

The St. John Standard

VOL. X., NO. 16.

SIXTEEN PAGES

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 13, 1918.

GALES WITH RAIN.

PRICE: TWO CENTS.

FIGHTING BRAVELY BRITISH CONTINUE TO FALL BACK

London, April 12.—Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig in a special order of the day addressed to "all ranks of the British army in France and Flanders," says:

"Three weeks ago today the enemy began his terrific attacks against us on a fifty mile front. His objects are to separate us from the French to take the channel ports and to destroy the British army.

"In spite of throwing, already, one hundred and six divisions into the battle and enduring the most reckless sacrifice of human life, he has yet made little progress towards his goals.

"We owe this to the determined fighting and self-sacrifice of our troops. Words fail me to express the admiration which I feel for the splendid resistance offered by all ranks of our army under the most trying circumstances.

"Many among you are tired. To those I would say that victory will belong to the side which holds out longest. The French army is moving rapidly and in great force to our support. There is no other course open to us but to fight it out.

"Every position must be held to last man. There must be no retirement. With our backs to the wall and believing in the justice of our cause each one of us must fight to the end. The safety of our homes and the freedom of mankind depend alike upon the conduct of each one of us at this critical moment."

ASSESSMENT HEARING DEVELOPS PROTESTS

St. John Bankers Object to Having Accounts of their Depositors Inspected—Motion Picture Men Object to Proposed Tax Rate—Telegraph Companies Think St. John Should Not Get Taxes on Business in Whole Province.

Canadian Pacific Railroad Representative Points Out that Tax Rate Here Should Not be as High as in Other Centres where Local Traffic is More Profitable—Hon. Mr. Baxter Points Out that Objectors Failed to File Statistical Statements Showing Inability to Pay.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 12.—Before the municipalities committee this afternoon the St. John Assessment Act was considered when representatives of various interests affected by the measure were heard. Mr. LeBlanc of Restigouche, chairman of the committee, presided and there was a large attendance of members and others interested. The assessment commission was represented by Dr. J. Roy Campbell, Mayor Hayes and Mr. W. E. Sculley. Commissioners Fisher and McLellan were present representing the city; F. R. Taylor, the N. B. Power Company, the C.P.R., the Dominion Express Company and C. P. R. Telegraph Company; T. P. Regan, the motion picture theatre interests, and J. L. Sugrue the labor unions of the city. Messrs. Charles Coster, A. P. Patterson, R. Hooper and A. M. McLean represented merchants of the city.

Dr. J. Roy Campbell, the first speaker, said the bill was before the Legislature last year and withdrawn, as representatives of the Board of Trade felt that perhaps it had not been sufficiently considered. The commission was enlarged by the addition of representatives of the Board of Trade and gave as much consideration as possible to all the phases of the question. Then they drafted another bill which was before the House this year.

To Mr. Foster, Dr. Campbell said that the commission had given ample opportunity to all persons interested to be heard before them.

Meetings Adversified.

They had advertised meetings at which such people could come forward and state their case, but the response was small. He believed that the citizens of St. John as a whole were in favor of the measure almost unanimously. The principle of the bill had found general approval and what objections there were, were very slight. He suggested two amendments, one in section 31, which provides for an accountant verifying

(Continued on Page 4)

HEAVY ATTACK ON ARMY OF FRANCE

German Forces Launch Heavy Drive in Hangard-En-Santerre Sector—Several Attacks End in Failure but Huns Penetrate Hangard at one Point.

Paris, April 12.—German forces launched heavy attacks this morning against the French in the Hangard-En-Santerre sector. The fighting continued throughout the day. Several attacks ended in failure, but finally fresh German troops penetrated Hangard, although the western section of the village was regained by the French, according to the war office announcement tonight. American and French troops, fighting together, repelled a German attack in the Apremont Forest. The Americans captured numerous prisoners. The text of the statement says: "After an intense artillery preparation, the Germans this morning attacked our lines on the front of Hangard-En-Santerre. Hours of violent fighting ensued, which lasted all day. Stubborn Fighting.

"In front of Hours the enemy was not able to advance, despite his efforts. After several fruitless attacks, carried out without cessation by fresh German troops, the enemy

GERMANY HAS USED 1,320,000 MEN

Germans Make Constant Attacks in Great Force, Pushing Back Field Marshal Haig's Men Slowly

London, April 12.—Field Marshal Haig's report from headquarters in France tonight says: "Strong pressure has been maintained by the enemy all day south and southwest of Bailleul. Constant attacks in great force were made in this area and are continuing. "Our troops have been pushed back slowly in continuous fighting to positions in the neighborhood of the Bailleul railway, where they are heavily engaged with the enemy.

THE SITUATION IN IRELAND IS STILL STORMY

Dillon Hears Machine Guns, Tanks and Motor Cars Being Shipped.

NATIONALISTS OBJECT TO CONSCRIPTION

London, April, 12.—John Dillon, Irish Nationalist leader in the House of Commons yesterday said he understood that motor cars, machine guns and tanks already had been shipped and were sailing away from the battle front toward Ireland. Mr. Dillon pleaded strongly against what

penetrated Hangard. Counter-attacks launched by us regained the western part of the village when the fighting continued with stubbornness. "In the Apremont Forest the artillery section was quite marked. The Germans bombarded Rheims, several fires breaking out, particularly around the cathedral.

"On April 11 our pursuit airplanes engaged in numerous combats, in the course of which two German airplanes and a captive balloon were brought down. Twelve other German machines were seriously damaged, and fell within their own lines. The same day our squadrons dropped 16,000 kilos of projectiles on the railway station at St. Quentin, depots and aviation grounds north of Montdidier."

"Sharp fighting occurred also on other parts of the battle front north of La Bassée Canal and the enemy made slight progress between the Lawe and Clarence rivers. "At other points our positions have been maintained. "On the remainder of the British front the position is unchanged. "Over 110 German divisions so far have been engaged since the morning of March 21 and over forty of these have been thrown into the battle two or three times."

he termed the government's "guillotine methods." "Promise of a home rule bill by the government has not had the smallest effect in easing the way to conscription in Ireland, according to special despatches from Dublin. The Unionists will not sit quiet and allow the bill to be rushed through, and the Nationalists are more concerned in the defeat of conscription than in obtaining home rule. In consequence, the situation as regards home rule at present is that nobody wants it.

CASUALTIES

Ottawa, April, 12.—Casualties: INFANTRY. Presumed to have died: F. S. Linton, Fairville, N. B. Wounded: P. T. Chapman, Amherst, N. S. MEDICAL SERVICES. Died: S. Tomer, Woodstock, N. B. RAILWAY TROOPS. Ill: W. Sharpe, Kichville, N. S.

BRITISH CONTINUE TO RETIRE UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE

SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE NOT EXEMPT

Central Appeal Judge Makes Important Decision on Montreal Roman Catholic School Case.

Ottawa, April 12.—In an important judgment rendered today, the central appeal judge again laid down the position of school teachers in regard to exemption from military service. The case is that of Octav A. Maltais. It is an appeal by the chief public representative of Montreal from the judgment of the appeal tribunal, Mr. Justice Archambault, granting an exemption until July 2nd, 1918, on condition that Maltais remains in his present employment as a teacher. Maltais is employed by the Montreal Catholic School Commission and is in the same position as about 145 teachers under the commission. Exemption is disallowed.

The central appeal judge has reason to believe that, in a great many cases above referred to, exemption was granted by the local tribunals in Montreal. The court says that most of these persons are now enjoying exemption from military service to which, according to a decision given on the 19th of February, they are not entitled under the statute and that all of them, if that judgment is to receive its proper effect, will be drafted into the army without an unnecessary day's delay.

MARYSVILLE RUN-OFF

Fredericton, April 12.—A C. G. R. freight train left the rails, going into Marysville, this morning. Four cars jumped the track, doing considerable damage to the roadbed. It was necessary to transfer passengers and baggage from the express train to the suburban for the city.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME TOMORROW

Ottawa, April 12.—The going into force of the daylight saving measure has been definitely fixed for two o'clock on Sunday morning, April 14. It will remain in effect until two o'clock on the morning of Thursday, October 31, 1918. This afternoon Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, deputy governor, attended in the Senate and gave the royal assent to the bill. Immediately an extra of the Canada Gazette was issued containing the following proclamation: "His Excellency, the Governor-General-in-council, on recommendation of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, is pleased to order and it is hereby ordered that the prescribed time during which the daylight saving act of 1918 is to be in force during the present year shall be from two o'clock on the morning of Sunday, the 14th day of April, 1918, until two o'clock on the morning of Thursday, the 31st day of October, 1918."

Germans Reach Maximum Penetration of Twelve Miles Between Givenchy and Messines -- Important Towns of Bethune, Bailleul and Hazebrouch Within Easy Range of Enemy's Guns -- Hinges Joining Elastic British Line and the Old Front Continue to Hold Well.

(By Arthur S. Draper.)

Special Cable to N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard.

London, April 12.—Under terrific pressure the British continue to retire between Givenchy and Messines, the Germans having reached a maximum penetration of 12 miles. The important towns of Bethune, Bailleul and Hazebrouch, the latter a railway and highway junction, are within easy range of the enemy's guns.

The hinges joining the elastic British line and the old front continue to hold well. Ludendorff has been increasing the attacking force and the battle may be expected to be fought with unabated violence for some days. That the British can make a satisfactory stand or that the Germans will reset content for the present line are equally unlikely because the armies are struggling through an almost absolutely flat country. It is reasonable to expect that the enemy will attempt to reach the rolling ground beyond Lillers before resting.

Weather Better.

There has been a favorable change of weather, the great sun bringing with it greater aerial activity and the higher visibility bringing the better artillery observation.

The question is whether Ludendorff will order immediately the resumption of the drive for Amiens or await developments on the Armentieres front. The French report increased artillery activity southeast of Amiens and along the Oise Canal but although the Germans may turn the attack here, it is more likely that they will wait until they believe that the British have withdrawn their reserves for use on the northern battlefield.

The ambitious Crown Prince, who has been balked so many times, might be expected to chafe under the inaction and delay. His eyes are set on Paris and Hindenburg promised that he would have the honor of taking the city. But Ludendorff is unsentimental, cool and calculating in his militarism and it is probable that the Kaiser's heir will have to wait.

A French Thrust.

What seems highly possible is that the French will launch a blow to relieve the pressure on the British. That would be merely returning the compliment of 1916 when Haig made a strike and saved Verdun. For the whole Anglo-French forces to remain on the defensive would be a reversal of the tactics followed in former years. The difference of a few miles of territory in a battle of the present proportions is of little consequence, but it is highly essential to prevent the enemy attack from gaining momentum, which it will do if he holds the initiative at every point and can fill in reinforcements wherever he desires.

To Ludendorff the channel ports mean more than the capture of Paris. And Ludendorff is the master today. The situation must be regarded calmly and confidently, but nevertheless the gravity of the whole allied position in the west must not be minimized in the least.

HALF MILLION DOLLAR FIRE IN VERMILLION

Every Business Block in Alberta Town, with One Exception, Wiped Out — Twenty-five Buildings Gone

Vermillion, Alta., April 12.—It is estimated that \$500,000 damage was caused by fire which swept the heart of this town Thursday, destroying every business block with the exception of one. It is understood that the insurance will net about sixty per cent. of the total loss. The fire started about two o'clock in the afternoon with a small blaze in the implement warehouse of Joseph McKeon, and in less than two hours twenty-five buildings had been destroyed with most of their contents.

London, April 12.—The Turkish and German forces in Palestine on Wednesday opened an offensive, attacking the British front near the coast, the war office announces.