

1916

1916—The Turn of the Tide Newfoundland Contingent.

ing the year. On its very eve the Hon. John Harris died. He had for years been one of our leading citizens, rising, upon the death of Sir Edward Shearman, to the honourable position of President of the Legislative Council. His partner, Mr. John Henderson, had preceded him but a week before. In February and March the legal profession sustained a severe loss in the deaths of Mr. Martin Furlong, K.C. and Mr. Justice Emerson. Mr. Furlong died in the prime of life when his brilliant faculties were at their best, the acknowledged leader of the Bar in Newfoundland. Judge Emerson succumbed to an illness which he had for years borne with remarkable fortitude and an intellect unimpaired until the last. He had occupied the Bench since 1896, displaying an unequalled grasp of legal principles and a keen perception of the merits of the cases brought before him. Another leading figure was removed by the death of Mr. E. M. Jackson in Montreal. Mr. Jackson was Finance Minister under the late Administration and closely identified with the commercial life of the country. In August died Mr. Michael Knight, one of the older generation, a prominent citizen in his time and the kindest of gentlemen. On September 1st the Hon. H. J. B. Woods, Postmaster General, died after a lingering illness. He was a man distinguished in the social and political life of the Colony, and had for some fifteen years occupied the responsible position which he held at the time of his death. Last month Mr. W. H. Goodland passed away, a leader in church and social work and one time a member of the Telegram staff.

The Church lost two distinguished figures in Revs. George Paine and James Hill, and Education one of its ablest workers in Dr. Thomas Harrigan, Roman Catholic Superintendent for the District of Harbour Grace.

THE LEGISLATURE.

No Bills of outstanding importance passed through the Houses of Parliament last session. The decision of the electorate in the Prohibition plebiscite was made law in a Prohibition Bill, by which the sale and importation of liquor is forbidden from this day. Among the most important measures, a Sealing Bill caused much discussion and was drastically amended, and an Education Bill and a

Weights and Measures Act are to be noted. The necessary statutory power for the Consolidation of the Statutes was obtained and this too long deferred work should be completed in the coming year.

THE FISHERIES AND TRADE OF THE COLONY.

Newfoundland has on the whole shared in the prosperity that has come to this side of the Atlantic. The codfishery around the Island last summer was below the average and in many northern districts a failure. In most of the southern districts, however, it was exceptionally good. An average Labrador and short Bank fishery were offset by the abnormally high prices that prevailed and the easy marketing of our fish through the absence of Norwegian competition. The Seal Fishery proved, in contrast with that of last year, an unequalled success. The eleven steamers that prosecuted it brought home 240,000 seals valued at \$640,000, the Florizel hailing from the heaviest load on record. The fast diminishing whale fishery was followed only by the Cachalot, which however secured seventy-five whales.

Figures for the year's trade are not yet available, but there is no doubt that it has been good. The fiscal year ending June 30th last showed an increase of over \$4,000,000 in imports and \$6,000,000 in exports over those of the previous year, and the improvement has undoubtedly been maintained. A great trade has been done in the war industry of pit props, but there is not too great likelihood that it will continue in future years. Newfoundland has suffered in common with other countries from the tonnage shortage and high food prices, and the coal problem is again agitating the minds of the authorities. The loss of the fine ship Stephano, of the Red Cross Line, which was torpedoed off Nantucket in October, was a severe one to the owners and the Colony alike, and has made the problem of freight congestion more difficult of solution. These and other misfortunes are, however, inseparable from the times, and apart from the burden of human sacrifice, which has been very heavy upon Newfoundland, she has not suffered more than she has gained from the war and her condition may be described as one of stable prosperity.

Resume of Military Awards—Extracted From the London Gazette and Daily Orders, etc.

1—CAPT. J. J. DONNELLY, Military Cross, 4-5/11/15. London Gazette, about 24/12/15.

"For conspicuous gallantry and determination on the night of Nov. 4-5, 1915, on the Gallipoli Peninsula. He occupied, with eight men, a knoll, to which our firing line was extended the next day. By his coolness and skill in handling this small party, which was reduced to five by casualties, he repelled several determined Turkish bomb attacks on his front and flanks, and held his own during the night."

2—SGT. W. GREEN, D.C.M. 4-5/11/15. London Gazette, about 24/12/15.

"For conspicuous gallantry on the night of Nov. 4-5, 1915, on the Gallipoli Peninsula. With an officer and six men he led the way out in front of our advanced line, in order to support a party of his regiment which was being heavily attacked and likely to be surrounded. The enemy were encountered at close range, and when the officer and two men had been wounded, Sgt. Green took command, drove off the Turks, and brought in the wounded."

3—PTE. R. E. HYNES, D.C.M. 4-5/11/15. London Gazette, about 24/12/15.

"For conspicuous gallantry on the night of Nov. 4-5, 1915, on the Gallipoli Peninsula. With an officer and six men he attacked superior numbers of Turks, who were attempting to surround a small post. In spite of heavy casualties on our side, Pte. Hynes kept up rapid fire at close range, which resulted in the Turks abandoning their enterprise and enabled our party to bring in the wounded."

4—LT. COL. A. L. HADLOW, C.M.G. Birthday Honours, 1916.

5—MAJOR A. E. BERNARD, M.C. London Gazette, 3/6/16.

6—PTE. W. J. GLADNEY, D.C.M. No. 417. London Gazette, 3/6/16.

7—CAPT. B. BUTLER, M.C. London Gazette, 23/9/16.

"For conspicuous gallantry during operations. He commanded a raiding party on two successive nights with great determination in face of heavy opposition. A few days later he took part in an attack on the enemy's lines and did fine work."

8—PTE. S. DEWILING, M.M. 1/7/16. No. 20. London Gazette, 21/9/16.

9—LT. COL. W. H. FRANKLIN, D.S.O. 1/7/16. London Gazette, 20/10/16.

"For conspicuous gallantry during operations. After an excellent reconnaissance he succeeded in bringing his battery into position by night over difficult ground and under heavy shell fire. He did fine work next morning."

10—PTE. G. PHILLIPS, No. 1164. Russian Decoration: Medal of St. George, 3rd Class. O.Os. 1st Bn. 16/9/16.

11—PTE. G. PHILLIPS, No. 1164, M.M. D.Os. 1st Bn. 6/10/16.

"For gallantry in the raid on the night of 28/29, June."

12—L.C. J. COX, No. 809, M.M. D.Os. 1st Bn. 6/10/16.

"For gallantry in the raid on the night of 28/29, June."

13—PTE. W. McGRATH, No. 856, M.M. D.Os. 1st Bn. 6/10/16.

"For conspicuous bravery on July 1st in attending to the wounded under heavy fire."

14—CAPT. W. H. PARSONS, M.C. Letter from Capt. Parsons.

15—SGT. H. G. BARRETT, No. 789, M.M. London Gazette, 9/11/16.

16—PTE. M. COLLINS, No. 710, M.M. London Gazette, 9/11/16.

17—PTE. J. J. MORRISSEY, No. 689, M.M. London Gazette, 9/11/16.

18—SGT. R. MELVILLE, No. 1080, M.M. Verification return from War Office.

19—CPL. A. WEBBER, No. 236, M.M. Verification return from War Office.

20—L.C. A. MANUEL, No. 721, M.M. Verification return from War Office.

21—PTE. D. BROWN, No. 1319, M.M. Verification return from War Office.

22—PTE. O. GOODLAND, No. 1834, M.M. Verification return from War Office.

23—PTE. B. CARROLL, No. 1903, M.M. Verification return from War Office.

24—CAPT. J. W. MARCH, M.C. London Gazette, 11/12/16.

"For conspicuous gallantry in action. He showed marked courage and skill in organizing the defence of the position. He himself accounted for 3 of the enemy. He set a splendid example to his men."

25—CAPT. B. BUTLER, Bar. to M.C. London Gazette, 11/12/16.

"For conspicuous gallantry in action. He showed great courage and initiative in the attack, and by his able dispositions consolidated the position and held it against counter attacks. He personally shot 15 of the enemy."

26—L.C. W. BENNETT, No. 1071, D.C.M. London Gazette, 11/12/16.

"For conspicuous gallantry in action. Three times he carried most important messages under intense fire. Later, with two men, he captured one officer and thirteen men prisoners."

27—SGT. C. GARDNER, No. 824, D.C.M. London Gazette, 11/12/16.

"For conspicuous gallantry in action. With two men he attacked a hostile bombing party, defeated them, and took one officer and fifteen men prisoners."

28—SGT. P. SAMSON, No. 267, D.C.M. London Gazette, 11/12/16.

"For conspicuous gallantry in action. He attacked a hostile machine gun, killed three of the team with a bomb, and bayoneted the remaining six and captured the gun. He was wounded."

Secretary Lansing

Explains the Statements Made in His Note of Yesterday—Government Advised to Accept Note in Friendly Spirit.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Secretary of State Lansing, late to-day, issued a statement amplifying and qualifying the one he made this morning regarding the President's notes to the belligerents, because, he said, he feared some incorrect inferences were being drawn from his first utterance. Mr. Lansing said his purpose in making the second statement was to make it clear, beyond question, that there was no change in the policy of neutrality of the United States. He also said his purpose in amplifying his statement was to make it plain that the notes to the belligerents should, in no sense, be construed as a threat to any of the Governments.

Mr. Lansing's first statement, made orally, led to exaggerations of its language and purpose throughout official Washington. Its most striking phrases, on which the wildest speculations were based, were that the United States was "drawing nearer the verge of war," and that the sending of the note "will indicate the possibility of our being forced into the war."

It became apparent that the Secretary's statement was not fully approved at the White House, which was concerned lest any word should reach the foreign capitals, to be construed as indicating that the American note was anything but what it indicated on its face. So, after a conference between President Wilson and Secretary Lansing, the second statement was prepared and distributed.

Entente diplomats, at first at an utter loss how to handle the unexpected situation, became convinced that a clearer understanding of the necessities and purposes of the United States proved that their fear of a move favorable to Germany was not contemplated, and that this country would not try to force peace on Europe. Their view grew that the United States feared that unless the peace proposals go through now, a period of ruthlessness and retaliation may set in on both sides which will inevitably force this country into action.

It is indicated, therefore, that the Allied diplomats will advise their Governments to view the note in a friendly spirit, and go as far as possible toward meeting the wishes of the United States.

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BRIEF.

Several persons prominent in the life of the colony passed away during the year.