

Harbor Grace Notes

The annual Missionary meeting of St. Paul's Church, was held on Friday last at St. Paul's Hall. The Rev. W. R. J. Higginson, Incumbent of Christ Church, and St. Peter's, Southside and St. W. R. Godfrey, of St. Thomas's, St. John's.

Rev. Cracknell was the first speaker to address the meeting who gave an interesting discourse dealing with the mission field at home, and basing his remarks on the command given by God, so long ago, "to leave his people and kindred, and go into a strange land," and as the text reads: "I will bless thee, and make thee a great nation, and thou shalt be a blessing." The call comes to all of us to do something at home, if not in foreign lands, so that all peoples of the earth may learn the "Message of the Cross."

After a Hymn had been sung, Rev. Godfrey addressed the Meeting, and having spent ten years as Lay Missionary in India and other places, he seemed to convey to his hearers a special message. He took for his text, a part of which is: "For I am ashamed of the Gospel of Christ," and delivered a very forceful address, which was followed with rapt attention.

Some glimpses of life among these people in their heathen blindness, were given by the Speaker, and he could understand something of the trials and tasks a Missionary has while in the foreign field in their great work for humanity. He produced an Indian Idol, giving the belief of the people who worshipped it; and offered those present a chance to examine the Idol at the close of the evening.

Rev. Mr. Harris, Pastor of the Methodist Church, who was in the audience was called to the platform at the opening of the meeting, and gave a short address at the close. His daughter, Miss Winnie Harris, is at present doing noble work in the mission field at China.

Special Hymns were sung from the hymn sheets provided, and the meeting was one, long to be remembered by those present.

The armies of the living God, Sworn warriors of Christ's host, Where hallowed footsteps never trod, Take your appointed post.

Under the management of Miss May Chafe, and assisted by several young girls of the town, "poppies" were sold here on Saturday, and we understand the amount of \$11 was the sum realized. This little token of "remembrance" of those who gave of their best, that we might enjoy the blessings of liberty and peace, has not lost its significance, and as each year rolls 'round, will keep ever green the memory of the fallen brave, as well as, help those who are maimed for life.

The First Harbor Grace Troop of Boy Scouts, together with the 1st Harbor Grace Companies of Girl Guides and of Brownies, held a parade through the town on Armistice Day, and were favourably commented upon by our citizens. The two minutes silence was fittingly observed.

The death of Mr. Frederick Snow, son of the late Robert and Mrs. Snow, of this town, occurred at his home on Friday morning. Deceased had been ill for several months, since coming from Boston last year, where he had presided for some fourteen years. Two brothers were killed during the war, John, with the Royal Nfld. Regiment, and Samuel, with the Canadians. Three years ago, he married Miss May Kennedy, of this town, who with one child survives him; also, besides his mother, he is survived by two brothers, Stephen and Robert, away, and three married sisters, Nellie, Lillian, and Alice, who are also out of the country. The funeral was held on Sunday at St. Paul's Church, and was largely attended. Interment was made in the Church of England Cemetery, Rev. W. R. J. Higginson, performing the last sad rites. To the bereaved in their hour of sorrow, we extend deepest sympathy.

A Soup Supper and Tea was held in the S. A. Citadel on Thursday night last, which was largely attended, although the weather conditions were not the best. The ladies in charge of the refreshments were kept quite busy, and a very good sum was realized. Capt. Campbell, the officer in charge, was very pleased with the success of the evening, and feels grateful to all those who contributed in any way.

Mr. J. Driscoll, manager of the Harbor Grace Clothing Co., went out by Tuesday morning's train enroute to Corner Brook.

Mr. W. H. Kennedy, postmaster, accompanied by Mrs. Kennedy went to St. John's last week, and will visit Corner Brook before returning to town again.

Mr. W. W. French visited the city last week, to be present at the Industrial Exhibition.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Whitman, who

were visiting the city returned to town again on Monday.

Mrs. Hanrahan, who was on a visit to St. John's, returned home by Saturday night's train.

Mrs. Charles White, (nee Miss Mayale Archibald), of Stephenville Crossing, who has been visiting friends at St. John's, arrived here on Monday of last week, on a visit to her mother, Mrs. F. Archibald, and other relatives and friends. Mrs. White's many friends are pleased to see her in the old town again.

Misses Winnie Jones and Mary Brazil spent Armistice Day at Bay Roberts, and returned by the night's train.

Miss Gwen Noseworthy, of Spaniard's Bay, was in town yesterday visiting friends, and returned home again by this morning's train. Miss Noseworthy leaves by the next "Digby" for Boston, Mass., where she will remain for some time.

J. J. McCormack arrived home on Monday evening to spend his holidays with his mother, all are glad to see Jack back again and enjoying such good health. The West Coast is certainly the place to get fat.

COR.
Harbor Grace, Nov. 12th, 1924.

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Romantic Gun-Running Story

TRIP THAT WOULD HAVE APPEARED TO DRAKE.

On four counts, the Attorney-General sought to recover the treble value of machine-guns, etc., which, it was alleged, had been illegally exported from this country. Defendants:—

Capt. Cecil Herbert Attfield, 32, a merchant, of Felstead-road, Wanstead, Essex; his father,

James Herbert Attfield, 64, a retired County Council schoolmaster, of the same address;

Charles Phillip Hinman, formerly a Lieut-Colonel in the British Army; and

Frederick Gealey Firmin, a master mariner.

All pleaded guilty. Opening the case for the Crown, Mr. Harold Morris, K. C., remarked that he did not think there would be any member of the public who did not know that machine-guns dealt with arms in this country, or export arms, without the license of the Board of Trade. The facts were that in August, 1923, Capt. Attfield went to Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., and there discussed with a Mr. Yapp the purchase of machine-guns. When he was asked to what place he was going to export these guns he stated that he did not want to say, but led Mr. Yapp to understand that they were going to South America. Mr. Yapp told him that he would need the license of the Board of Trade. Capt. Attfield replied that he had a registration certificate from the police, and he produced one to show that he was registered in January. Messrs. Vickers were perfectly safe in letting Captain Attfield have these things in this country. On April 9 last Capt. Attfield contracted with Messrs. Vickers to sell him 55 machine-guns at £95 each, 25 sets of spare parts, tools, and accessories at £75 a set, and 27 extra barrels at £6 each, the total amount being £7,582, which had been paid. On April 16 Capt. Attfield entered into a further contract with Messrs. Vickers to buy 250 mountings at £11 each, the total amount being £2,750. Throughout the negotiations Capt. Attfield was told that he would have to get the license of the Board of Trade, and he replied that that was all right; he had a license. That statement was not true. In August, 1923, Capt. Attfield saw a Mr. Wilkinson at the Board of Trade, and was told that if he wanted a license to export arms he must put in a specific application. On Jan. 8 he made application to export 5,000 rounds of ammunition to Latvia, and on Feb. 16 asked to be allowed to export 55 Vickers machine-guns of the Air Service pattern, and 25 spare parts, to Brazil. On Feb. 23 he made further application to export 250 gun-mountings to Holland, and a man named Carp, in the employment of a Dutch firm, accompanied him to the

Offices of the Board of Trade.

Mr. Wilkinson informed them that a license would not be granted, whereupon Carp stated that he was going to get them some way or other, and that if he did not obtain them with a license he would get them without one. He added that he had already sent mountings to a place of which the British Government would not approve. On March 15 Capt. Attfield put in a further written application to export 240 Vickers machine-guns to Buenos Aires, but a license was not granted. On March 17 the second Mr. Attfield, father of Captain Attfield, came on the scene. They both had an interview at the offices of the Board of Trade, and the father did most of the talking. He was very confident that no license had been granted to export these mountings to Holland, and it was pointed out to him that the

board were not satisfied with the Holland firm. The two Attfields left very much surprised. No license was granted to them. On April 6 Hinman appeared on the scene. He was apparently a yachtsman. He went to West Mersea, near Colchester, and asked a Mr. Wyatt whether he could get for him a fishing smack capable of carrying from 10 to 12 tons. Mr. Wyatt knew of one named the Edith Frances, which had been used in the oyster trade, and two days later Hinman inspected the smack, and agreed to pay £150 for her. On April 22 Captain Attfield drew a cheque for £250, payable to himself, and it would be proved that a £100 note and a £50 note, part of the proceeds of the cheque, were given in payment for the smack. On May 7, at the Colchester Post Office a telegram was dispatched to Carp at Amsterdam:—"Trucks dispatched to-day. Forwardness, Junior Army and Navy Club," this being a club of which Capt. Attfield was a member.—Counsel described how the cases containing the guns, etc., which had been delivered by Messrs. Vickers, were afterwards removed to a garage, the man who conveyed them being told by Captain Attfield that they contained photographic plates. One of the witnesses, a man who at the time was taking a census of traffic in and out of Barking Creek, would say that at 5.55 a. m. on May 12

with a fixed mast passed into the creek from Hewitt's Wharf, and on the morning of May 14 a sailing boat with mast fixed passed out of the creek, giving her destination as Erith. Early on the morning of the following day the unnamed boat, which was really the Edith Frances, was met off the Essex coast by the Dutch steamer Heider from Amsterdam. The machine-guns were taken out and transhipped openly to the Heider. During the hearing of the case three of the defendants withdrew their pleas of not guilty. Capt. Cecil H. Attfield pleaded guilty to the counts made against him, and Mr. Hinman and Mr. Firmin pleaded guilty only to the first count. The Crown decided not to offer any evidence against Mr. James H. Attfield, who maintained his plea of not guilty.—The jury returned a verdict of guilty against the three defendants who had pleaded, and of not guilty against James Herbert Attfield, who was at once discharged.—Mr. J. D. Cassels, on behalf of Mr. J. H. Attfield, stated that he recognized that some of the parts he had taken in these transactions were well calculated to arouse suspicion in the minds of the authorities, but he had no idea that the cases contained what they did. The matter was entirely handled by his son, Mr. Attfield, sr., had no interest in whatever in the matter. He was a retired county council schoolmaster, living on his pension, and there had been nothing against him before this case arose. With regard to the younger Attfield, he had desired to obtain licenses, but they were not granted. His only defence was that he was acting as agent for principals, which, in law, could not be a defence in such a case at all.—Sir Henry Curtis Bennett declared that from the beginning Hinman had expressed a wish to hear the opening of the case against him, and had never denied the story. He was arrested on August 1, and was in custody for 11 days. He had

Had a Distinguished Career during the late war, having joined as a private in August, 1914. He went to France, and was demobilized in 1919 with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and had been wounded and mentioned in dispatches. Throughout his part in these proceedings he had never tried to cover anything up. He paid for the boat with the two notes received from Capt. Attfield, and he desired to make it clear that in whatever part he took he did it upon Mr. Eustace Fulton, on behalf of Firmin, explained that he was a master mariner and a member of the R.N.R. Now he had to go to prison until he found £15,960 which he had not got. He happened to know Hinman, and he called the boat to London and placed it on the seas, where the guns were transhipped.—Mr. Morris asked for judgment against Cecil Herbert Attfield for £15,960 on the first count, £2,840 on the second count, £2,840 on the third count, and £7,446 on the fourth count—£28,076 in all. He also asked for judgment for £15,960 against each of the two other defendants who had pleaded to the first count. He asked for immediate execution.—Lord Darling: Firmin is the captain of a little sailing vessel, and I am asked to send him to prison.—Mr. Morris: Until the penalty is paid, or he is released by the Home Office.—His lordship told Firmin to stand up, and he remarked to him: "It does not mean Tower Hill. I cannot help thinking that if they had asked Drake to do it he would have done it." (Laughter).—Mr. Fulton: He has been in prison for three weeks.—Mr. Cassels: Captain Attfield has been in prison for three months, and the trouble was that they did not know how to treat him. They first thought that he was a debtor, and then that he was a prisoner under remand. His position is now better, because he is a debtor of the Crown.—Mr. Morris observed that the case was regarded as a serious one. The things dealt with were a considerable quantity of machine-guns, which they now knew were taken to Leningrad.—His

lordship remarked that the procedure was properly stringent, because the act complained of

Was Against the State, and people who did what had been done in this case might involve the country in untold difficulties, involving war, simply because persons here had supplied arms to revolting subjects or those who contemplated revolution. With regard to Captain Attfield and Hinman, there would be immediate execution. The same liability attached to Firmin, but it was perfectly certain that there was no prospect of his finding £15,960. He was

captain of a little sailing boat in the estuary of the Thames, and while he was liable to be arrested in 14 days his lordship saw no such evidence against him as was adduced against the other two, who knew perfectly well what was being done. The attempts to obtain licenses had failed, and they had committed an illegal act. As to Firmin, all that his lordship knew was that he was engaged to sail this ship into the North Sea, and he did it. There was not the slightest evidence that he knew where the guns were going. In this case he would allow the law to take its course without any special order.—Captain Attfield and

Hinman left the court in custody. We are informed that the solicitors acting for Capt. Attfield and Hinman are preparing a petition for presentation to the Home Secretary for a reduction of the amounts imposed. "Neither of them," explained a member of the firm, "is able to produce enough money to pay the penalties. They cannot file their petitions in bankruptcy, because the debt is a debt to the Crown. They can earn only about 5s. a week in the debtors' prison—a small sum to meet debts of thousands of pounds.—News of the World.

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