

LATEST From the Front.

10.00 A. M.

GERMANY OFFERS TO WITHDRAW THREAT OF SUBMARINE BLOCKADE, IF BRITAIN WILL LET FOOD STUFFS FOR GERMAN PEOPLE PASS—RUSSIAN RE-THREAT COINCES FRENCH PRAISES PATRICIAS, INDIANS AND TERRITORIALS.

LONDON, To-day. Britain received to-day through Walter Hines Page, American Ambassador, Germany's offer to withdraw the threat of a submarine blockade against Britain, if the British Navy would permit the free movement of foodstuffs for the civil population in Germany. There is no expectation here that the offer will be accepted. In fact, Britain is already preparing to retaliate against Germany by placing under more stringent control, ships destined for German ports, and a proclamation is momentarily expected, declaring the blockade of the German coast, or at any rate, the prohibition of foodstuffs destined for Germany. The Cabinet with its naval and military advisers considered this question to-day. It is understood the decision is awaiting the formal confirmation of the Privy Council from which all proclamations emanate. Meantime Britain and neutral vessels are moving as freely as usual, with the exception of those belonging to a few Dutch lines which have reduced their number of sailings. Norwegian and Danish insurance companies have given instructions that new ships insured by them shall have their neutral colors, name of ship and country of origin painted on the sides. Holland and Italy, like the States, have protested to Germany against her sea war zone threat and have asked Britain not to make a free use of neutral flags. Similar representations are expected to be made to the two countries to-morrow in a joint note by Norway, Sweden and Denmark. For the time being, questions of diplomacy are arousing more interest than the actual fighting, although military movements of the first importance are taking place, especially along the Eastern line. A German offensive, strongly supported by fresh troops, is being pushed with great vigor both along the East Prussian frontier and in Poland north of the Lower Vistula. The Russians now have evacuated East Prussia except for a small area near Lyck where they are opposing the German advance. They are also apparently falling back in North Poland, for the Germans to-day announced they have occupied Plock and Biala, which the Russians re-captured from them a short time ago. While the Germans claim to have inflicted heavy losses on the retreating Russian armies, military men here and newspaper correspondents in Petrograd continue to refer to the Muscovite movement as a strategic retirement to a fortified line which lies along the Niemen River through Kovno, Grodno and Lomza, and thence southwest to the fortress Novogeorgiyevo. Heavy fighting also continues in the Carpathians and Bukovina. In Bukovina the Russians also are falling back, but they continue to hold the Carpathian Passes further west and are putting up a stubborn resistance to the Austro-German offensive in that region. Here fighting is taking place in deep snow. Both sides are suffering severely. The large number of troops the Germans are using in the East it is believed here, will prevent for some time any attempt by the Germans to break the deadlock in the West. General French in the first of the promised By-Weeks Reports pays a high tribute to Patricias, Indians and Territorials. He says they have far more than justified the most sanguine hopes entertained of their value in the field. The report adds, reinforcements are arriving regularly. Progress is also claimed in the region of Labasse, where the Germans are said to have suffered severe losses, that British artillery has shown marked superiority over that of the Germans. The relations between Greece and Turkey are apparently becoming more strained. Although Turkey offered reparations for the insult to the Greek Military Attache at Constantinople, it is reported the Greek Minister left the Legation in charge of a Secretary, being dissatisfied with Turkey's attitude. The Turkish Minister also left Athens. It is believed in some quarters this is the first step of the rupture of diplomatic relations between Greece and Turkey which is said to have been affected by the Albanian invasion of Serbia. The British Parliament to-day will debate the motion of the Labor Party calling on the Government to fix maximum prices for food.

NO RESCUE EXPEDITION.

OTTAWA, To-day. Because three ships are already in Arctic waters, capable of giving assistance that may be required, the

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Government does not plan to send any rescue expedition to Explorer Stefansson this spring. No word has been received from Stefansson since last August, but in any event he had not planned to return to land this winter.

CONVICTED OF MURDER.

SYDNEY, To-day. John West, a native of Halifax, was convicted of the murder of Miss K. C. Dunn, and was sentenced to be hanged on April 19. The murder was committed at North Sydney on December 1st.

ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE.

ROME, To-day. Another earthquake in the Province of Aquila to-day damaged many houses.

1 P. M.

SUPREME WARNING.

LONDON, To-day. Under the headline "Supreme Warning," says an Amsterdam despatch, German papers publish a semi-official communication, once more warning all neutral ships to avoid the war zone established in the water surrounding the British Isles.

BERNHARDT WILL LOSE LEG.

BORDEAU, To-day. Sarah Bernhardt, who is in hospital here awaiting amputation of her leg necessitated by an injury to the knee, continues to maintain her strength and spirits. Her cheerful courage has won the admiration of all her friends.

GENERAL BATTLE EXPECTED.

BERLIN, To-day. The Russian army in Bukovina has been enveloped by the Austro-Hungarians between Druth and Serch Rivers, a correspondent of the Tagblatt says in a despatch from Bistritz. One Austrian army is pushing the Russians from the south and now has reached Storzshmetz, while another Austrian force having advanced from Marmaros against Wianicz now stands in the vicinity of Czeronowitz. A general battle may be expected therefore, south and east of Czeronowitz. The Russian army has halted 12 miles from that point, the paper is informed, having met reinforcements.

NOT LIKELY TO ACCEPT.

WASHINGTON, To-day. Officials of the Washington Government to-day have received unofficial advice from London, indicating there was little likelihood there that Britain would accept Germany's proposal, for the latter to permit free movements of foodstuffs to the civil population of Germany. Germany's proposal was laid before the British Foreign Office yesterday by Ambassador Page at London. The same advice stated further that Britain was preparing to put into effect still more rigorous measures to prevent Germany from receiving food supplies from other nations. But a few hours, now remain before Germany's sea war zone proclamation is scheduled to go into effect. In the meantime Administrative officials continue to keenly await formal replies of Britain and Germany to the recent American notes regarding the use of neutral flags and the submarine campaign on merchant vessels and the shipment of foodstuffs to Germany. While high officials admit the gravity of the diplomatic situation, they are still hopeful to-day that an understanding of the question of foodstuffs would be reached whereby the necessity which Germany declares will result for making war on enemy merchant ships may be avoided.

Certificate Suspended.

The finding of the Marine Court of Enquiry at Halifax in connection with the collision between the Morwenna and Dartmouth Ferry steamer Chelcheto was that Capt. Holmes of the former ship was to blame and his ticket was suspended for six months; whilst the Captain of the Chelcheto was reprimanded.

To Friends of Naval Reservists.

Several letters which have been sent to our boys in the Naval Reserve have been returned because of insufficient address. Writing to any of our sailors the following should be added to the address: Seaman, Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve. This will greatly facilitate the despatch of mails and enable the boys, who are always anxious to hear from home, to get their letters weeks earlier than heretofore.

Have You an Itchy Spot?

Somewhere on your body? If so attend to it at once. In Eczema—and itchy spots, whether dry and scurfy, or moist and inclined to "weep," are generally excruciating—Zylex are foolish, allowing the disease to spread and affect more of the good skin. Your best chance for a cure is to use Zylex, which will give almost instant relief, and if used in the earlier stages of the trouble will almost certainly bring a cure, and in any event will greatly ameliorate the trouble. Ask your druggist about it. Price 50c. a box. Zylex Soap, 25c. a cake.

ZYLEX, London.

Here and There.

R. C. CATHEDRAL—The ceremony of the Blessing of the Ashes took place at the R. C. Cathedral at the 8.30 Mass to-day, and at 10 o'clock solemn High Mass was sung.

WILL REPLACE FLORIZEL—It has been decided, we understand, that the s.s. Morwenna will run on the Red Cross service in conjunction with the Stophano while the Florizel is at the icefields.

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THE ROYAL STORES, LTD.

Notes on the Patriotic Tour. Deer Lake and Humber River.

L. C. M.

CHAPTER IV.

Leaving Deer Lake the Humber Arm and Bay of Islands are soon reached, and every aspect of the district as viewed from the train, presents a scene both panoramic and romantic. We have seen Bay of Islands and the Humber in the glory of the summer day, when upon them arose the sun in the splendour of the morning; and then at high noon we have beheld the tranquillity of its waters, and seen reflected in them the Islands of the Bay. At eventide we have watched the sun sinking in the far west as if some mighty warrior of fire were retiring, and in all the whole scene was wonderful to behold. But this time we beheld them wrapt in the paler garb of winter, and while the view was not as varied as that of Summer, there was that silent grandeur which particularly belongs to Winter, and which in itself tells the same tale as is told by all Creation.—The tale of the ages, the tale of Divinity, the tale which shows man his smallness, and which reveals his Creator's greatness.

The entire indraft of Bay of Islands and the Humber Arm is about thirty miles, the distance being nearly equally divided between both. This whole sheet of water was frozen over from shore to shore at the time of our visit, and its surface was bound by the chilly grasp of the Ice King. But there were abundant signs of life and business seemed to go on in its regular way, and men and horses were busily engaged hauling loads of barrelled herring to and fro. The young people were enjoying themselves skating, and a sight not often seen in Newfoundland still added to the uniqueness of the scene. It was the sight of the ice boats, all scudding to and fro, and turning around in their course as if upon a spindle.

We conversed with several people about the speed of ice-boats, notably Mr. McEvoy, and Mr. Lilly, and we learned from the gentlemen as well as from others, that with a moderate breeze, and fairly good ice, the average hourly speed of an ice-boat is about one hundred and twenty miles. At first we seemed to question the statement, but soon found that figures and comparisons from all parts of the world supported the statement of our informants, and that the ice-boat, simple in construction though it may be, is so far the swiftest vehicle, under man's control. This may seem strange when one considers the great advan-

ces of science in the application of steam and the generating of electricity and all the mighty machinery that accompanies these branches; but strange though it may appear, it is a fact, and so we see that in the little ice-boat answering to the forces of nature, there is a greater power than in all the modern inventions that is, in as far as ice-sailing is concerned.

As our readers are aware Bay of Islands is known as the home of herring, and thither come annually many American vessels for the purpose of loading and marketing these splendid fish. We did not see the fishery in operation at the time of which we write, but from enquiry we learned that the present season has been a very good one, and on the whole the results are satisfactory. We were informed at the time of our stay that men were that day fishing through the ice for cod fish, and that some splendid fish had been taken, and we were further informed that it is quite a common practice at Bay of Islands for men to catch fish through the ice. From all that we learned of Bay of Islands as to its industrial and commercial interests, we feel fully convinced that the entire district is very independent, and that it promises a greater future than we may anticipate.

Gradually we are waking up to the worth and possibilities of these places and it is to be hoped that we may have less politicians, and less men who call themselves politicians, and more business-men, and more faith shown in the business of our country; and then our country will take its right place, and Bay of Islands will be one of its most prosperous and picturesque centres. Bay of Islands as it impressed us during our short stay has very much in its favor, and the best proof which we can give of these opinions is to be found in the beautiful homesteads and comfortable dwellings which present themselves in every direction. No better indication of the enterprise and trade of the place can be desired, than the fact that the Bank of Montreal has erected a very substantial and quite architectural building, in which to transact its business, and to accommodate the interests of the people generally. Then there are the churches and schools, and then the Western Star, a very live weekly journal, which for the past sixteen years, has done as much to develop and promote the interests of Bay of Islands, as any other factor along the coast. All these tell of progress, and as we couple with them the enterprise and industry of the people themselves, we feel assured in asserting that Bay of Islands is bound to go ahead.

(To be continued.)

Stafford's Prescription "A" cures Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Gastritis, Catarrh of the Stomach and Nervous Dyspepsia. Price 25 and 50c. Postage, 5 and 10c. extra.—Feb11,15

Celebrated "Bengal" Razors, also Honors and Strops, sold at BOWRING BROS., LTD., Hardware Dept. Prices 50c., \$1.00, \$1.50 each.—Feb16,15

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Now here is an opportunity to witness a recognized high-class Entertainment and help out a truly laudable object. EVERY PROGRAMME WILL MAINTAIN THE USUAL STANDARD, as the following list of attractions for WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY will verify:—

"THE IDLER"—A Vitaphone drama.

"THE MUTUAL WEEKLY"—Interesting news items.

A Pathe Freres two-part drama:—

"Anthony and Cleopatra."

A massive and glittering production, showing the barbaric splendour of the great Queen's Court, her fatal love, the battle which crushed her hopes and her final dramatic suicide.

"PRINTING THE MORNING PAPER"—A most interesting subject.

"THE RIVAL UNDERTAKERS"—A Vitaphone comedy.

THE MAN FROM YORKSHIRE—ARTHUR PRIESTMAN CAMERON—Singing Peculiar Songs in his own peculiar way.

ALTHOUGH THE ADMISSION IS SMALL, nevertheless if NICKEL-GOERS turn out in large numbers, A GOODLY AMOUNT MUST BE REALIZED.