

# BRITISH SQUADRON SENDS THREE GERMAN CRUISERS TO BOTTOM IN FIGHT IN SOUTH ATLANTIC

## The St. John Standard,

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA.

VOL. VI. NO. 222.

TEN PAGES

THURSDAY MORNING DECEMBER 10, 1914

PROBS—FAIR AND COLD

PRICE TWO CENTS

London, Dec. 9.—It was officially announced here today that the German cruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Leipzig had been sunk in the Atlantic. The following statement was issued by the official information bureau:

"At 7.30 a. m. on the 8th of December the Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Nurnberg, Leipzig and Dresden were sighted near the Falkland Islands by a British squadron under Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Sturdee.

"An action followed, in the course of which the Scharnhorst, flying the flag of Admiral Count Von Spee, the Gneisenau and the Leipzig were sunk. The Dresden and Nurnberg made off during the action and are being pursued. Two colliers were also captured.

"The vice-admiral reports that the British casualties were very few in number.

"Some survivors have been rescued from the Gneisenau and the Leipzig."

### BRITAIN'S WARSHIPS UNDER VICE-ADMIRAL STURDEE AVENGE LOSS OF GOOD HOPE AND MONMOUTH

The Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Leipzig Sunk—The Dresden and Nurnberg Damaged, But Escaped and are Being Pursued—Admiral Von Spee In Command of Enemy and Believed He Went to Bottom With His Ship—Most Important Naval Fight of War Since Heligoland Battle In August—British Came upon Enemy Tuesday Morning—Germans Lose at Least 2,000 Men, British Casualties Few—England Jubilant Over News—Escaped Cruisers Likely to Be Rounded Up Soon—Not Known How Many Ships Vice-Admiral Sturdee Has With Him.

London, Dec. 9.—A British squadron, under command of Vice Admiral Sir Frederick Sturdee, chief of the war staff, engaged a German squadron, under Admiral Count Von Spee, off the Falkland Islands, in the South Atlantic, yesterday, and won a victory which is being acclaimed throughout England.

The armored cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau, and the protected cruiser Leipzig, three of the German warships which had been menacing British shipping, and part of the squadron which sank the British cruisers Good Hope and Monmouth in the Pacific on November 1, were destroyed, while the cruisers Dresden and Nurnberg, the two other vessels which composed the German squadron, made off during the fight and, according to the latest accounts, are being pursued. Two colliers were captured.

#### MOST IMPORTANT SEA FIGHT OF WAR SINCE BATTLE OFF HELIGOLAND.

The announcement of this engagement and victory, which was the most important naval engagement of the war, with the exception of that off Heligoland last August, was made this evening in a statement by the Admiralty of less than one hundred words.

The statement makes reference to some survivors rescued from the Gneisenau and the Leipzig, but no mention is made of any of the crew of the Scharnhorst, which was the flagship of the German admiral, being saved, and it is presumed that Count Von Spee, his officers and men went down with the boat.

The British losses were light, but beyond the fact that the British squadron was commanded by Vice Admiral Sturdee no information is vouchered regarding the ships engaged, and the newspapers are enjoined not to speculate as to other combinations may be effected.

The greatest enthusiasm prevailed in London over the victory, and the general impression is that it will be completed, as the Admiralty would not be likely to send ships that could not overtake the Dresden and Nurnberg, which are 24 knot and 23 knot vessels respectively, and probably even slower after their long service. They are at a disadvantage also because of their small coal capacity.

#### ONLY KARLSRUHE UNACCOUNTED FOR NOW.

The British squadron which engaged the Germans left England without the knowledge of the general public, and until his name was mentioned it was believed that Vice-Admiral Sturdee was serving in home waters. The fact that he was taken from the post of Chief of the War Staff is indicative of the determination of the British government to clear the Pacific and South Atlantic of all German warships. It is believed, therefore, that the British commander is at the head of a formidable squadron.

In addition to the Dresden and Nurnberg, only one German warship—the Karlsruhe—is now unaccounted for in these waters, although there may be one or two armed merchantmen which the allies have not rounded up. As the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau each carried a complement of 765 men, the Leipzig 285, and the Dresden 261, the total German loss is estimated at not far from 2,000 men, although the actual loss to the Dresden and Nurnberg cannot yet be known.

### SUCCESS OF INDIAN TROOPS ON GULF OF PERSIA

Turkish Commander at Kurna Forced to Surrender and British Now in Control of Persian Gulf, the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

London, Dec. 9.—It is officially announced that Subhi Bey, late governor of Basra, Asiatic Turkey, commander of the Turkish forces at Kurna, yesterday surrendered unconditionally with his troops to the Indian expeditionary force which is operating at the head of the Persian Gulf.

Kurna, subsequently was occupied by the British who are now in complete control of the country from the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers to the sea and of the richest part of the fertile Delta.

The Indian office in a despatch describing the operations of the British forces on the Persian Gulf, says: "A reconnaissance of the enemy's position at Kurna was made on December 5th by Col. G. S. Fraser, with the 11th Mahratta Light Infantry. The enemy was encountered on the left bank of the Tigris, opposite Gura. They were promptly attacked and driven across the river, losing heavily. Two guns and seventy prisoners, including three Turkish officers, were captured.

"Kurna was found to be strongly held by guns and infantry, and the British, finding no means of crossing the Tigris, withdrew to their original positions.

"The following day reinforcements were sent from Basra under Brig. Gen. Fry, and captured Masera, cleared the left bank of the Tigris and took three guns and 100 prisoners, including three officers.

"On December 8, the British crossed the river, and the next day, Subhi Bey surrendered.

"The British losses during the whole of these operations amounted to one British officer killed and three wounded, with forty Indians of the rank and file killed, and one hundred and twenty wounded.

### REPORTS OF LAND FIGHTING FAVORABLE TO ALLIES

Allies on Offensive all Along Front from Swiss Border to the North Sea and Now Holding Strong Positions—Flanders Fairly Safe from German Attacks.

#### RUSSIA REPORTS "GRAVE DEFEAT" OF AUSTRO-GERMAN FORCES IN EAST.

Britain Now Controls Persian Gulf—Proclamation of Holy War by Turkey Leads to Uprising Against Italians in Tripoli—Servia to Stay in Struggle to the End.

London, Dec. 9.—The victory off the Falkland Islands, where the British squadron sank the German cruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Leipzig, and the success of the Indian troops on the Gulf of Persia, where they compelled the surrender of a Turkish army, have for the moment overshadowed, so far as England is concerned, at any rate, the larger events which have taken place on the continent of Europe.

The sinking of the German cruisers materially lessens the menace to British shipping, while the success of the Indian forces has given Great Britain control of the Persian Gulf, the Delta of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, and threatens a part of Turkey on which German railway builders have had their eyes set for years.

With this good news for the Allies comes what is considered here as a favorable French communication of the operations in Flanders and France. There is also a somewhat clearer view of what is taking place along the Russo-German front.

#### SUCCESSES IN WESTERN WAR AREA.

The withdrawal of German troops from the west to strengthen their armies in the east has enabled the Allies to resume the initiative along the front, reaching from the Swiss border to the North Sea, and while they have not made any marked advance they have been able, according to official announcement, to organize and consolidate the positions won in the last few days. This naturally has not been done without opposition from the Germans, who claim to have inflicted heavy losses on the French, particularly in the Argonne and north of Nancy.

Flanders is at present considered fairly safe from German attacks, which, when they do materialize is believed here will be directed more at the French centre.

#### RUSSIA ADMITS LOSS OF LODZ.

The Russians have at last admitted the occupation of Lodz by the Germans but say they evacuated the city fifteen hours before the German occupation, and that they changed their positions without the loss of a single man.

It is apparent from the various reports that there are converging German movements on Warsaw from the north and the centre, combined with outflanking movements to the southeast of Cracow. The success of any of these movements would require the Russians to turn back from Cracow, which they have not done thus far. As a matter of fact, the Russians assert that they have inflicted a "grave defeat" on an Austro-German force which tried to get around their left wing, although a later Austrian report indicates partial success in this region.

Reports of the serious illness of the German Emperor, coming through Amsterdam, have not been confirmed. He is able, however, to receive reports on the situation from the general staff.

#### UPRISING AGAINST ITALIANS IN TRIPOLI.

As the result of the Sultan's proclamation of a holy war, a serious uprising is threatened against the Italians in Tripoli, and the Turkish Ambassador at Rome has hastened to assure the Italian government that the Sublime Porte is trying to avert it.

The new Servian cabinet, which is composed of all parties, at the opening of parliament today, assured the members of its intention to carry on the war to the end, in the belief that the sacrifices the country has made will be recognized by the allies when the war is ended. The re-organized Servian army, under King Peter, is making a stubborn stand against the further advances of the Austrians, and, according to Nish reports, has inflicted heavy losses on the invaders.

### THIRTEEN MINE WORKERS KILLED IN EXPLOSION

Were Being Lowered in Cage To Bottom of Shaft When Dynamite Exploded.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 9.—Thirteen mine workers were killed in the Diamond shaft of the Deawara, Lackawanna and Western Company here today, when a box of dynamite being lowered into the mine cage with fourteen men exploded, wrecking the descending cage and dropping the occupants to the bottom of the shaft. The one man who escaped is Martin Belinski, a driver boss.

The accident occurred when the men were going to work, and at a time when the entrance to the mine was crowded with men waiting to be lowered to various levels. There is always a scramble among the men to get on the cage and for this reason the number of men who were on the cage and their identity was not known for several hours after the accident.

The cage had descended to one hundred feet of the bottom of the shaft when for unknown reason the dynamite exploded. The cage was ripped to pieces and all the men were dropped to the bottom of the shaft. The escape of the driver boss is considered almost miraculous by the mine officials.

### BARS IN MANITOBA MUST CLOSE AT 6 P.M.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 9.—Sir Rodmond Roblin this afternoon sent a communication to Dan McRae, president of the License Hotelkeepers' Association, stating that the government declined to amend or moderate its mandate to the effect that all bars in Manitoba must close at seven o'clock each evening, and the whole-sale liquor stores at six o'clock each evening beginning with December 10.

The reply of the premier was in response to a large deputation of hotelmen which waited on the government this morning. It was given out after the provincial cabinet had met for

### EDISON PLANT AT WEST ORANGE WIPED OUT BY FIRE, LOSS \$5,000,000

Only Building Saved Was Laboratory Containing Valuable Scientific Machinery—3,000 Employees Out of Work—"Will Start All Over Again," Edison Announces.

West Orange, N. J., Dec. 9.—Fire destroyed virtually the entire main plant of the Edison Company here tonight, causing damage estimated at nearly \$7,000,000, with insurance that it is expected will reduce the loss to approximately \$5,000,000.

An entire square block of modern reinforced concrete buildings, which were supposed to be fireproof, was burned out by the flames. The only building saved in the block was the laboratory building, containing valuable scientific machinery, under the immediate superintendence of the inventor, Thos. A. Edison.

It is estimated that about three thousand men and women will be temporarily thrown out of work because of the fire. In all about seven thousand persons were employed at the plant, but as the storage battery building across the street from the main plant was saved, with other buildings nearby, it will be possible to keep somewhat more than half the force employed.

Four firemen were injured in fighting the blaze, and were taken to a hospital, but are not thought to be seriously hurt.

"Although I am more than sixty-seven years of age, I'll start all over again tomorrow," said Mr. Edison. "I am pretty well burned out tonight, but I will go right to work to reconstruct the plant."

The inventor expressed himself thus as he stood watching the flames. It is thought probable the fire was caused by an explosion in the inspection building, one of the smaller structures. This building was quickly a mass of flames, and the spread of the fire to the other structures nearby was rapid. The quantities of chemicals in some of the larger buildings made the work of fighting the fire extremely difficult, as the firemen were constantly in danger of injury. Explosions of chemicals occurred frequently. Employees who were at work in the various departments about the plant all escaped safely, the fire drill bell being sounded, and men and women marching out in virtually perfect order.

### GREAT BRITAIN AND PORTUGAL SIGN ARBITRATION TREATY

London, Dec. 9.—An arbitration treaty between Great Britain and Portugal has been signed in London. The treaty, which is for a period of five years, is of special significance at the present moment, as it is emphasized in the preamble in the following words: "Being desirous of confirming, by a further solemn agreement, the friendship alliance which happily has subsisted for so long a period between them, and of eliminating, so far as is possible, from their relations everything which might weaken that friendship, the alliance has agreed to the submission of questions in disputed terms of the articles of this treaty."

Over two hours to discuss the case as presented to them.

WAR OFFICE ACCEPTS MCGILL'S OFFER.

Montreal, Dec. 9.—McGill Univer-

sity Medical Faculty received word this afternoon from the British war office in London, through the Canadian Department of Militia, Ottawa, that the faculty's offer to furnish the personnel of a general hospital has been accepted by the Imperial authorities.