

# FORMAL DENIAL THAT ANY SHIPS WERE LOST

## British Admiralty Speaks--The Aurora Finished Kolberg.

## Tyrwhitt's Fleet All In Port--Stories of Rescue.

London Cable--The British Admiralty to-night issued a formal denial of the German reports that some British ships had been sunk in the naval battle in the North Sea last Sunday. The Admiralty adheres to its former statement that all the British vessels engaged returned safely to port.

The persistent rumors that the British battle cruiser Invincible and the German battle cruiser, von der Tann had been in action in South American waters brought forth the following statement from the Admiralty to-night:

There is no foundation whatever for the statement that the Von der Tann and the Invincible have been in action with one another.

The absence of the Von der Tann from the German fleet which was in action with vice-admiral Sir David Beatty's squadron last Sunday had led to the rumors as to the whereabouts of that ship. One report was that she had been badly damaged in retreating from the raid on Scarborough and other east coast towns through a collision with the protected cruiser Frauen Loeb.

Further reports of Sunday's sea fight as told by men of the British squadron are given in the Daily News. The light cruiser Aurora was in action with the German cruiser Kolberg, and he first shot carried away the Kolberg's midship funnel. Her guns raked the German ship, which, when last seen by the Aurora, was in a helpless and sinking condition. Some of the men who took part also in Heligoland fight in August said "The light fight was a plucky encounter with Sunday's fight. This was fine sport." On one destroyer it is stated that the crew sang "See how they run," but there was quite another tale from the crew of the Meteor.

"We were told," said one man, "to act as a decoy. Our commander is noted for his seamanship. We double banked our fires and then we went ahead, firing our guns. We were lit by a piece of green lightning. We did some fancy skating and the German gunners must have been sick at missing us from time to time. We spun around at times like a spinning top, but they got to us twice, and we got a shell into our boiler-room, which laid four of our fellows out at once. Then we got another in the stern and this stopped our merry little dance. We were sorry and yet we were not. We wanted to go back again, but we had to be content with watching the same of bare and boulders. We saw the Bleucher go down. The sight was magnificent, yet horrible."

"I don't think much of the German 'armies,'" interposed a comrade. "They dropped bombs and I believe they drowned many of their own men by doing so."

**MOSQUITO FLEET ALL SAFE.**  
London Cable--A Daily Chronicle correspondent has gathered the following account of the sinking of the Bleucher and the part played by the cruiser Arethusa in the North Sea battle:

Once again has the Arethusa covered herself with glory. In Sunday's engagement she was one of the first ships to strike the Germans, and after remaining in action for seven hours the task of striking the Bleucher a mortal blow fell to her, as did the pleasure of rescuing eight officers and 17 men from the doomed battle cruiser. Shell fell around her, giving her no respite through the whole morning until two in the afternoon.

She had some miraculous escapes. Although her decks were drenched with water thrown up by shells which exploded in the sea close by, she herself was absolutely undamaged.

One of the German officers whom she had taken aboard as prisoner confessed that the Arethusa could never hope to be England.

"On land perhaps," he remarked, "but on sea, never."

**PRISONERS' STATEMENTS.**  
Once aboard the German officers were not treated as prisoners. They were shown into wardrobes, and soon began to fraternize with our officers. "We feel honored to be captured by the Arethusa," one officer said. "It is a wonderful feat, and her name is known in Germany."

"Well, I can't say it is all over," said another, "but I think of the time when I shall see you again."

"I have never heard a single person in Canada object to the war or to Canada's participation in it, yet why the young men in the rural parts of the province are not showing a better spirit is as I have said, hard to understand."

Tom, Dr. Roche, Minister of the Interior, said that Canada is having its day of trial, and its resources are severely drained. But there was no doubt that all will work out satisfactorily in the present test. "Surely we as Canadians are as competent and courageous and have got as great a capacity to endure now as we ever had in other wars," said Dr. Roche. "We look forward to a speedy return to normal conditions."

The following officers were elected: Mr. A. H. Hawkins, D. L. S., of Lethbridge, Ont., President; J. J. McArthur, D. L. S., Ottawa, Vice-President; Major E. W. Hubbell, D. L. S., Ottawa, Secretary-Treasurer, with the following Executive Committee: E. J. Daniels, D. F., Robertson, D. L. S., D. H. Nelles, D. L. S., all of Ottawa.

Some people are as naturally attracted to each other as a snowball and a high alk hat.

# STUBBORN PRIDE

Causes Germans to Lose Chance to Take Warsaw.

London Cable--The Times military correspondent, analyzing the present disposition of the German forces, arrives at the conclusion that the preponderance of the German troops still are on the western frontier, where he estimates there are 94 divisions, as against 43 divisions in the east.

"In other words," the correspondent says, "their pride would not allow them to shorten and rectify their western line, which would alone have enabled them to detach sufficient forces to bring about a decision in Poland and capture Warsaw. As a result the bulk of the active corps are in the west still, while in Russia the bulk of the troops are second and third line. It may therefore be expected that Germany will make a last violent effort in the west to break the allied line before the allied armies are all assembled and the other neutral powers come into the war."

# AIR BATTLE AT DUNKIRK

Fifteen Planes Were Engaged at One Time.

One German Brought Down, Says Eye-Witness.

London Cable--A further installment of the diary of the official "eye-witness" with the British forces was given out today by the Press Bureau and presents the official version of the battle in the clouds over Dunkirk, in which, it appears, fifteen British and German machines were engaged. The diary runs as follows:

January 19--Chief event to-day was a successful aerial raid against Ghent, twelve miles west of Brussels. The aeroplanes reached their destination at dawn, flying very low, and dropped several bombs on a certain spot. It is impossible to state exactly the damage done, but it is known to have been considerable.

On our right we had some excellent practice with bombs and trench mortars against Germans who were attempting to repair their transport on January 20. On our right our guns in one place downed a German reconnoiterer and drove the occupants from another trench. Our mortars had good practice against the enemy's saps and trenches and some houses.

January 21--All the action to-day was confined to the artillery proper and to short-range ordnance. One German battery was silenced. A single gun knocked out some trench mortars and did considerable execution against some of the enemy's saps.

January 22--Some frost and a little wind. The Germans made an aerial raid on a large scale against Dunkirk. One of our aeroplanes on patrol duty saw several hostile machines approaching, gave chase to the first hostile machine and opened fire on it. Two other British machines joined and succeeded to a height of 6,000 feet, where the action was proceeding.

Our patrols drove off with their fire the two leading German machines, but ten others had come up by the time the three British machines were all in action. After the Germans had dropped several bombs over the harbor and the town the whole turned and flew towards their lines. Our aeroplanes pursued and brought down one of the enemy's machines by a bullet through the cylinder. The aeroplane pilot, the observer and eight unexploded bombs were captured. The observer was armed with a double-barreled pistol for firing chain shot. Our aviators' feet were distinctly meritorious. The raiders' damage was slight.

# BELEAGUERED

Starved and Robbed by German Invaders.

London cable--The Daily Telegraph publishes the following from a correspondent in Belgium:

"The situation in Antwerp grows worse. This is the case all over Belgium. The first installment of a war indemnity of 10,000,000 francs, imposed by the Germans on Belgium, amounting to 80,000,000 francs, was to be paid by Jan. 15, and it was stipulated that after this date all requisitions should be paid in kind. The Germans hastened on Jan. 13, 14 and 15 to requisition everything against their captives."

"They grab" horses, cattle and all sorts of food and metals, such as copper and zinc, etc., and send everything they get into Germany. They live largely on food taken into Belgium by the American commission, since the communes have to furnish rations for the soldiers in occupation."

"The position of the working class in Antwerp is pitiable. In that city alone there are 35,000 persons to be fed, also 35,000 workers in the outskirts in the same distress. Besides there are their families, whose plight is deplorable."

"Work is wholly lacking because the ordinary conditions of life have disappeared and cannot reappear under the present circumstances. At Ghent 50,000 are out of work. This state of things is general. The only persons who can live luxuriously and spend money freely are abandoned women, who are paid out of the loot, when furs and toilettes are plundered from the houses."

The correspondent adds that a number of Belgian men are glad to work on the German defences in order to get food for their families.

# FIGHT IN THE CARPATHIANS RUSS GAIN

First Stage Has Brought Czar's Troops Success at Yaslick Pass.

# FORCED TO FIGHT

German Staff Had No Alternative But to Attack Czar's Troops.

London Cable--The Petrograd correspondent of the Daily News sends the following:

It is evident that the opening stage of a new campaign has been forced on the German staff by the Hungarian crisis, and that there will be a great battle north of the Carpathians. They have spread very large forces over a front of eighty miles, which are covering the outlets from the passes east of Dukla.

They have developed some advance in the past three days. This does not cause any anxiety. It is a process which the Russians have induced them to go through twice already, when they were defeated in the same region. The best results have always been won hitherto in the Carpathians by drawing the enemy from the woods to the open country towards Galicia.

This battle must gradually influence the entire southern campaign as far as Serbia and Transylvania. It is infinitely more serious than the constant collisions in Central Poland.

The initial stage of the battle has already brought the Russians valuable success. The Austrians, who had gathered in strong force near the outlet of the Yaslick Pass, were suddenly subjected to a Russian counter-attack, and suffered heavy losses. Their fighting revealed the same defect that ruined them in the early Galician campaign.

They enter a battle with good discipline and fight stubbornly, but when the engagement is prolonged to the third or fourth day a division suddenly throws up the sponge and the idea of surrender becomes infectious.

The opposition of three Bavarian corps in Hungary is now definitely established. One is congregating on the western border of Transylvania and the others south of Temesvar. There are also six Austro-Hungarian corps in this region. The Austrians now number probably half a million men in the Eastern Carpathians. Most of the army recently engaged in the southern borders of Poland has crossed into Galicia to join them.

One connecting link between the Hungarian campaign and the German position in Poland is the Austrian army on the Dunajec. No German troops inside of Hungary appear to be co-operating with the armies facing to the north. The German corps further down the country have turned eastward towards Romania.

**A LONG BATTLE FRONT.**  
London Cable--The renewal of hostilities in Galicia makes the battle lines from the Carpathians to the Italian activity. There has been fighting during the past few days at almost every part of the front, and the clash of offensive, particularly in the Central Poland regions, has been severe.

The battle in East Prussia on the Malwischken-Lasdenheim line proceeds without lull, and on the Danzig-Berlin fields the engagements have been carried on furiously.

Interest centres in the Carpathians, where the Austro-Germans have brought up new armies to oppose the Russian invasion of Hungary. According to announcements in Vienna they have recaptured some of the passes which the Russians were holding in strength. While naturally the Russians, like the other belligerents, do not relish giving up any ground gained, they declare that this is compensated by the fact that their aggressiveness has compelled the Austro-Germans to postpone the expedition which they were preparing with the object of crushing Serbia.

Russia hopes that the position guaranteed by the recent loan of \$25,000,000, will soon send her army into the field and form the missing link between Russia and Serbia.

# QUITE GERMAN

Turks Make Captives March Before Them in Battle.

London Cable--The correspondent of the Daily Mail at Cairo, telegraphs:

"Skirmishing took place at 3 o'clock Tuesday morning in the vicinity of Milestones No. 58, and No. 82, on the Suez Canal. One dead Inver was picked up, and it is evident there were wounded also, as tracks of blood were seen."

"It is presumed the Indian was marched in front of the Turks, in accordance with usual German tactics. It is believed that he was a Jewish Pilgrim, captured at Jeddah or in the vicinity. The enemy no longer was visible at daylight."

# MANOEUVRES IN THE COLD.

London, Ont., Dec. 26--In heavy marching order and carrying three days' supplies, the 18th battalion C. E. F., in command of Lieut-Col. Avigle, swung out of the city this morning for the most extensive tactical work undertaken since the troops went into training here. The men will bivouac in the open, and will not return until Saturday night. A live-sham battle was indulged in west of the city this afternoon, the manoeuvres continued until after darkness, when the signaller were brought into action.

# SURE OF VICTORY

German Crown Prince Talks for the U. S. People.

A Geneva, Switzerland, Cable says--Crown Prince Frederick William of Germany has sent to the local correspondent of the Associated Press, in response to a request for a statement on the war, the following reply, dated "Near Verdun," Jan. 22:

"You ask me to send a message to the American people. Being an officer and no diplomat, I have no right to do so, but, if you like, I will tell you three things."

"First. Every single German and Austrian is quite certain that we will come out on top, and will give his last drop of blood to this end."

"Second. We are convinced that the day will come when the people of Russia and France will find out that they are only doing the dirty work for England."

"Third. We expect from America absolutely fair play in all questions. These are my personal ideas, but a good many of my countrymen feel the same. Greetings. (Signed) "Wilhelm, Kron Prinz."

# TERRIBLE TALE OF SERBIAN WOE

Children Dying in Doves for Lack of Food.

Whole Districts Devastated by the Austrians.

New York Report--A London Daily Express despatch, dated Nish, Thursday, to the New York Herald, says:

Metropolitani, Dimitri, supreme head of the Serbian Church, described to me in the following words the terrible distress of the civilian population of Serbia:

"To-day one million Serbians, one-third of the population, are suffering every possible sorrow. They are destitute of everything. Since the beginning of the war, when their lands were turned into battlefields, they have endured terrible privations, and their sufferings have been still greater during the war, because the first invasion took away a great proportion of the peasants who remained behind to produce food for the families of those who were fighting."

"Women, the mothers, wives and sisters, and the children of a million Serbians, are suffering now because of the second invasion, which must last much longer, and more Serbians are being driven from their homes. In six of the most fertile districts no less than 50 per cent. of the children are dying from lack of nourishment and medicine, from cold and exposure. In the invaded villages everything has been pillaged or destroyed, and when the unfortunate refugees, who are compelled to flee, return to their homes, they will, in the majority of cases, find nothing, either in the shape of houses or food."

The Metropolitan's statement is no exaggeration. It only barely indicates that the situation is so full of horror and pathos as to be almost indescribable. Yet for one child dying in Nish, scores are dying in the devastated regions, which Austria laid bare. I have seen the refugees. The children are pitiable sights, little spectres of emaciation, not comprehending the misery in which they find themselves, with wide staring eyes, hungry and ill, with no food but dry bread, and milk an impossibility. Many mothers are too worn out with care and suffering, and the memories of pathetic little graves with weeping crosses to seek for further aid for those who survive."

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# GOOD FROM EVIL

Educate U. S. Children to Helplessness Through War.

New York Report--To counteract influences of lying, hatred and murder of the European war, which, they assert, are moulding the lives of American school children, Dr. Charles W. Elliot, President emeritus of Harvard, and President David Starr Jordan, of the National Educational Association, and Richard McClaurin, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in an announcement made public to-day, tell of the beginning of a movement of educators to enlist the school children of the country in relief work for home and foreign needs.

"In many of our schools we even forbid all discussion of the war," says the announcement. "We cannot, however, hide this war from our children, nor keep its destructive influences from their lives."

"With a nation-wide relief movement of our children, we can turn their minds from despectively murder to helpful life-saving, and build on the terrible need the solid basis of a helpful race of men and women the world has ever known."

The scheme announced it that each child earn or make what he gives, or give from what he has, that he may feel he has worked or sacrificed to help. The fund is to be known as the "Children of America Fund."

One-half the fund is to be used to relieve local suffering, and will be distributed through home charities. The other half will be distributed to the sufferers in Europe by the National Committee.

It is announced that the arrangements for carrying out the movement have been based on suggestions received from more than five thousand practical educators.

# SHORT ITEMS OF THE NEWS OF THE DAY

Report of Attempt to Assassinate King of Greece Officially Denied.

# HEALTHY TROOPS

Veteran of Rebellion of 1837 Dead at His Home in Strathroy.

John D. Rockefeller, Jun., had a conference with Colorado mine workers. The new Toronto regiment, 199th King's Rifles, is now over strength. Wm. Bartlett, senior Judge of Bruce County, died at Walkerton, in his 74th year.

George Lane was nominated by the Liberal convention for the new Federal riding of Bow River. Emil Nerlich was committed for trial at Toronto on the charge of treason and let out on bail at \$100,000.

The Greek Minister at London declares that a Constantinople report of an attempt to assassinate King Constantine is absolutely untrue. Charles Albert Forshee, ex-town councillor, and one of Dresden's most prominent citizens, died of heart failure Friday night while reading a newspaper.

George R. Smith, a member of the 3rd battalion, in training at London, Ont., pleaded guilty to bigamy before Magistrate Judd and was remanded a week for sentence.

It is reported that sickness among the British troops at the front is about 3 per cent., with Indian troops slightly less. This is a lower rate than rules in some home garrisons.

A new Portuguese Ministry was formed at midnight Thursday, under the Presidency of Gen. de Castro, who also holds the portfolio of War, and temporarily that of Foreign Affairs.

Hotelmen of Toronto claim that few soldiers from Exhibition camp patronize the bars, while Mr. B. H. Spence, secretary of the Ontario Alliance, says that there is much drunkenness among the troops.

Several Belgian newspaper editors have been sentenced to one and two months' imprisonment at the latest session of the German military court in Antwerp. The charges against them are not stated.

Stock Yards at Buffalo, New York and Richmond, Va., were closed to outgoing shipments of cattle by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, to give time for disinfection against foot and mouth disease.

The A. M. P. Zion Church and parsonage at Colchester, Ont., were destroyed by fire Wednesday morning. The fire started in the parsonage. Everything belong to the Rev. J. A. Darcy and his wife was destroyed.

David Rapley, thought to be the last survivor of those who participated in the Rebellion of 1837, died at his home in Strathroy in his 99th year. Mr. Rapley fought for the Crown during the rebellion.

The absence from his home of Robt. Grimsshaw, an old man, living at 23 Blackburne avenue, has given rise to the belief that he may have perished in the fire which gutted the five-story building of the Rudd Paper Box Company, Richmond street west, Toronto.

# CRAVEN YOUTHS

D. L. S. President Scores Rural Ontario.

Ottawa Despatch--Young men in rural Ontario are showing a marked reluctance to volunteer for the front. They are not measuring up to the standard their fathers did at the time of the Riel rebellion, declared Mr. C. F. Aylesworth, of Madoc, Ont., retiring president of the Dominion Land Surveyors' Association, at the annual banquet of the members, held here to-night.

"In my home town only four young men have enlisted since the war began," he said. "I understand that in rural Ontario the parents of the young men are loath to allow their sons to go to war. I was told that two-thirds of the soldiers at Kingston are British-born. Our forefathers responded to the call to arms--what is the matter with their sons?"

"I have never heard a single person in Canada object to the war or to Canada's participation in it, yet why the young men in the rural parts of the province are not showing a better spirit is as I have said, hard to understand."

Tom, Dr. Roche, Minister of the Interior, said that Canada is having its day of trial, and its resources are severely drained. But there was no doubt that all will work out satisfactorily in the present test. "Surely we as Canadians are as competent and courageous and have got as great a capacity to endure now as we ever had in other wars," said Dr. Roche. "We look forward to a speedy return to normal conditions."

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