

THE WEATHER.
Maritime—Moderate winds,
moderately cold, light local snow.

The St. John Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

OPERA HOUSE
TODAY MATINEE 2:30
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FRENCH RECOVER LOST TRENCHES; RUSSIANS PRESSING HARD ON ENEMY

RUSSIANS WIN IMPORTANT STRATEGIC POSITIONS

Gain Heights Commanding District Through Which Ruins Railway Line of Great Advantage to Enemy—Confident New Artillery Will Batter Down Defences on Which Huns Count to Successfully Check Advance of Czar's Army.

Except for the Artois region of France and the Volhynian and East Galician sections of the Russian line, the virtual inactivity that has prevailed for several days continues.

The Italians and Austrians are keeping up their artillery duels on the Austro-Italian front, despite the heavy snows in the mountain regions; and here and there delivering infantry attacks against each other, but without appreciable result. In Albania the Austro-Hungarians have occupied Tirana, a short distance to the northeast of the port of Durazzo, and also dominating heights in that region.

Keeping After Turks
Petrograd says the Russians, in their operation against the Turks, continue to make progress, and that all attempts by the Ottomans to assume the offensive are being put down by the Russian fire. Bombardments of Turkish positions on the Black Sea coast are being kept up by Russian torpedoes. On the other hand, Constantinople asserts that in the fighting between the Turks and the British in Mesopotamia, the British attempted an advance from the right bank of the Tigris, but were compelled to retreat to their old positions.

Hard fighting is still in progress around Vimur, where the French are endeavoring to re-capture positions taken from them recently by the Germans. Berlin reports that four French attacks in this region have been put down, and that also a similar offensive, with a like purpose, to the south of the Somme resulted in failure.

The French, however, have been active with their artillery at various points and have caused considerable damage to German positions.

In the Riga section of the Russian front, the Russians have repulsed Teutonic attacks and to the northeast of Tarnopol have held a strategic height, despite an attack by numerically superior forces of Austro-Hungarians, according to Petrograd.

Official denial is made in London of a claim by Berlin that German torpedo boats sank the Dogger Bank British cruiser and torpedoed another boat of this class. The British denial indicates that it was one of four mine-sweepers that was sunk.

The Belgian legation in London brands as untrue a report that Belgium recently made peace proposals to Germany.

Gain Strategic Position
Petrograd, via London, Feb. 11.—Although a general revival of activity is officially reported along the entire Russian front, the only developments of more than local and temporary importance are the Russian advance in the Stripa region, southeast of Iserbroff, where the Russians succeeded in capturing heights commanding the district in which runs the main railway line between the Chodorov and Stury rivers, and the occupation by the Russians of the heights east of Tchemerintz.

The progress in the latter district, which is between Rovno and Lutsk, is another sign of the resumption of the Russian offensive which came to an abrupt halt a month ago, when the German apparently succeeded in erecting such firm fortifications that further attempts at an advance on the part of the Russians became a waste of energy and ammunition.

It is considered significant that a new and more formidable Russian offensive is being launched against the same positions, and with initial success. This is explained by most of the military observers as due to the new power and effectiveness of the Russian artillery, which recently has shown marked improvement on all fronts.

The Germans, evidently surprised by the fierceness of the new Russian onslaught, which promises to extend to a general initiative along the whole line, have been forced at several points in Galicia to retire to their second line of defense.

CARVELL'S BLUFF QUICKLY CALLED BY HON. MR. HAZEN

Carleton County Grit Not Willing to Back Up His Statements Regarding Marine Wharf, Ungracefully Crawls Out of Muddle in Which He had Placed Himself.

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, Feb. 11.—Hon. J. D. Hazen called F. B. Carvell's bluff in the House tonight and the member for Carleton subsided.

Mr. Carvell was at his old game of recrimination and condemnation and his latest subject is the marine wharf at St. John, costing \$260,000. He declared that within two years the minister would either have to tear down the wharf or rebuild it, or else build a new wharf around it.

Mr. Hazen challenged him at once. "Will the honorable gentleman make \$250,000 sporting bet upon it?" he asked.

"Yes," replied Mr. Carvell.

Thereupon Mr. Hazen offered to give \$500 or \$1,000 to any charity that might be named if the wharf did not stand for that time. If it did stand he wanted Mr. Carvell to pay a similar amount to charity.

But the mention of real money was too much for Mr. Carvell's outrage and he backed out with the remark, "I am afraid the minister would let it stand up a little longer than it was safe in order to make me pay my thousand dollars."

Mr. Hazen said a marine depot was necessary because the sugar refinery had taken the Ballast wharf. Mr. Hazen, who was quite prepared to justify everything that had been done and as for himself he would welcome a full inquiry into the full business.

The engineers approved of the site. Mr. Hazen denied that the wharf was defective alongside. It was only on the face. If he could rely upon the opinion of his engineers it was a solid structure and there was no possibility of the drifting out to sea, as had been suggested. It was already being used by government vessels.

The minister insisted that the buildings were in their proper place. That the buildings had not been placed on the wharf was due to the necessity of reserving all the space on the wharf for large buoys and other supplies of the marine department.

With regard to the statement of Mr. Carvell that there was not a sufficient depth of water at the wharf, Mr. Hazen said there was depth enough for the Lansdowne; however, it could be deepened and it would shortly be dredged by the Pledging. Some engineers, he said, thought the construction of concrete wharves in tidal harbors was a mistake owing to the action of salt water but he courted investigation into the whole matter.

(Canadian Press.)
Ottawa, Feb. 11.—The Commons resumed today consideration of the Marine Department estimates.

Hon. Charles Marcell asked Hon. J. D. Hazen if, in view of the threats of renewed German activities on the water, more protection was being provided for shipping on the Gulf and Lower St. Lawrence.

Mr. Hazen replied that he would rather give that privately.

The minister told of progress that is being made on the St. Lawrence, ship channel, which will eventually be widened to 1,000 feet, with a depth of 20 feet.

Continued on page two.

FRANZ BOPP, GERMAN CONSUL INDICTED AT FRISCO FOR CONSPIRACY, HATCHED PLOT WHICH DESTROYED PARLIAMENT BUILDING?

SPECIAL TO THE STANDARD.
Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 11.—That Franz Bopp, former German consul-general at Montreal, who has been indicted at San Francisco on the charge of entering into conspiracy against Canada, hatched the plot which destroyed the Canadian parliament buildings, is an opinion expressed here tonight.

Bopp had an excellent opportunity of making himself thoroughly acquainted with conditions at Ottawa. He was a frequent visitor to the city, attended parliament often and has been at government house on state occasions. He is acquainted with all the leading officials, and it is remarked of him here that he was an active and persistent student of Canadian institutions.

DIPLOMATIC VICTORY OVER U.S. FOR BERLIN

If Washington Accepts Memorandum Regarding War on Merchantmen.

BRITISH POLICY NOT LIKELY TO BE CHANGED

Hun Pirates Had Followed New Plan Long Before Latest Decree was Issued.

GERMAN SPY AS WELL AS SWINDLER

Man Wanted Selling Fake Mining Stocks Gave Berlin Information Got from English Officer's Wife.

BRITISH PROMPTLY AVENGE TREACHERY OF AN ARAB BAND IN MESOPOTAMIA

London, Feb. 11.—The war office tonight made public the following official communication:
"A despatch received regarding operations in Mesopotamia reports that as a result of an attack by Arabs, supposed to be friendly to a reconnoitering party returning to Nasiriyah from a reconnoitering up to the Shatt el Hai branch of the Tigris river, the British suffered casualties aggregating 373, and the Arabs lost considerably over 300 men killed."

"A small expedition, despatched January 9, completely surprised the Arabs and destroyed four of their villages. The British suffered only six casualties."

On British Front
London, Feb. 11.—The British official communication issued this evening says:
"We sprang three mines yesterday north of Carnon, and another south of Crater No. 3. Today the enemy sprang a mine southwest of the Hohenzollern redoubt, but we suffered no casualties."
"Artillery has been active north of Albert, north of Loos, and about Ypres. Artillery and machine-guns were shelled during the day. This afternoon we sprang a mine northeast of Ghenvy."

BULGARIA TO QUIT AFTER ATTACK ON SALONIKI?

War Minister Quoted as Saying Nation Will Fight No Longer Unless Attacked.

Austrian Army, at Present in Albania, Reduced to Number of 10,000 and Finding Progress Difficult—Finding it Hard Job to Secure Sufficient Supplies.

FRENCH TO GET POINTERS FROM THE CANADIANS

French Officer Attached to Canadian Brigade to Observe Patrol Methods.

HAND TO HAND TUSSE WITH GERMAN PARTY

Five of Enemy Captured While Others Beat Hasty Retreat to Shelter of Their Trenches.

TWO BIG GERMAN BANKS FAIL?

London, Feb. 12.—The Daily Express today gives prominence to despatches from Switzerland announcing the failure of two large banking institutions in the south of Germany, one with alleged liabilities of over \$125,000,000.

The Daily Express says it is of the belief that these are the forerunners of others and more extensive failures, due to the ruin of Germany's export trade and the depreciation in the value of the marks.

ENEMY AIRSHIPS PAY FREQUENT VISITS

Word was passed to our men to retire. It is thought that few, if any, of the German patrol survived the fire from their own trenches. Our losses were few, and of these the majority suffered only slight wounds immediately on the return of our patrol our artillery shelled the enemy's front line trenches so effectively that the rifle and machine-gun fire soon ceased.

During the week of Feb. 2 to 9, the enemy has been unusually busy repairing his trenches and raising the height of the parapets. Our snipers and machine-guns have scattered

The 26th was the 62nd headed in the right direction. Do you get that—Mr. Red Coat?