

## BELGIANS TELL OF GERMAN CRUELTY

Refugees Now in Toronto Relate Heart-Rending Experiences

### FLIGHT FROM ANTWERP

Mme. Verboven Describes Hardships Endured Before Reaching England

Some months ago in passing thru Toronto from the west, Father Pilot gave an address to the members of the women's auxiliary of Catholic Church Extension at the St. Philip Neri Hotel on Sherbourne street. Father Pilot told his audience that he was on his way to Belgium to see if he could find any trace of his relatives or if he could be of assistance to any of the people of his native country.

The party of Belgians—the first to arrive in Toronto—who are now at the Grand Central Hotel, the guests of Mr. Thomas Flanagan, form the sequel to the efforts begun a few months back, and the terrible tales told by these poor Belgian exiles bring home to those who hear their harrowing story the atrocities of the foe and the sufferings of the brave Belgians in a way that no second-hand medium could possibly do. The men, women and children now in Toronto were participants and sufferers in the great calamity that overtook the country, and the horror of what they endured and witnessed is still with them.

A Tale of Terror.  
"I shall never forget it, never," said Madame Verboven, one of the party, who speaks English volubly but with decidedly foreign accent and idioms. She had spent some time in England about ten years ago, and the language she acquired at that time she is now finding very useful. For a full hour she poured forth her story, and as she herself said, much of it could never be published, it is too horrible.

Madame Verboven with her husband was in Antwerp at the opening of hostilities. They lived in the cellar for two months for fear of bombardment. "I took food and water down for us," she said. "The Germans," she told the World representative, "who my husband kept telling me as this was a neutral country we need not be afraid in Antwerp. Then one morning at five o'clock I heard a great noise. I say to my husband, what is that? It was bombs, firing. This kept on till seven o'clock. Then at eight o'clock along came the paper telling us all to go to the station to leave Antwerp. At eleven o'clock when we got to the station it took us two hours to get thru the crowd. When we got on the train it was crowded with men, women and children and outside the men were holding on like this," and so vivid was the remembrance that Mme. Verboven arose from her chair and grasped the arms, while her face and her whole being became tense in the remembrance of how her countrymen clung to the only ark that presented itself to the refugees of Antwerp.

Tragic Experiences.  
"The things I saw in the course of this hurried flight were tragic in the extreme. A woman with a dead child in her arms, man pushing his wife, woman in which on a counterpane lay his wife and her newly born child—thousands in all conditions of plight and fear.

After some hours Mr. and Mrs. Verboven found their way to the home of a relative in the country. Here they were joined by other refugees, and some of whom had lost their reason, sat on the floor through the night.

In the course of their rush to the frontier they stayed for several days in a pigstye, and here Mrs. Verboven, who is a refined young woman quite capable of appearing in society, has gone thru a very purgatory of suffering. On another occasion they were two days—a party of thirty-five in number—staying in what the narrator described as "straw in the ceiling." For two days they were without food, and when at length they ventured out, even though they had money, the only thing procurable was a little black bread.

Many Were Dying.  
At this time many in the country were dying, but there was no time to make coffins. "You should see their faces," said this Belgian refugee, "telling of the people suffering from hunger, sickness and the pangs of death."

Eventually they determined to try to get to England. An English official with whom they got in touch told them they would get a free passage to England, and that the man would take the place of the men in England who were engaged in the war. The opposition they met from the Dutch officials and from all the Dutch who were there was of the most strenuous kind. At the station in Holland they were mistreated and went from one department to another, and it was only by a ruse that they at last succeeded in boarding a train, but there was no free fare, they had to pay their way.

Suffering From Hunger.  
When they arrived at Folkestone their troubles were over for a while. A committee met them with food and welcome, and the cup of hot milk handed the poor travelers who had not eaten any food worth the name for days, will always live in the mind of this Belgian exile as the most grateful draught that ever crossed her lips.

In England, Mrs. Verboven was placed in the home of a teacher who was very kind, but who had none too much of the goods of this world. Then, after some time, she was introduced to Father Pilot, who was on his return to Canada, and she gratefully accepted his offer to be of the party.

passing thru Holland and back to Ghent. Eventually they got to Ostend and just to London.

At London, Mrs. Cohn states that she saw a surgeon binding up the wounds of a little Belgian child whose mother had been shot, and who had his thumbs burnt off by the cigars of the German soldiers. These and other atrocities related seem to indicate that the world has gone back to the barbarisms of the ages when savagery reigned and the amenities of civilization were altogether unknown.

## WAR TALK IS IDLE WALL STREET TOLD

Wilson Said to Regard Situation as Not Really Serious

### UNOFFICIAL GOSSIP

Congress Not Likely to Be Summoned for Emergency Session

Special to The Toronto World.  
NEW YORK, May 8.—The following message on the situation created by the sinking of the Lusitania, was received this morning by William C. Van Antwerp, a member of the governing committee of the New York Stock Exchange, from a personal friend in Washington:

"The administration will make every effort to discourage war or reprisal talk. The president does not regard the situation as more serious than the Gulf light case. No official statement is likely today, but I will have something from the secretary of state later. The president will do nothing until the excitement blows over and all the facts are at hand. It is certain that this incident will not lead towards anything like war."

"The president is not likely to call congress in session, as that would only complicate matters. There is no basis in the situation for any alarm that would affect the stock market. This statement is not official. It comes from an unofficial source that pretty closely represents the administration."

## PALL OF GLOOM OVER NEW YORK

Lusitania Disaster Has Had Powerful Effect on All Classes

### BUSINESS FORGOTTEN

Subway and Elevated Trains Wore a Funeral Aspect

NEW YORK, May 8.—All New York is in mourning today. In all places of business, in every hotel, restaurant, club or wherever people assemble nothing is talked up but the destruction of life on the Lusitania. Men forget their ordinary interests. They are unable to apply their minds to any subject but the horror of the Irish coast.

In the subway and elevated trains there was no laughter nor smiling this morning nor was there much loud conversation. The trains were funeral trains. Even the young clerks and sales-girls, who usually are joking and chattering and full of high spirits at the beginning of the day, were as silent and subdued as the rest. Whenever one looked only grief and shock were evident.

"To be sure our office open as usual," said one business man, "but for they are doing we might just as well have stayed home. Nobody can think of anything but the sinking of the Lusitania and the destruction of all those innocent people. Forty children, less than one year old, in the ship's second cabin, and they call that war!"

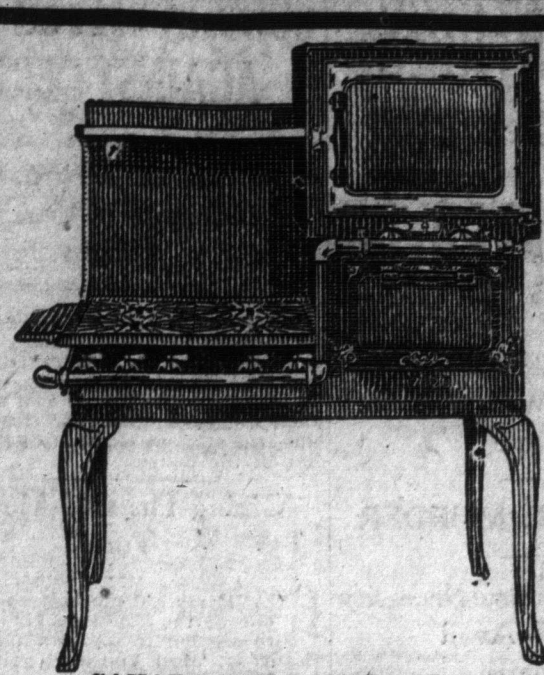
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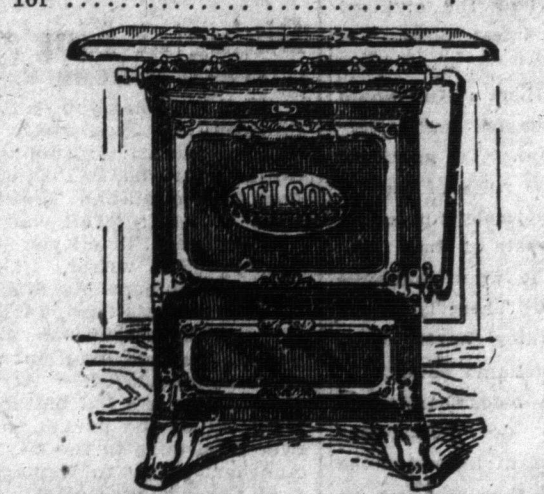
the country. Both can afford to be strong and at the same time sane." Liner Not Conveyed.  
In official circles here there is a disposition in view of the Lusitania and other incidents to enquire where the British navy? So far as official information now goes it appears that the stopping of the country's convoys. While official judgment on the whole incident will be withheld until all the facts are known, there are questions to which answers are desired here. The first impression is that the British navy will not escape unscathed in the final analysis.

There is a growing opinion here among officials that the recent program of Germany in respect to submarine warfare has for its purpose the stopping of the shipment of war munitions from the country. These munitions, the Lusitania had and has had on her previous trips a large supply in her cargo. At no stage of the diplomatic negotiations between this country and Berlin has the German Government ever denied to sell war munitions to any nation having access to the ports of the United States. There has been a suggestion touching the morality of such shipments and also the question of the possible effects on public opinion.

"Mature Consideration."  
In embracing such a policy, if the theory entertained by her is correct, Germany would naturally be prepared to assume the responsibility which went with it. In view of the fact, it can be set down as certain that the



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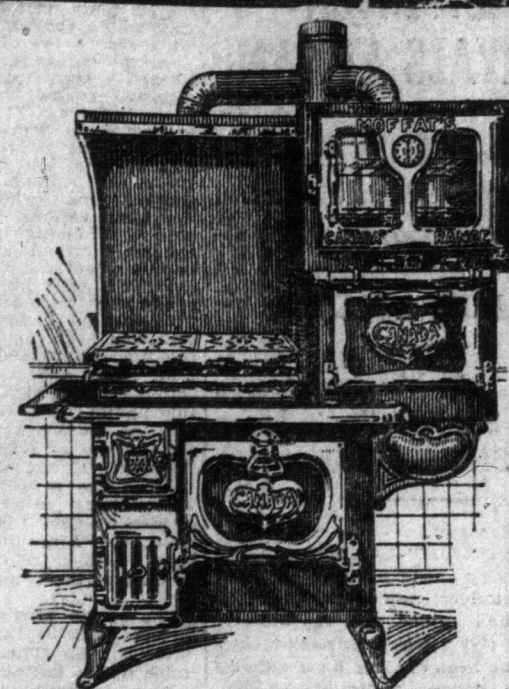
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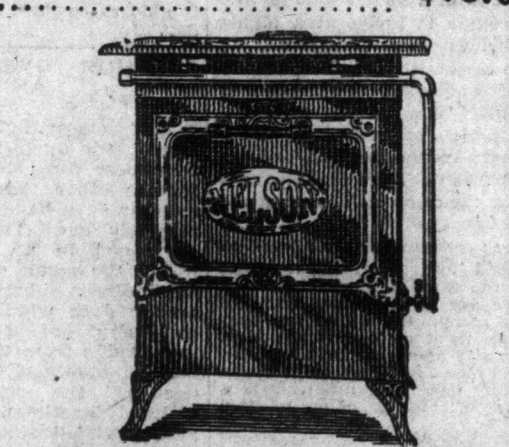
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## LACK OF CONVOYS TO BE EXPLAINED

Official Statement on Behalf of British Admiralty is Awaited

### CUNARD MEN SILENT

Officials of Line Are Warned to Refrain From Comment

#### Special to The Toronto World.

NEW YORK, May 8.—Officials of the Cunard Line declined to day to make any comment on the question of the lack of convoy for the Lusitania. They said in explanation that the failure of the British admiralty to safeguard the big ship would doubtless be the subject of a statement in parliament from the cabinet, and that it would be obviously improper for them to say anything in the circumstances. W. T. Stead, publicity agency of the line, also explained the policy that was being followed in giving out news.

"One of the first things we did yesterday was to issue an order that no official of the line should make any statements," he said. "We decided at once to confine ourselves simply to giving out cable messages received. It would be obviously improper for us to do anything else. You will doubtless get some comment on this question from the other side, but very likely be the subject of a statement in parliament."

## ONTARIO CHAPLAIN HAS NARROW ESCAPE

Bombs Fell Nearby From Air Craft—British Chaplain Lucky

Two narrow escapes from death from German bombs have just been experienced by a Canadian Baptist Chaplain with the First Contingent in France and the Wesleyan Chaplain-general with the British forces.

Rev. O. S. Watkins the Wesleyan Chaplain-General who has relatives in Toronto, in a letter from the front, received at the Methodist Mission Offices here says: "Our hospital was wrecked by high explosive shells, and I wonder to this day how we were left alive. We had one officer killed and two wounded belonging to our ambulance, besides a number of men. For myself I am deeply grateful to God who preserved me, for Major Richards, who was killed, was within a few yards of me. He was a brave and best, a fine Christian, and he died as he had lived, thinking of others. We are a sad little company that are left, only four of the twelve officers who left with the field ambulance last August: Col. Crawford, Lieut. Grenfell, Rev. D. R. Winniffrith and myself."

Hon. Captain-Chaplain J. B. Grimshaw, of the Third Artillery Brigade, of the first Canadian division, in a letter to the Rev. Dr. Norton, superintendent of Baptist Home Missions here, says: "When I was out walking a bomb from a German airship fell a short distance ahead and quickly disposed of two French troopers. Bombs have been falling around the place where I am staying."

## SWANSEA HARDWARE MAN IS AMONG SURVIVORS

Robert Farrow, hardware merchant of Swansea, who was a passenger on the Lusitania, is safe according to a cable message received by his wife at 1.15 on Saturday morning. It consisted of only three words, "Bob is safe," and was signed "Bob." Mrs. Farrow is doubly congratulating herself on the escape of her husband, as last summer by a fortunate circumstance she took passage on the Virginian from Montreal instead of the Empress of Ireland, which was lost in the St. Lawrence. Both boats left within a few hours of each other, and Mrs. Farrow at the last moment chose the Virginian in order to avoid the longer train journey to Quebec. Mr. Farrow went to England to visit his aged mother, who is very ill.

#### VIOLET JAMES SAVED.

EDMONTON, Alta., May 8.—Private advice announces Miss Violet James, passenger on the Lusitania, as safe.

#### REMANDED ON MANY CHARGES.

Arthur Conley, on charges of burglary, shooting with intent, and robbery with violence, was remanded a week in police court yesterday.

#### ODD and INTERESTING FACTS

Nowadays nearly all fast swimmers use what is known as the "trudgeon" stroke, which is really a double over-arm movement, greatly improved, and in which the swimmer makes one stroke with each arm to one kick with his legs.

Battles are now far more lengthy conflicts than they ever were in the world's history. The duration of the greatest battles of modern times was as follows: Waterloo, 6 hours; Sedan (the big fighting), 12½ hours; Gravelotte, 9 hours; Mar-la-Tour, 10 hours; Konigsgrat, 8 hours; Alma, 2½ hours; Leipzig, 3 days; Gettysburg, 3 days.

Torpedoes are fired from a spoon-shaped tube, which is well greased, so that the weapon may shoot out easily and take the water in a horizontal position. A year's work is shot away every time a torpedo is sent speeding to its mark, for it takes 12 months to complete one, so intricate is the machinery which it contains.

During the flat racing of last season the net value of stakes won in England was \$2,341,020; in Ireland, \$200,446, and in Scotland, \$21,826. The number of horses that ran in the different races of last season was 386 as against 4666 during 1912.

Housebreaker Caught.

Mike Smith, address unknown, was arrested this afternoon by Acting Detective McConnell, charged with house-breaking. Considerable jewelry, a revolver and other articles, along with an assortment of keys, were found in his possession.

Irish Lord Justice of Appeal is Dead.

LONDON, May 8.—Rt. Hon. J. Francis Moriarty, lord justice of appeal in Ireland, died yesterday. Previous to his appointment as lord justice of appeal, Mr. Moriarty had been solicitor-general and also attorney-general for Ireland.

For more Reasons than one you should try

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