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THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

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Kitchener Gets Blank Check From House Of Commons To Meet Military Expenses

London, Feb. 9.—For the first time in two hundred years Britain to-day invited the House of Commons to give it a blank check for army purposes.

INCREASES FOR NAVY.

London, Feb. 8.—The naval estimates, issued this evening, ask Parliament to vote for an additional force of 32,000 officers and men.

Concluding his speech on the Army estimates, Mr. Tennant, Parliamentary Secretary to the War Office, said: I shall make no forecast of the duration of the war, but I am convinced that not a single member of this House is dependent; that there is not a member but is determined that there shall be only one issue, and that the Allies shall dictate terms of peace.

REFUSED INFORMATION. London, Feb. 8.—Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, refused in the Commons to-day to disclose the result of the investigation made by the Admiralty into a report mentioned in the Commons last week by Mr. Stewart, that a German submarine operating in British waters, had received fresh supplies of fuel oil from a vessel direct from a British port.

He said it would not be in the public interest to make this known. The export of fuel oil from this country was prohibited, the speaker declared. Wouldn't Discuss It.

He declined also to discuss the sinking of the British battleship Formidable, except to say that the Admiralty had considered the circumstances of the loss of this vessel. She went down in the English Channel on the first of January, with the loss of six hundred men, having been struck by a mine or a German submarine, and it did not propose to hold any inquiry or court martial.

Some other questions relating to the war asked in the House to-day revealed the fact that 30 out of 56 interned German steamers had been placed in the British coasting trade with the result that freight rates had been reduced.

All Positions Are Maintained Say The French

Violent Artillery Duels All Along The Western Front—Successful Raid On The Germans

Paris, via St. Pierre, Feb. 8 (official).—From the sea to the Oise, artillery duels were quite violent.

In Cuijnchy region, west of La Bassée, at southwest of Carency, we have succeeded in a raid on a German trench which has been captured by a mine, and of which all the defenders were killed or captured.

On the remainder of the front of the Aisne and in Champagne there have been intermittent bombardments, and the efficiency of our artillery has been noted on several points.

West of Hill 191, north of Massiges, our batteries have stopped a fresh attack.

In Argonne a German attack has been repulsed near Fontaine Madame. At Bagatelle a violent infantry action has been engaged in since early morning by the Germans. At latest communications, all our positions were maintained. On the rest of the front there is nothing to report.

Hockey Postponed

The Vic-Pelidian hockey match did not take place last evening, owing to the soft condition of the ice. It will be played as soon as the ice hardens.

Cruiser Blucher Was Nothing But German Blunder

Laid Down on British Misinformation Supplied When Invincible Class Was Building.

London, Feb. 8.—Count Reventlow, writing on the naval battle for the Berlin press, and referring to the fact that the Blucher was not a battle-cruiser, discloses the blunder made by the German naval authorities when she was laid down.

"The Blucher," he says, "was laid down when the first British so-called dreadnought cruisers of the Invincible type were in course of construction. The British Admiralty intentionally published false news about the measurements of the guns of these ships, especially the statement that the Invincible type would have a displacement of only 15,000 tons. Thereupon the plans of the construction of the Blucher were settled upon the basis of a displacement of 16,000 tons.

"When it afterwards turned out that the Invincible class had a displacement of over 20,000 tons and heavy batteries of eight 12 inch guns, no change was possible and one could only take the Blucher as she was. So she remained the only representative of her type and it was only with her successor, the Van der Tann, that the series begins of those admirable German battle-cruisers which were rightly famous throughout whole world."

Possible Total Of Italian Army Is 3,000,000 Men

All Members Of The Reserve Have Been Notified To Be Ready For "Manoeuvres."

Paris, Feb. 8.—The Italian Parliament is expected to vote authority to the Cabinet to take any action in regard to the war it may deem necessary at any time, says a despatch from Rome to the Petit Parisien.

All members of the reserve who have not already been summoned to the colors "for manoeuvres" have received notifications to hold themselves in readiness at any time.

It is stated that Italy's army could be brought to a full war strength of 3,430,000 at any time within forty-eight hours.

Woes Of Persia Thru Invasion By The Turks

Woman and Children Insulted and Killed and Many are Taken Prisoners.

Chicago, Feb. 8.—Atrocities that Turks and Kurds in Persia are inflicting on Christians, who fall into their hands are related in a letter from a Persian woman at Urma to her husband, A. E. Watada, who is here. She says:

"Persia is all sorrows and tears. We are in the great struggle. We have been almost in the hands of enemies. Kurds and Turks are mobilized against all Christianity. Just recently a great army of Kurds came and burned many towns in the State of Urma and killed many Christians. Women and children were insulted and killed and many were taken prisoners."

Russia Gives Canada Order For Many Rifles

Ross Rifle People Contract to Furnish Russian Government With 3,000,000 Small Arms.

Quebec, Feb. 8.—The Ross rifle factory has contracted to furnish the Russian Government with 3,000,000 rifles during the next two years. It will also supply England and Canada with 500 rifles per day simultaneously.

The plant, which has been doubled since the outbreak of war, will be doubled again before November, when it is expected that some five thousand men will be given employment.

COST FOLK OF THE WEST A LARGE SUM

Western Star Says Herring Fishers Were Prematurely Scared Away by Reports of Ice

DEPARTURE MEANT LOSS OF \$30,000

Which Would Have Been Spent in Bay of Islands Had Vessels Remained—Reliable Ice Reports Needed

Some thirteen vessels seeking herring cargoes were frightened away from Bay of Islands in the early part of January without having secured full cargoes, and at a time when herring reports relative to approaching drift ice, so says The Western Star.

A message was received from Daniel's Harbor, saying that the ice pack was moving rapidly to the westward; just about that time a vessel leaving here ran into some light slob ice which had made in Port au Port Bay. The captain, not knowing where the ice came from, took it to be the northern floe. He ran back to Woods Island and reported accordingly.

Left at Once.

The vessels then in the Arms of Bay of Islands seeking herring cargoes, with the exception of one, got underway, fearing to be caught here all the winter. The next day they sailed, but saw no sign of ice on their passage out the Gulf.

Some of these vessels had only 25 barrels of herring on board, others from 150 to 800 barrels. If they had remained to load they could easily have done so as did the one which remained behind, for not till the beginning of the present month—some three weeks later—was there any sign of drift ice off Bay of Islands.

Meant Loss of \$30,000.

It is estimated that the loading of those thirteen vessels with frozen herring would have represented an outlay of about forty thousand dollars. This amount would have gone to the fishermen of Bay of Islands, and in turn over forty per cent. of it would have gone to the treasury in customs duties. The loss of this could have been easily avoided.

With the establishment of a Public Information Bureau, supplying reliable reports relative to the movement of ice in the Gulf, the vessel masters would have a fair idea of just how much risk they may take without endangering the prospects of them getting away with their vessels. We shall return to this matter again later.

28 British Transports Landed a Day

Everything Works Like Clockwork at the Base Where the British Entain for the Front

Rotterdam, Feb. 8.—How fresh British troops, sent as reinforcements to the armies of the Allies are landed in France is described by the Havre correspondent of the Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant.

"The landing," he says, "is done in an altogether admirable way. Enormous transports enter the various French ports, while the North Sea and the English Channel are all protected by torpedo boats and destroyers and a few rapid cruisers.

"The transports follow each other at short intervals. As a ship swings into its place the soldiers stand ready to march. The wagons for the division are ready to be loaded. Ample space has been reserved on the quays for the landing, but no more men are landed than the railways can carry at a time.

Why The Dutch Keep Their Army With The Colors

Fear Germans in Retreat Will Violate Their Neutrality and Must be Fully Prepared.

London, Feb. 8.—A special cable to The London Daily Express from The Hague says:

Much interest has been aroused in diplomatic circles by the statement made by the Dutch Prime Minister, in reply to the Dutch Socialist leader, that it is necessary for Holland to maintain her army on a war footing. Many persons are asking, "what did the minister mean?"

A glance at the map and a little foresight will supply the answer. The Dutch province of Limburg hangs down into Belgium like a tail. In the event of a great German retreat the possibility exists that a large portion of the German army will not be able to reach the Fatherland except by violating Dutch territory.

This certainly will be the case if the French succeed in breaking thro' the German lines. Once back in Germany the defeated army could re-establish itself and face the Allies again.

The Dutch Government, however, do not want to take any risks, and by keeping the entire army of 400,000 men ready, they will be able to disarm and intern the German forces.

We hear the Terra Nova will haul over to Bowring's North side premises today and commence fitting out for the seal fishery.

29 U.S. Vessels Were Engaged In Herring Fishery

Took Over 50,000 Barrels of Herring From The West Coast During Last Fall's Voyage.

In reviewing the past year's fishing operations, the Gloucester Times says the herring fleet which left there last fall for Newfoundland numbered 29 vessels, while several trips were brought to port by British vessels.

The British steamer Baleine, on Dec. 6th, landed 2,300 barrels of salt bulk and 105 barrels of pickled herring.

The total receipts for the season November, 1914, to January, 1915, approximately 5,125 barrels of pickled herring; 38,397 barrels of salt bulk herring; 9,623 barrels of frozen herring.

First Baby Girl Born In Family In a Century

Stork at Last Leaves a Daughter With the Cunninghams, of Texas.

San Antonio, Tex., Feb. 8.—The first girl to be born in a family for about one hundred and twenty years, was born to Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Cunningham, N. 627 West Russell Place, recently. They have christened the baby Mary Elizabeth.

Mr. Cunningham and his brother, John H. Cunningham belong to an old Tennessee family and have made their home in San Antonio for about nine years. In each generation for the last century more and more sons have been born into the family and have carried the name of Cunningham into many States.

The birth of the first daughter was an event of no little importance in the family of Cunningham.

Kyle's Passengers

S.S. Kyle arrived at Port aux Basques at 7:35 last evening, with the following passengers:

Turkish Invasion of Egypt Promises to End in Fiasco Many Their Men Surrender

London, Feb. 9.—The Official Press Bureau has made public an official despatch received from Cairo which states that the Turkish army is in full retreat Eastward.

There are no enemy forces within 20 miles of the Suez Canal except small scattering rear guards.

Switzerland Holds up German Lead Supplies

Big Quantity of Metal Much-Needed in Germany Collared by The Swiss.

Amsterdam, Feb. 8.—Fifty-five trucks of lead consigned to Cologne have been detained at Chaisso, the first station across the Swiss border from Como, Italy, since January 25.

The metal, of which Germany is reported to be greatly in need, is believed to have been purchased in Italy from agents who imported it into that country.

FISH EXPORTS OF NORWEGIANS

The following comparative figures of Norway's export of codfish were posted at the Board of Trade rooms yesterday:

Into Santander, for the year 1914—25,245 qtls.; for the year 1913—37,271. Decrease, 12,026.

Into Bilbao, for the year 1914—90,040; for the year 1913—104,690. Decrease, 14,650.

Average price, 54 to 56 pesetas. Exchange, 25.10.

The incoming express is due in the City at 6 a.m. to-morrow morning.

Must Make Up 76,000 tns. Food For Belgians

Food Supply for Destitute Entirely Inadequate and Thousands are Now Starving.

New York, Feb. 7.—A shortage of 76,000 tons of food for the relief of the Belgian refugees must be made up within the next three months by the commission for relief in Belgium or many people will perish. Vice-chairman Lindon W. Bates has announced to the relief committees throughout the United States.

The commission here was apprised of the inadequacy of the food supply by a cable message from London, which read:

"The commission is actually short in the department for the feeding of destitute Belgians, 21,000 tons for February, 25,999 tons for March, and 30,000 tons for April.

"The enforced transfer of food from the department for provisioning those who can still pay something for rations during these months is bound to eat into its provisioning capacity seriously.

"There are now 1,400,000 destitute, and the actual cost of administering and supplying the canteens for the destitute now is \$2,800,000 per month. The number of the destitute daily increases."

Russians Hold Over Half a Million Germans and Austrians Prisoners

Petrograd, Feb. 8.—More than a half million German and Austrian prisoners are now in the hands of the Russians, according to a statement issued by headquarters, which contradicts the recent German statement as to their losses.

The statement declares that the Russians now hold 1,476 German officers and 173,824 men prisoners, and 3,621 Austrian officers and 410,257 men.

It is stated that more than 50,000 Austrians have been captured in the fighting last week.

Hummerall