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# THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

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## CARGO 'WILHELMINA' PRIZE FRENCH CLAIM SUCCESSES IN THE VOSGES VIOLENT ARTILLERY IN THE AISNE VALLEY NORWEGIAN TANK STEAMER TORPEDOED

London, Feb. 20.—The British Government announced to-day that they had decided that the cargo of the American steamer *Wilhelmina* should be held for the decision of the Prize Court.

Paris, Feb. 20.—French successes in the Vosges and Argonne are announced by the War Office to-day.

There is nothing important to report since the communication of last evening. The night was calm, but there were artillery combats of some violence in the Valley of the Aisne section of Rheims.

In the region of Perthes all positions conquered by us remain in our hands. Between Argonne and Meuse, at Pont des Quatre Enfants, we captured a bomb thrower.

In the Vosges we repulsed two in-

fantry attacks to the north of Misenbach in the region of Bonhomme. In addition we strengthened and organized our positions, proceeding methodically to north and south of Sadel Farm.

London, Feb. 20.—An official statement issued by the Admiralty last night says the Norwegian tank steamer *Belridge*, was struck by a torpedo fired by a German submarine to-day near Folkestone.

Pieces of the torpedo, it is asserted, have been found on the ship.

A despatch to Lloyd's from Dover reports that the steamer *Belridge* is now anchored in the Downs, and that arrangements have been made for her to proceed to Thames Haven, conveyed by a tug.

## Severe Fighting Near Ypres

Germans Capture British Trench But Driven Out by Counter Attack—French Gov't Reports Gains

(British Official Report)

London, Feb. 19.—General French reports severe fighting at times near Ypres the Germans took one British trench, but were driven on by a counter attack, leaving sixty dead and numerous prisoners. Two other enemy attacks were driven back with loss. The ground recently gained by us was held without difficulty.

The French Government reports the gains in Champagne and Argonne maintained. Near Aisne after a counter-attack the enemy left several hundred dead. In Champagne three machine guns and several hundred prisoners were captured, and the last three days have been favourable to the Allies.

The Russian Government reports very stubborn fighting in Augustow region. Austrian attacks were repulsed in the Carpathians. In Bukovina the Russians have fallen back beyond the Pruth.

Trustworthy reports state that another German airship, apparently the latest completed before the war, was lost on the Danish coast.—HAR- COURT.

## PRINCIPAL JAPANESE DEMANDS

Political Party Has Prepared Platform Defining Its Attitude Towards China

According to Chinese and Japanese papers, the Seiyukai, one of the most influential political parties in Japan, has prepared a platform defining its attitude towards China.

The principal features of the document are as follows:

- (1) For the protection of Chinese territorial integrity, Japan and China should make an alliance, and if any nation attempts to invade China, both shall assume the responsibility of defending her.
- (2) China shall not be at liberty to grant political, financial, and other important concessions to foreign nations.
- (3) Japan shall continue enjoying the privileges in Tsing-tau which were enjoyed by Germany, and shall return the territory to China when the latter becomes strong and is in a position to preserve peace, even though the term of lease is not yet expired.
- (4) South Manchuria and Inner Mongolia shall be the area in which both China and Japan shall jointly rule.
- (5) At the time of a crisis, the two countries shall conjointly work out financial and military problems.
- (6) All the important places should

be connected with Peking by railways and the Shantung Railway should be joined to the Peking-Hankow line.

(7) China's administration is to be reformed.

(8) The Royalist party, the Kuomintang, and other political parties are to be pacified.

(9) Japanese advisers shall be engaged to reform the affairs in the different Ministries.

## HARBOR GRACE RAILWAY DOCK

Financial Success—Company Holds Meeting and Elects Officers

A meeting of this company was held at Board of Trade Rooms Thursday, when election of officers for ensuing year took place.

Following were elected:—President—J. J. Murphy; Vice-president and Managing Director, John Tapp; Secy.—Treas., E. Simmons.

A directorate, consisting of Messrs. C. A. Jerrett, A. W. Ploot, John McRae, John Duff, J. W. Grant, A. J. Goodridge, R. S. Munn and Captain T. Dunn will act in conjunction with above in the general management.

Although the fiscal year does not end till May 30th, it was deemed advisable to hold the annual meeting at the present time.

The dock—one of the finest of its kind on this side of the Atlantic—has been recently improved, and the returns are ahead of corresponding period in 1914.

The meeting decided to issue circulars to schooner owners along the coast, from Little Bay Islands to Burgeo, asking them to send their vessels to H. Grace, as repairs can be done there as cheaply and expeditiously as anywhere else, and where a staff of first class workmen are engaged.

## A Pity and a Shame

A criminal case, involving some loathsome details has just passed through the Supreme Court.

We believe the interest of public morality is not served by the hearing of this class of crime in open Court, and in the presence of youthful and idle onlookers, and were better heard in private.

In this case a very young child was brought into the witness box and asked to give evidence. The parents of that child had every ground for refusing to have her brought into the case at all, and we are shocked to find that we, claiming as we do a certain amount of civilization, should think it necessary or good to have a presumably innocent child brought into this foul suit.

## A Big Mail

The large mail which the express of last night brought along is but one of many such arriving of late. Each mail seems to be increasing in volume, and shows that somebody is thinking of us abroad. The P.O. officials were kept assorting to a late hour last night.

## Convention Conception Bay District Council at Spaniard's Bay

President Coaker Will Again Address Big Meeting

In another column will be found a notice calling all the Councils of the F.P.U. established in Conception Bay to send delegates to the Convention of the Conception Bay District Council to be held at Spaniard's Bay next Wednesday, the 24th. Every Council from Kelligrews to Grate's Cove should be represented.

Each Council can send four delegates. Each District Council can also send delegates. President Coaker will attend, and business of great importance will be considered.

The Port-de-Grave District Council Annual Meeting, will meet at Cupids on Tuesday, the 23rd, as per notice to be found in another column. Friend Grimes will preside. The delegates attending will proceed the next day to Spaniard's Bay Convention.

The Annual Meeting of Harbor Grace District Council will be held at Spaniard's Bay on the morning of Wednesday, the 24th inst., and the delegates present will represent their Councils also at the Conception Bay District Meeting to be held on the afternoon and evening of the same day.

President Coaker will be absent two days and will return on Thursday, the 25th. The Bowring insult, the Kean outrage, the price of seals, the Export Company Labrador establishments, the amendments to the Constitution to provide for the establishment of a Conception Bay District Council, the Labrador current price for fish case, the relief of destitution, and other matters of vital importance to the Country in general, and Conception Bay in particular, will be considered.

The Convention will open at 2.30 p.m. on the afternoon of Wednesday, the 24th, and continue in session until the business is gone through. Any Council in any part of the North can be represented at the Convention. Most of the F.P.U. members of the House of Assembly will be present.

All Councils of the F.P.U. in the Districts of Harbor Main, Port-de-Grave, Carbonear, Harbor Grace and Bay-de-Verde are requested to send delegates to the SPECIAL MEETING of the Conception Bay District Council, which will be convened at SPANIARD'S BAY, on WEDNESDAY, 24th inst., according to the decision arrived at by the Coley's Point Convention.

President Coaker will preside, and important matters will be considered.  
W. F. COAKER,  
President F.P.U.

St. John's, Feb. 18th.

## BRITISH ARMY'S HEAVY GUNS

Awful Destructive Effect High Explosive Terrific Detonations Heard Above the Roar of Battle 20 Miles Away

London, Feb. 16.—The British Army in France is now using heavy howitzers which, according to a report from the Official "Eye-Witness," with the expeditionary force, have German guns. The howitzers, he states, were used in successful attacks on the Germans positions in the brick fields south of La Basse Canal a week ago.

Caused Havoc Among Enemy.

"Our heavy howitzers took part in this bombardment, their fire being directed on the railway triangle," the "Eye-Witness" says, "The boom of these pieces, and the detonations of their shells, were audible twenty miles away above the roar of the other artillery, while to those close at hand the shrieking of the great projectiles through the air was most impressive, as were the volumes of smoke and debris thrown up. The effect of the lyddite shells was truly terrific, one house being blown bodily into the air, and as they burst among the brick stacks they created great havoc among the enemy.

Rushed Enemy's Position.

"The assault was launched against a strong position among the stacks of bricks held by the Germans. Our storming columns rushed the work from three sides at once and captured it with very little loss, for, as prisoners afterwards stated, the noise of the bursting shells was so great, and the clouds of dust with which the defenders were surrounded were so thick, that they did not observe our men advancing until too late. At the same time trenches to the north of this point, between it and the canal, were stormed by another party. By seizing these points we were enabled

to occupy a continuous line southwards from our forward posts on the canal which formed an advantageous position in front of the brick fields.

Moved Down Germans.

"We captured nineteen unwounded prisoners, in addition to many wounded, a trench mortar and machine guns. The Germans left seventy dead on the ground while our casualties were insignificant.

"The Germans, however showed no inclination to accept this reverse for in the early hours of February seventh a body of them advanced along the canal bank, shouting out 'Don't shoot. We are engineers.'

"This form of stratagem unfortunately for the enemy, has now lost its novelty. Our men held their fire until the supposed sappers were only a few yards away, and then opened with a machine gun with the result that the 'engineers' fell back, leaving thirty dead bodies in front of our line. In the afternoon another attack was attempted, but it melted away under our artillery fire and did not arrive at close quarters.

Littered With Dead.

"A great feature of the recent fighting has been the accuracy of our artillery fire. On one occasion our guns accomplished the feat of blowing the Germans out of trenches they were occupying on an embankment although it was forty yards from that which we were holding. On the sixth of February most of the enemy's casualties were due to our shell fire. The whole of the area, both behind and immediately in front of the trenches we now hold, were found to be littered with the bodies of hundreds of Germans, killed in the various fights since the 25th of January. Our artillery fire here has obtained such ascendancy that after the assault on that day our troops actually were able to put up barbed wire entanglements in front of their trenches, in broad daylight, without being fired at by the enemy's infantry. Prisoners captured here were despondent and much shaken.

Use Incendiary Shells.

"The Germans rely very much on an incendiary shell for damaging towns, and in their recent bombardment of

Armentieres they made use of projectiles of this type packed with candles composed of celluloid, phosphorus and wax, which material is so inflammable that it will ignite if placed in the sun."

The "Eye-Witness" says that some of the prisoners captured lately have been of comparatively poor physique and tells of finding in the pocket of a dead German two medical certificates stating that he was suffering from consumption. The certificates were accompanied by an application from the soldier's father asking that the son be relieved from the necessity of going into active service.

The Official Observer also quotes letters which he says were received by soldiers from home and which were found on bodies, complaining of the increased cost of living and the scarcity of bread, and stating that even school boys were being called into military service.

How British Met the Enemy.

Reverting to the German attack on Cunchy on January 25, the "Eye-Witness" says that the Germans pressed on in swarms, being mowed down, but yet in places reaching the British trenches, and in others penetrating beyond them.

"But even when our line was broken," he continues, "portions of it continued to resist and our infantry holding them, when assailed, from the rear, remained steady, faced about and met the enemy with rifle and bayonet.

"Some of those in the village, who had been engaged in clearing the enemy out of the houses, had got somewhat scattered until of one party only 15 remained together when they saw that some of the enemy were established in one of our fire trenches just outside. They at once charged down the communication trench, led by their officers, and killed or captured all of the Germans, forty in number."

The "Eye-Witness" tells of a German officer who, noticing a British officer who was partially buried in a trench stopped to dig him out and gave him brandy despite the fact that he was under fire. This German afterwards was killed by a stray bullet."

## BRITISH GOVT. REFUSES TO ADVISE SHIPOWNERS

London, Feb. 20.—The British Foreign Office last evening issued a Note in reply to representations of the United States Government concerning the use of the American flag by British vessels. The Note says that the Cunard liner *Lusitania*, on a recent voyage from New York to Liverpool, raised the American flag to save the lives of non-combatant crew and passengers.

It adds that in spite of the fact that American passengers embarking on the *Lusitania* on her outward voyage for New York asked that the American flag be hoisted, the British Government did not give any advice to the company as to how to meet this request, and it is understood the *Lusitania* left Liverpool under the British flag.

After discussing the *Lusitania* incident the memorandum makes the

statement that the British Government has no intention of advising their merchant shipping to use foreign flags as a general practice or resort to them otherwise than for escaping capture or destruction.

In conclusion the statement says the obligation is upon belligerent warships to ascertain definitely for themselves that nationality and character of a merchant vessel before capturing or destroying it has been universally recognised.

If that obligation is fulfilled, the hoisting of a neutral flag on British vessels cannot possibly endanger neutral shipping. The British Government holds that the loss of vessels dis-regarding this, upon the Government giving orders that it should be dis-regarded, full responsibility for injury to neutrals ought to rest with them.

## City Commissioners

The usual weekly gathering of our Civic Board was held last evening, Chairman Gosling presiding. The members present were Messrs. Harris, Ayre, Jackman, Mullaly, Morris, McGrath, Bradshaw and Withers.

The minutes of last meeting were read, and Mr. Mullaly drew attention to an omission, attributing it to neglect of the Secretary.

The matter was rectified by the Chairman.

Com. Mullaly again complained that information asked for some weeks ago had not yet come to hand.

He has been told that the accounts were busy to furnish the desired information, and in view of the fact that the Secretary had been given leave of absence to visit Canadian and American cities, spending the citizens' money, he (Mr. Mullaly) could not accept such subterfuge in the present instance.

The chairman ruled Mr. Mullaly out of order, stating that the Board could not tolerate the introduction of personal matters into business discussions, and Messrs. Harris and Bradshaw agreed with the chairman.

Acting-Secretary Mahoney, at chairman's request, said that the information asked for could only be prepared in the time asked for by Com. Mullaly at the sacrifice of more important work in his office.

Mr. Bradshaw submitted that he thought that all information should be applied for at regular meetings for the benefit of both the applicant and the Board, and Mr. Harris supported the proposition.

Some discussion ensued and Mr. Jackman proposed that "information requiring preparation be applied for in writing through the chairman, which would remove the responsibility from the clerks and would secure members better satisfaction."

This was seconded by Mr. Ayre, and carried.

Mr. Mullaly notified reporters that next time he applied for information he would have it printed on satin, hire a band and appear in Robe of Office at the City Hall, heading a torchlight procession.

Col. Secy. wrote to the effect that the Government had no objection to the Board publishing statements of estimated Revenue and Expenditure such as have been published by the Press.

Inspector Rooney submitted a supplementary list of houses lacking water and sewerage, and the chairman recommended the Sanitary Committee to take the matter up at once.

J. P. Kieley, of the Nickel informed the Board that the theatre was now running for charity and, therefore, not liable to taxes, and the Solicitor of the Board replied that such was the case.

W. J. Ellis was given permission to repair and alter the building at corner of New Gower and Adelaide Streets.

The usual weekly Reports from the various Departments were adopted, pay rolls passed, and the chairman announced a meeting of Labor Employers with himself in Board of Trade Rooms to discuss the labour problem. Meeting adjourned at 9.15 p.m.

## BOARDERS WANTED

—Three or four Gentlemen Boarders can be accommodated at No. 68 New Gower St. Terms moderate. Cuisine first class.—Feb. 17

## DO IT NOW!

Its no use waiting till somebody else gets ahead of you. Now is the time to advertise in The Mail and Advocate.

## Przemysl Again Under Heavy Fire

London, Feb. 20.—Despatches from Craoav say the Russians have begun to bombard Przemysl with new heavy artillery, and that they have driven the Austrians back along the line of Kronefjalo-Gorlice.

The Austrians are reported to have suffered heavy losses in the past three days at Wyszokow, near Duka Pass.

## Turkish Defeat Very Serious

Jemal Pasha Disheartened—Will Abandon Egyptian Invasion Unless New Army Forthcoming

London, Feb. 20.—The Morning Post, in a despatch from Alexandria says, refugees brought here by the warship Tennessee state that the defeat of the Turks at Suez Canal was more serious even than has been thought.

Jemal Pasha is said to be discouraged and has stated his intention to abandon the invasion of Egypt unless a new army is forthcoming.

## Slight Raise in Marine Insurance

New York, Feb. 20.—Marine insurance has been raised but slightly here, as result of German war zone decrees. Rates to British points, which several days ago were quoted at one per cent, have been advanced only to 1 1/4 per cent.

Insurance on shipments to Rotterdam quoted at 1 1/2, and a similar quotation prevails on cargoes to French ports.

There has been a rather heavy advance in rate to the River Plate, because of the reported sinking of five ships by the auxiliary cruiser, Kron Prinz Wilhelm. Rates have gone up from 1 1/2 to 2 per cent.

Six liners with many passengers and large cargoes are leaving port today for Europe. Their course will bring them within zone of the German submarines.

The Methodist contingent of Newfoundland Volunteers will parade to service in Gower St. Methodist Church to-morrow.

The preacher will be the Rev. N. M. Guy.