during 1918.

**Summary of Results.**  
A summary of the results accomplished at their conference and the recommendations made by the American delegates will indicate the value of the work done and the practical methods which were considered by the conference and which are recommended in the report.

The summary of results accomplished is divided under diplomatic, naval, military, finance, shipping, war trade.

**Naval Forces.**  
(1)—The formation of an inter-allied naval council to coordinate the operations of the naval forces of the United States and her associates in the war so that these forces may in the future be operated as one in the prosecution of the war on the sea and in conjunction with the land forces.

(2)—An agreement between the British Admiralty and the navy department putting into effect certain plans relating to the prosecution of the naval war against the submarines.

(3)—The formation of a definite plan for the more active utilization of American naval forces in conjunction with those of the other allies.

(4)—Agreement with the British Admiralty, so that perfect co-operation between the navy department and that body is assured.

(5)—Reorganization of American naval forces at French ports.

(6)—The securing of a full and detailed picture of the naval problem in European waters.

**Diplomatic Questions.**  
(1)—Full and frank discussion between Colonel House and special representative of the government of the United States and the heads of the British, French and Italian governments with regard to the war policy of the United States and her associates in the war.

(2)—Participation by the members of the mission in a meeting of the British war cabinet, at which conference a general and useful discussion was had concerning the needs of the allies and the extent of the assistance to be expected from the United States.

(3)—Participation by the United States in an inter-allied war conference, held in Paris on November 23. At this conference all preliminary speeches were dispensed with and within half an hour after the conference had been called to order by M. Clemenceau it had split into committees for work.

(4)—Participation by the United States in a meeting of the supreme war council held at Versailles, December 1. Representatives of England, France, Italy and the United States were met as a first step towards securing

### RUSSIA NOT TO ACCEPT HUN TERMS

Annexation Plans of Central Powers Declared Un-suitable.

MAY DEAL WITH THE SOCIALISTS

German Proposals Provide for Cessation of Economic Warfare.

Provision for Damages for Violation of International Law.

Petrograd, Jan. 2.—(By the Associated Press)—The Russian peace delegation returned to Petrograd today and reported to a joint session of the central executive committee of soldiers and workers delegates, the Petrograd council of soldiers and workers' deputies the progress of the negotiations with the Austro-Germans at Brest-Litovsk.

(Continued on Page 3)

the financial effort necessary on the part of the United States in order properly to co-operate with these governments in making financial arrangements for the prosecution of the war against the Central Powers.

(2)—Conferences with the representatives of the above-mentioned countries for the purpose of perfecting a council which is a priority board whose duty it should be to consider the relative importance and urgency of the financial demands to be made by the concerted effort of the countries waging war against the Central Powers.

(3)—Arrangements begun for the proper financing of purchases by the countries at war with Germany of supplies from neutral countries.

(4)—Participation in the financial discussions of the inter-allied conference.

(1)—Full detailed reports were secured showing total loss of tonnage due to war risks and marine risks from August 1, 1916, to September 30, 1917.

(2)—The estimated output of new tonnage by the allies during the year 1918, was ascertained.

(3)—The proper employment of existing tonnage so that the maximum utilization of such tonnage could be effected was provided for in a resolution adopted by the inter-allied conference.

"The allies considering that the means of maritime transport at their disposal as well as the provisions which they dispose of should be utilized in common for the pursuit of the war have decided to create an inter-allied organization for the purpose of co-ordinating their action to this effect and of establishing a common programme constantly kept up to date, enabling them by the maximum utilization of their resources to restrict their importations with a view of liberating the greatest amount of tonnage possible for the transportation of American troops."

(4)—The whole question of the employment of neutral tonnage in line with the proposals made by neutral countries with respect to this tonnage was exhaustively discussed and plans looking to the favorable result of tonnage negotiations with neutral countries were substantially agreed upon.

(5)—A survey was completed of the ports of debarkation of American troops and supplies and plans were made looking to the more expeditious discharge of troops and cargoes so as to permit the return of vessels to their home ports with the least possible delay.

(Continued on page 3)

### GOUVERNMENT SENDS A PROTEST TO OTTAWA GOV'T

Considers Order in Council Regarding Bond Issues to Be Illegal.

LEGISLATURE WILL IGNORE THE ORDER

Sir Lomer Gouin Claims It Is Unconstitutional and of No Effect.

SAYS HIS GOV'T NOT CONSULTED

Declares Proceeding at Ottawa Against British North America Act.

Quebec, Jan. 2.—(By the Associated Press)—The attorney general of the province of Quebec, has had passed an order-in-council in which the executive council of this province strongly protests against the order of the federal government relative to the issue of securities, and informs the government of Canada that it is the intention of the Quebec legislature to consider the regulations as illegal, unconstitutional and nowise binding upon the province of Quebec.

After quoting at length from the federal order, the Quebec order-in-council concludes as follows:

"That in the opinion of the Honorable the attorney general, these regulations are beyond the powers of federal parliament which could neither adopt them directly nor delegate the powers to enact them to the government of Canada. That the effect of the said regulations is to restrict the rights, powers and prerogatives of provincial governments and, in particular, of the government of the province of Quebec, insofar as regards the matters which the constitution governing our centers exclusively upon them and that nothing in the British North America Act, 1867, justifies such an encroachment.

Had No Knowledge.  
That the order-in-council in question was passed without the government of this province having been informed thereof and that the knowledge that it acquired of it was so acquired through the press.

That it is of importance to strongly protest against this manner of interference with the Constitution by the central government and against this attempt to do away with a right exclusively belonging to the province.

For the above reason the honorable, the attorney general, recommends: (1) that the government of Canada be informed that it is the intention of the government of this province to consider these regulations as illegal, unconstitutional and in nowise binding upon this province.

(2) that a notice be published in the Quebec official gazette informing the public that in the opinion of this government the said order-in-council, dated the 22nd December, 1917, concerning the issue of bonds and debentures in Canada, is illegal and unconstitutional as far as this province is concerned."

### A ROYAL PALACE OF SPAIN IS DAMAGED

Magnificent Structure at La Granja, Near Madrid, on Fire.

Paris, Jan. 2.—A Havas despatch from Madrid says that the royal palace at La Granja, near Madrid, is on fire. Details of the fire are not known.

The royal palace at La Granja was built in 1721-23. It consists of a main building, enclosing the court of the original "Granja" (Grange) and of two double wings. The royal apartments on the first floor have been noted for their 15th century magnificence.

### Major-General Maurice Expects German Army to Deliver Heavy Blow On the Western Front

Chief Director of Military Operations in British War Office Tells of Steady Flow of Hun Reinforcements from Eastern Front to France — Public Should Be Prepared for Some Losses of Both Ground and Men if Germans Attempt Determined Offensive Operations.

American Forces Not Ready to Take Any Considerable Part Immediately in the Operations — Germans Will Not Be Able to Inflict Any Such Losses on the Allies as the Latter Had Inflicted on Teutons During Past Year.

London, Jan. 2.—The probability of the Germans now taking a vigorous offensive attitude on the western front was pointed out by Major General F. B. Maurice, chief director of military preparations, at the war office, in his weekly talk to The Associated Press today.

There were two factors that contributed to this probability, the general said, the first being the steady flow of German reinforcements from the eastern front and the second, the fact that the American forces were not yet ready to take any considerable part in the operations.

The public should be prepared, General Maurice said, for some losses of both ground and men if the Germans attempt really determined offensive operations. They would not, however, be able to inflict any such losses on the Allies as the latter had inflicted on the Germans during the past year, he declared.

Entire unity henceforth is to be the watchword of the United States and her allies in the prosecution of the war. American troops are to be rushed to the fighting fronts in large numbers as quickly as possible and there is to be a perfect co-ordination in naval, military, financial, food, war industries and diplomatic matters. The agreement between the Allies for unified action was reached at the recent inter-allied conference in Paris, which was attended by an American mission headed by Colonel E. M. House and arrangements already have been made for the United States to carry out its part of the compact. In order that American troops may be despatched in a constant stream to Europe, the allied nations are so to arrange their merchant shipping that the necessary transports will be available for the huge task.

**Fear Big Attack.**  
That quick work in getting the American army to the front is most vital is indicated by a statement by Major General Maurice, chief director of military operations at the British war office. General Maurice says it is probable that with their heavy reinforcements, the Germans shortly will make a strong offensive against the British and French armies and that the enemy may be expected to make some gains.

Optimism was expressed, however, that the enemy would not be able to inflict the same degree of damage upon the Allies as he has sustained at the hands of the British during the past year.

**Huns Peppering.**  
Apparently as proof that the Germans are preparing for a big offensive is the almost continuous bombardment of various sectors along the British and French fronts. Aside from these bombardments there has been little activity except by small raiding parties. A heavy snow is falling and another cold wave has set in on the French front from St. Quentin to the Vosges mountains.

Snow and cold weather also are giving the Italians a chance to further strengthen their northern line against the Austro-Germans. Aside from reciprocal artillery duels little fighting of moment is in progress. In an endeavor to offset their loss of ground resulting from having been driven back across the lower Piave river, the enemy has tried to effect a landing on the west bank of the stream, a short distance from the mouth of the Piave. His boats, however, were caught under the fire of the Italian guns and the project had to be given up.

Austro-German airman continue to bomb towns on the Venetian Plains. Reports from Russia indicate that the negotiations for peace between the Bolshevik government and the Teutonic allies have reached a virtual impasse owing to the unreasonable demands of the Teutons. Particularly distasteful to the Russians is the attitude of the Central Powers with regard to holding Poland, Lithuania and Courland and their determination to retain garrisons at Riga, Libau and other Baltic ports.

### ENTIRE UNITY WATCH-WORD OF ENTENTE

Quick Work in Getting United States Troops to Front Most Vital.

IN VIEW OF THE EXPECTED DRIVE

French and British Armies in France Expect Mighty Attack.

But Teutons Prevented From Making Landing West of Piave.

Considerable Increase in Loss to British Shipping During the Past Week.

London, Jan. 2.—Eighteen British merchantmen of 1,600 tons or over have been sunk by mines or submarines during the past week, according to the Admiralty statement tonight. Three merchantmen under 1,600 tons were also sunk. This is a material increase over the previous week, when the sinkings numbered 12, of which 11 were more than 1,600 tons.

**SIR E. MORRIS WILL RETIRE**  
Dr. William Lloyd Likely His Successor as Premier of Newfoundland.

St. Johns, Nfld., Jan. 2.—Premier Morris, now in London, announces his retirement from politics and resignation of the premiership. He has been in London since October on official business and proposes to reside there henceforth. Possibly he may be appointed high commissioner for the colony.

His successor will likely be Dr. William Lloyd, now minister of justice, and at present acting premier. Dr. Lloyd is the parliamentary head of the party formed by a union of former Liberal associates of Sir Robert Bond and representatives of Fishermen's Union led by Mr. Williams Coaker, these coalesced after the last general election and the past summer formed a union government with followers of Sir Edward Morris.

Ended in Failure.  
"The enemy in the past fortnight has been attempting numerous raids mostly on a small scale," began General Maurice, "at Cambrai, however, he tried a larger operation with the object of getting control of a ridge on the British flank whence he hoped he could strangle the supplies to a British salient and force its withdrawal. His attack, however, ended in an almost complete failure, for although he gained a few hundred yards of our front trenches, he failed to set foot on the ridge anywhere.

"These attempts to take the offensive," continued the General, "are a sign of a new distribution of the belligerent forces on the western front. The enemy is steadily bringing troops from Russia with the aim of re-establishing his superiority over the Anglo-French forces. The Germans do not possess a magic carpet and cannot transfer troops at a supernatural rate, especially under winter transport conditions. Nevertheless there is a steady flow of German troops westward."

**Allies Cautious.**  
"The Germans are still a long way from having superior numbers on this front, but the relative strength of the forces is already so altered that it is doubtful whether the allied commanders would feel justified in undertaking offensive operations on a large scale. The enemy's constantly improving numerical position will, on the other hand, lead inevitably to offensive operations by the Germans, but I see no reason to believe that he will be able to inflict anything like such losses on us as we inflicted on him during the past year.

"Owing to our work of the past year we are in an excellent defensive position, holding practically all the high ground. On the other hand we are everywhere on new ground where we must prepare new defensive systems. We must be prepared to lose ground and if the enemy makes a determined attack with the usual artillery preparation followed by energetic infantry assaults, for our own experience has taught us that it is practically always possible to move a certain distance under these conditions of attack."

**21 VESSELS ARE SUNK**

Regarding the situation in Palestine, General Maurice said: "A word of caution is necessary relative to the hopes of an immediate further advance in Palestine. The hills of Judea are notoriously difficult, the weather is unfavorable and the roads impassable owing to the wet season. The transport problem, therefore, is likely to prevent any considerable movement there for some time."